

# Pathania reviews public utility restoration pledges ₹1 Cr for flood relief, rehabilitation

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**UDHAMPUR:** “This is not just about rebuilding roads or homes—it is about rebuilding lives, economies, and the spirit of resilience. I stand firmly with every family in this hour of crisis and will leave no stone unturned in ensuring relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction,” said RS Pathania, MLA Udhampur East, while touring flood-hit areas of Udhampur.

Amidst the widespread devastation caused by torrential rains and flash floods, Pathania has emerged as a strong pillar of hope and leadership for his people. In his extensive tour of the worst-affected areas, he reached out directly to distressed families—listening to their anguish, assessing ground realities, and offering assurance of both immediate and long-term support.

While chairing a crucial meeting with various line departments



at Hari Durga Palace, Deot (Majalta), Pathania reviewed the restoration of public utilities and infrastructure in the region. He urged

adoption of smart practices with special emphasis on flood and water management, and stressed the need for immediate restoration of

essential services such as roads, electricity supply, and drinking water pipelines.

The key directives issued during the meeting included, departments to submit estimates for permanent restoration of damaged infrastructure, with priority on flood and water management; provision of tents, kits, and rations to families with permanently damaged houses; assistance to be extended to families temporarily affected by the disaster; and establishment of relief camps with adequate medical facilities and sanitation arrangements.

He further underscored the importance of efficient disaster management and directed all departments to work in close coordination to restore normalcy at the earliest.

In a landmark announcement, Pathania committed ₹1 crore from his CDF to provide urgent relief and kickstart rehabilitation.

He also emphasized mobilizing CSR funds, NGOs, and allied support groups to restructure and rebuild shattered homes, livelihoods, and infrastructure across his constituency.

During his field visits to villages Ritti, Kuh Nallah, Kashira, Majalta, Peuni, Khoon, Jakhenoo, Sundla, and adjoining localities, Pathania personally reviewed damages to houses, roads, flood channels, irrigation points, and other critical public utilities.

Pathania was accompanied by a cross-section of community leaders, including Ashish Sharma, Mohan Lal Sharma, and Mohinder Sharma, along with senior officers from the district administration.

Among those present were Jai Singh, Kamini Chowdhury, and officials from Revenue, PDD, and other allied departments, who assured coordinated efforts for rapid restoration.

## Sat slams Dr Abdullah for threatening remarks

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir BJP President & former minister, Sat Sharma CA, has strongly condemned the recent remarks made by National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah, who claimed that “One day New Delhi will regret its decisions regarding Jammu and Kashmir.” He termed Abdullah’s comments as “irresponsible, misleading, and a reflection of sheer frustration stemming from political irrelevance.

He was discussing the current prevailing socio-political scenario in the UT with BJP General Secretary Baldev Singh Billawaria, Spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan, party leader Jaideep Sambyal and others.

Sat Sharma said that ever since the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a new era of peace, progress, and unprecedented development—something that was systematically denied to the people during decades of NC rule.

He said that Dr Farooq Abdullah and his party ruled the state for generations, yet failed to uplift the lives of common people. Now, when J&K is flourishing under a transparent, accountable, and development-driven governance, NC is finding it hard to digest.

He pointed out that post-Article 370 abrogation, there has been a remarkable decline in terror-related incidents, a boost in infrastructure development, and enhanced grassroots democracy with successful Panchayat and DDC elections. This is the real empowerment of people which the dynastic parties like NC never thought of, as this party only paid lip service for decades, he added.

Referring to Abdullah’s statement as a “desperate attempt to stay politically relevant,” Sharma accused the NC of trying to mislead the people and create unnecessary fear. The people of Jammu and Kashmir have seen through the propaganda. They now want stability, opportunity, and a better future—not a return to the days of manipulation and misgovernance, he said.

Sat Sharma CA urged all political leaders to act responsibly and respect the will and aspirations of the people of J&K. He also called upon the youth to reject divisive narratives and join the mainstream of progress and nation-building.

## Eid-Milad-Un Nabi arrangements finalised

**UDHAMPUR:** To finalize the necessary arrangements in connection with ensuing Eid-Milad-Un Nabi, a meeting of the District Officers was held today under the chairpersonship of DC Saloni Rai here in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

ADC, Prem Singh; IAS Probationer Seerat Baji; ACR Dr Umesh Shan and other District Officers besides representatives from civil society attended the meeting.

Detailed discussions were held on the arrangements for the auspicious day, especially the availability of drinking water supply, uninterrupted power supply, provision of First Aid, Fire safety, availability of quality consumable items and a check on overpricing, besides proper sanitation in the city.

DC directed the concerned departments to take measures to ensure adequate water supply, First Aid, uninterrupted power supply, security arrangements and cleanliness in the district. The Municipal authorities were directed to conduct special cleanliness and sanitation drives in the towns.

## Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan 3-day district process lab workshop inaugurated

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**POONCH:** Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma inaugurated a three-day District Process Lab Workshop under Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan.

The event aims at strengthening the capacity of government functionaries and improving citizen-centric services delivery.

In his inaugural address, the Deputy Commissioner said that the Abhiyan provides an opportunity to officers and officials to enhance their skills, learn modern work practices and deliver services in a more accountable and transparent manner. He urged all participants to actively engage in the sessions and apply the knowledge in their respective de-

partments for the benefit of the public.

PO ICDS Khalid Hussain is acting as the Nodal Officer for the programme. The District Level Master Trainers also shared their experiences and insights gained from earlier training sessions, encouraging participants to make full use of the learning modules. The three-day workshop will cover important themes including competency-based learning, use of digital platforms, ethics in governance, grievances redressal and effective public services delivery.

DC appreciated the efforts of the organising team and expressed hope that the workshop will lead to improved efficiency, accountability and a stronger citizen-government interface in the district.

## District Admn accelerates infra devp under SASCI

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SAMBA:** To fast-track developmental projects in the district, Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan on Wednesday asked the executing departments to ensure strict adherence to project timelines and implement a robust monitoring mechanism.

She was speaking at a meeting convened to assess the progress of projects sanctioned under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme.

The high-level meeting, held at DC Office Complex Nandini Hills, brought together key departmental heads and project stakeholders to ensure optimal utilization of allocated funds and timely completion of critical infrastructure projects.

DC Sudan emphasized the administration’s commitment to transforming Samba’s infrastructure landscape through efficient project execution. She directed all concerned officers to eliminate procedural delays and maintain complete transparency in project implementation. The DC issued clear directives to accelerate the pace of developmental works, remove operational bottlenecks hampering proj-



ect progress, ensure strict adherence to project timelines, and implement robust monitoring mechanisms.

The meeting witnessed active participation from developmental departments including Public Works, Health, Water Supply, Power and Industrial Development, reflecting the administration’s integrated approach to development. The cross-departmental synergy is expected to streamline project execution and maximize resource utilization.

“Our focus should be on deliv-

ering projects that enhance public welfare and strengthen district infrastructure,” Deputy Commissioner Sudan remarked, emphasizing that periodic reviews will be institutionalized to track progress and ensure accountability at every level.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Samba, General Manager DIC Samba, Chief Medical Officer Samba, Executive Engineers PWD (R&B) Division and Electric Division Vijaypur, JPDCJL Jammu and Jal Shakti Department PHE Division Samba among others.

## JMC launches intensive cleanliness, relief operations post heavy rainfall

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Jammu city has witnessed unprecedented damage due to the recent spell of heavy rains, leaving several parts of the city waterlogged and the residents distressed. The incessant downpour has particularly affected low-lying areas, where water mixed with heavy silt and debris entered homes, causing severe inconvenience and damage to property.

In the emerging situation, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has immediately swung into action, deploying teams headed by nodal officers including Transport officers and sanitation officers with prime focus on flood hit areas by pressing additional machinery into service to address the crisis.

To increase the manpower for restoration works, as many as

200 extra Nallah labours were hired on emergency basis for muck cleaning and sanitation works.

Massive cleanliness drives are being undertaken at a war footing to clear the accumulated mud and debris from the affected areas.

Along with the mobilization of available machinery, extra machinery was hired to combat this situation.

Prominent among the worst-hit localities are Peer Ko, Gorakh Nagar, Rajendra Nagar and Gujjar Nagar, where operations are on round-the-clock to restore normal living conditions. Some of the areas of Gujjar Nagar, Rajinder Nagar, Sangrampur were cleared and work on other areas is in progress on fast track basis.

The overflow of the Tawi River has further aggravated the situation, inundating its adjoining

areas and leading to substantial damage to infrastructure and residential premises. To counter this, Dr. Devansh Yadav Commissioner, JMC has issued strict instructions to all departments to expedite the cleaning process, restore essential services and provide immediate relief to the residents.

He is personally visiting the spots and monitoring the ground level situation.

Large mounds of mud and debris are being removed with the help of heavy earth-moving machinery, including JCBs, while field teams continue to manually clear clogged lanes and drains. Special focus is being laid on the restoration of water supply, with water being distributed through tankers on a ward-to-ward, community-based system to ensure uninterrupted access to drinking water for the citizens.

## DC Saloni Rai reviews relief, rescue, restoration measures

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**UDHAMPUR:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Udhampur Saloni Rai on Wednesday convened a meeting of officers from line departments to review the relief, rescue, rehabilitation and assessment of rain induced damages.

During the meeting, the DC took detailed feedback from the concerned officers regarding the extent of damages, rescue operations, relief distribution, rehabilitation measures, restoration of essential services, losses to infrastructure and the immediate steps taken on ground.

She emphasized the need for timely assessment and submission of detailed reports so that necessary relief and restoration works could be initiated without delay. The DC directed all departments to work in close coordination to ensure prompt restoration of essential services



in the affected areas.

She directed the officers to activate men and machinery at full scale to ensure the early restoration of drinking water supply, power supply, road connectivity and other essential services.

With regard to the restoration of road connectivity, the

DC instructed the concerned departments to deploy at least 100 JCB machines for repairing and restoring all damaged roads.

Besides, the DC directed that the disbursement of relief material and assistance be carried out on a daily basis to ensure immediate support to the

affected families.

The meeting, held in the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, was attended by ADDC Rajinder Singh; ADC Prem Singh; IAS Probationer Seerat Baji; ACR Dr. Umesh Shan; CPO Uttam Singh, besides other officers of line departments.

## Shrine Board extends relief to landslide affected families

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**KATRA:** In a humanitarian gesture, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has undertaken a significant relief initiative as per the directions of Manoj Sinha, Lt Governor and Chairman, SMVDSB to support more than 1000 families affected by heavy rainfall and landslides in Katra and other parts of Reasi and Udhampur districts.

Initially, a relief supply for 400 families was handed over to the District Administration, Reasi to ensure timely distribution of relief material to affected families.

The relief material includes dry ration kits, utensils, blankets, medicines, buckets, tarpaulin and tents etc. for addressing the immediate needs and helping them



cope with the aftermath of the calamity.

Furthermore, on the request of the District Administration; families of village Purana Daroor whose homes have been severely damaged temporarily shifted to Shakti Bhawan, Niharika Complex of Shrine Board, Katra for ensuring their safety and well-being during this challenging period.

Sachin Kumar Vaishya, CEO SMVDSB reaffirms the Board’s commitment to sup-

porting the local community, especially during crises and underscored that in coordination with the District Administration, Reasi; The Shrine Board shall provide comprehensive assistance to affected families for ensuring their well-being and safety.

Notably, Shrine Board has undertaken such initiatives during the past to serve the community during times of crisis including COVID-19 pandemic and other calamities as well.

## DDC reviews restoration of water supply schemes

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**RAJOURI:** District Development Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma chaired a comprehensive review meeting here at Dak Bungalow to assess the restoration of water supply Schemes.

During the meeting, the DDC emphasized the need to set up public stand posts in worst affected areas to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply to the public. He also reviewed the water supply issues caused by power disruptions and directed the concerned officers to submit a list of affected areas to the Executive Engineer, PDD, for ensuring scheduled pumping operations.

Furthermore, the DDC conducted a scheme-wise

review of all ongoing projects under JJM. He directed the ADC Kalakote to conduct an enquiry into the Jigni scheme and sort out issues delaying the allotment at Bhawani A Panchayat. He noted that pump rooms for nine schemes are still pending and instructed the officers to expedite their completion.

In addition, the DC directed all ADCs and SDMs to personally inspect the progress of JJM works in their respective jurisdictions at least once every fortnight to expedite the execution. He further emphasized resolving minor issues hindering the schemes nearing completion. He further directed to get all completed schemes certified by Gram Sabhas.

## Kavi Darbar, Shabad Kirtan dedicated to martyrdom day of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**JAMMU:** Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) organised Punjabi Kavi Darbar and Shabad Kirtan on Wednesday at village Naner, Tral, dedicated to the 350th Martyrdom Day of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, the ninth Guru of the Sikhs and one of the greatest torchbearers of human rights advocacy, religious freedom and sacrifice.

The programme witnessed the active participation of local poets, Ragi Singh Jathas, and residents of the village. Young and talented poets of the area beautifully recited their compositions reflecting the life, sacrifice and legacy of Guru Ji.

S. Kingpal Singh deliv-

ered a lecture highlighting the unparalleled life and teachings of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, who sacrificed his life at Chandni Chowk, Delhi in 1675 to defend the right to faith, and thus earned the immortal title of ‘Hind Di Chadar’ (Protector of India). Guru Ji’s philosophy of courage, compassion, humility and universality remains a guiding light for humanity. Renowned Ragi Singh S. Jasbir Singh & Sathi, along with Salinder Singh Jatha, rendered soul-stirring Shabad Kirtan from Gurbani that deeply moved the congregation.

The poets included Ranveer Singh, Gurvinder Kaur, Eakapreet Singh, Chanpreet Kaur, Gurveer Kaur, Nowdeep Singh, Harishjeet Singh, Sukhpal Singh,

Kuldeep Singh and Jasleen Kour.

In his address, Sh. Popinder Singh Paras, Sr. Editor Sheeraza Punjabi, highlighted the initiative of JKAACL in bringing such meaningful cultural and spiritual activities to far-flung areas of Kashmir province. He also elaborated upon Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji’s life, his message of peace, resilience in the face of tyranny, and his vision of a society based on equality and human dignity.

On this solemn occasion, JKAACL reiterated its commitment to preserve and promote the Punjabi language, culture, and heritage while also spreading the timeless message of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, who continues to inspire generations across the globe.