

BJP tears into NC-led Govt over flood mismanagement, encroachment nexus

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JAMMU: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Friday launched a scathing attack on the National Conference (NC)-led Jammu and Kashmir government, accusing it of gross negligence in handling the recent floods and failing to learn lessons from the devastation of 2014.

At a joint press conference in Jammu, senior BJP leaders and spokespersons – Dr Tahir Chowdhary, Rajni Sethi, and Zorawar Singh Jamwal – alleged that widespread encroachments, unregulated construction, and administrative apathy were the root causes behind the large-scale flooding that has left thousands homeless across the Union Territory.

Dr Chowdhary said the tragedy was not merely an outcome of heavy rains but also of years of unchecked land grabbing and mismanagement.

He held the NC- led government responsible for turning a blind eye to illegal constructions. “Encroachers take years to grab land, but nature only takes seconds to take it back. Unless strict, permanent action is



taken against the land mafia, this cycle will keep repeating,” he warned.

Chowdhary also highlighted the unchecked use of polythene as a factor in blocking drains. “Municipal drives target small shopkeepers, but no factory producing polythene has ever been shut down. If the government is serious, it must strike at the source,” he said.

BJP spokesperson Rajni Sethi accused the NC Government of indulging in optics instead of providing

relief.

Sethi pointed out that the BJP legislators had contributed from their constituency development funds, while NC lawmakers remained “missing in action.”

She said it was left to neighbourhood welfare committees and local volunteers to provide food and shelter to affected families. “This exposes the total failure of the Omar Abdullah government in both preparedness and response,” she remarked.

Zorawar Singh Jamwal

said the NC’s governance record reflected a consistent bias against Jammu. He accused the government of shielding encroachers and land grabbers who, he claimed, operated in collusion with “elements within the administration.”

The BJP leaders warned that weather forecasts of more rain in coming days could worsen the crisis. The BJP leaders said their party would continue to raise the voices of ordinary citizens, demanding accountability from the government.

DC Nidhi Malik approves 307 cases under Mission YUVA to promote entrepreneurship

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REASI: In a significant push towards youth empowerment and entrepreneurship, Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik on Friday approved 307 loan cases under Mission Yuva here at a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC).

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the applications received through the Skill and Business Development Unit (SBDU). After thorough scrutiny, the committee approved 307 cases, including 306 under Non-Enterprises and 1 under MSME, for financial assistance and institutional support.

Speaking on the occasion, DC underlined the role of Mission YUVA in equipping youth with skills, fostering entrepreneurship



and creating avenues for self-employment across the district. She emphasized the importance of post-approval handholding and continuous follow-up to ensure the long-term sustainability of the approved ventures.

Highlighting the need for synergy among departments, the DC called for coordinated efforts to maximize outreach and impact of the scheme. She also directed banks to ensure timely processing and quick disbursement of sanctioned

cases to benefit the youth at the earliest.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Reasi, Sukhdev Singh Samyal, Assistant Director Employment, Annie Vaid, representatives from banks and other concerned officers.

Meanwhile, to review the progress of assessment of damages caused to private property including houses, crops and livestock due to heavy rain and floods, DC Nidhi Malik convened a meeting in the VC Room of

Health Deptt holds medical camps

DODA: On the directions of the Health Secretary J&K, Director Health Services Jammu and Deputy Commissioner, the Health Department, under the guidance of Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Om Kumar organized a series of Medical camps across District Doda on Friday. The initiative was launched to provide essential health check-ups and medical screening to the population in view of the ongoing rainfall and post-flood situation in the district. At eight different locations, more than 450 patients were screened and provided with free medicines. The health teams also distributed ORS sachets, chlorine tablets and spread awareness on health and hygiene practices to prevent potential outbreaks of water-borne diseases.

People join hands with Youth Cong to support flood-hit areas

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JAMMU: In a remarkable display of humanitarian spirit, the residents of village Changi and Bani came together to raise approximately ₹60,000 to ₹80,000 worth of essential relief material for families affected by recent heavy rains and floods.

With generous efforts from persons including Manju Devi, Vandana Jasrotia, Chanchala Devi, Neelam Devi, Lalita Sharma, Manju Sharma, Manik Singh, Vishav Khadyal, and Amandeep, the community pooled resources in the form of cash and commodities to support those in distress. The collection drive ensured the availability of food kits, wheat flour, rice, medicines, sanitary pads,

medical kits, clothing, and suits for distribution among the affected families.

The relief material distribution was then undertaken in collaboration with local leadership and the Indian Youth Congress. The people met Congress Ward President Amit Sharma, and the IYC team extended the relief distribution to the right beneficiaries.

The relief kits were distributed under the leadership of JKPYC General Secretary Anirudh Sawhney, who was accompanied by JKPYC Secretary Anmol Kohli, Assembly President Jammu East Mehul Abrol, and Block President Ajay Kumar Kaka.

The team extended their active support in ensuring that the relief material

reached the affected families timely and efficiently. The volunteers also interacted with the locals to assess their further needs and assured them of continued support.

Speaking on the occasion, JKPYC General Secretary Anirudh Sawhney said, “The resilience and compassion shown by the people of Changi and Bani is very inspiring in such times. At a time when many families are struggling with the aftermath of floods, the community came forward selflessly to support their fellow citizens.”

The youth congress team said that the initiative not only demonstrated the strength of grassroots solidarity but also reflected the power of collective action in times of adversity.

NILM celebrates Teachers’ Day

JAMMU: The National Incredible Literacy Mission (NILM), Jammu celebrated Teachers’ Day with great enthusiasm and respect to honor the invaluable contribution of teachers in shaping society. The program began with paying tribute to Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, former President of India, whose birth anniversary is observed as Teachers’ Day across the nation. Students and staff members expressed their gratitude by presenting speeches, poems, and cultural performances dedicated to teachers. Speaking on the occasion, the Kavita Bali Secretary NILM highlighted the role of teachers as guiding lights in the journey of education and social upliftment. They emphasized that teachers are the true nation-builders who nurture knowledge, discipline, and moral values in students.

Rattan Lal visits landslide hit Panchayat Bali in Udh

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JAMMU: Senior leader of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and Provincial President Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta, on Friday visited Panchayat Bali in Udhampur, where over 50 houses have been completely destroyed and many others partially damaged due to a massive landslide.

Gupta, who led a party delegation to the affected area, expressed deep concern over the devastation. He interacted with the affected families and conducted an on-the-spot assessment of the situation. The land in the area has become dangerously unstable, rendering it unfit for reconstruction or habitation.

Calling the situation “precarious and heart-breaking,”



Gupta along with delegation met with Divisional Commissioner Jammu and other district administration who were present at the destructive site on to assess the situation on spot, Gupta urged them to immediately relocate the affected families to a nearby stable location who was also on the spot assessing the prevailing situation, requested him.

Emphasizing the economic vulnerability of the victims, Gupta appealed for

urgent governmental support in building new homes for those displaced. Divisional Commissioner Jammu and District administration assured the delegation that they will extend all possible support to the affected families. The delegation also visited other affected areas including Tikri, where similar damage has been reported. The team took note of the damage to the National Highway, which has further complicated relief efforts.

While appreciating the efforts of the district administration in reaching out to the affected families with food and essential supplies, Gupta stressed the need to intensify relief operations and ensure that the basic needs of all affected households are met until they are fully rehabilitated.

Immersion of Lord Ganesh, Anant Chaturdashi fast today

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JAMMU: The Ganesh Utsav is being celebrated with great enthusiasm. On Wednesday, 27th August, devotees welcomed Lord Shri Ganpati Ji into their homes and various pandals with immense devotion. Now, the time for bidding farewell to Ganpati Bappa has arrived.

Regarding the immersion of Shri Ganpati Ji, Mahant Rohit Shastri (Jyotishacharya), President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim

Vedic Santhan Trust, stated that some devotees keep Ganesh Ji at home for 1 day, 3 days, 5 days, 7 days, 9 days, or 10 days.

On Anant Chaturdashi to be celebrated on 6 September 2025, devotees will immerse Lord Shri Ganesh Ji. Just as devotees welcome Ganpati Ji with devotion and enthusiasm, after 10 days of worship and rituals, they bid Him farewell on Anant Chaturdashi with faith and joy.

The whole day is auspicious for immersion.

On the day of immersion, perform His worship and aarti. Offer laddoo as bhog to Ganesh Ji and distribute the prasad among devotees. Before immersion, perform aarti again. Remember, the idol of Shri Ganesh Ji should not be thrown into water; rather, it should be immersed respectfully and gradually along with the worship materials.

On Anant Chaturdashi, devotees worship Lord Vishnu in His infinite (Anant) form. Tradition-

ally, the fast is observed on the banks of a river or lake. On this day, devotees keep an Anant Sutra (sacred thread) with fourteen knots. Then, worship Lord Vishnu and the Anant Sutra with the mantra “Om Anantaya Namah”. Men tie it on their right hand, while women tie it on their left hand.

The festival of Anant Chaturdashi symbolizes devotion, unity, and harmony. It is celebrated with great reverence and enthusiasm across the country.

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RAMBAN: To expedite post-rainfall and flash floods restoration efforts, Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan on Friday carried out an extensive on-site inspection of the on-going restoration works at the Pernote Bridge and the Karol-Maitra-Gool Road at Bhatti area, both being executed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), NHAI and ARMY.

SSP Arun Gupta; ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak; ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo; Executive Engineer PWD and Tehsildar were part of the inspection team.

The Pernote Bridge and the Karol-Maitra-Gool Road are lifeline for the movement of people and es-



sential supplies to Sub Division Gool and other areas of Tehsil Ramban. These were affected by recent flash floods and heavy rainfall, disrupting traffic movement and supply chains.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed stock of the action plan from BRO officials for the restoration and

protection works on these strategically important road links. He directed to accelerate the pace of work and adhere to engineering standards to ensure the long-term durability and safety of the infrastructure.

DC directed the BRO to complete the restoration and protection works at the earliest so that vehicu-

lar movement and supply chains to Gool and adjoining areas can be restored properly. He assured all possible support from the District Administration in facilitating the work.

DC said that restoring vital road networks is a top priority for the District Administration to ensure smooth supply of essential goods, emergency services and public convenience across Ramban district.

Meanwhile, to provide relief to the families affected by the recent heavy rainfall, flash floods, cloudbursts, and landslides, the DC convened a meeting of officers. He directed Tehsildars and other revenue officials to process relief cases promptly and submit the same to provide relief to affected people under SDRF norms.

Sanjeeta conducts introductory meet

JAMMU: Sanjeeta Dogra, General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Jammu and Kashmir, held an introductory meeting on Friday with the newly appointed district and cell in-charges and co-in-charges. The meeting had the presence of senior women leaders, who have recently taken up new responsibilities in various districts and cells.

During the meeting, Sanjeeta Dogra warmly congratulated all the newly appointed members and extended her best wishes as they embark on their new roles. She emphasized that every party worker, irrespective of the level at which they serve, plays a crucial role in strengthening the organization.

Dogra expressed confidence that the women who have been entrusted with these new responsibilities will fulfill their duties with

utmost dedication, sincerity, and enthusiasm.

Highlighting the importance of women’s participation in politics, Dogra stated that the growing involvement of women in BJP has brought greater strength to the party at the grassroots level. She encouraged the new in-charges to work diligently in their respective areas to empower the organization further and to formulate effective strategies to connect more women with the party’s mission.

Dogra also discussed the need for continuous engagement, outreach, and visibility at the local level. She stressed the importance of teamwork, communication, and understanding the needs of the people. She motivated the in-charges to stay proactive and result-oriented while always keeping the core values of the party in mind.

Dr Minhas directs for repair of internal roads in 2 days

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JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Jammu Dr Rakesh Minhas conducted an extensive tour of subdivision Chowki Choura on Friday to review on-going projects and assess damages caused by recent rains and flood-like situations.

DC inspected NH-144A project, with special focus on the Kandi and Sungal tunnels. He also visited the far-flung Panchayats of Rah and Salyote to take stock of the conditions and interacted with locals to understand their issues.

During the tour, Dr Rakesh Minhas assessed damages to water supply, internal roads and other infrastructure. He met rain-affected people and assured them of timely relief measures.

The Revenue Department was directed to ex-



pedite flood relief cases of the affected population, while BDOs, PMGSY and PWD were instructed to clear internal roads within two days. He emphasised that officers must remain in close contact with the public and respond promptly to their grievances.

At the Sub Divisional headquarters, the DC chaired a meeting with of-

ficers where SDM Chowki Choura, Ankush Hans gave a detailed presentation on the situation. On-the-spot instructions were issued to the departments of Jal Shakti, PMGSY, PDD and PWD for immediate completion of restoration works.

Dr Minhas also visited the Accidental Hospital Chowki Choura and reviewed its functioning.

BMO Samir Khajuria apprised him of the facility’s requirements. “Improving health care facilities in remote areas is a priority and steps will be taken to address the concerns raised,” he added.

Deputy Commissioner also visited one family of Chashoti landslide victims and expressed condolences and offered administrative support.

DC pushes for concrete steps against drug trafficking

RAJOURI: DC Rajouri Abhishek Sharma on Friday chaired the 35th meeting of the District Narco Coordination Committee (NCORD) in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to review and strengthen efforts to combat drug trafficking and ensure effective implementation of the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan in the district.

During the meeting, the Police Department informed that 25 FIRs have been lodged in connection with narcotic-related crimes, while eight cases under PIT NDPS have been processed and one case is pending.

The Assistant Drug Controller briefed the chair that out of 822 medical shops in the district, 818 have adopted computerized billing and CCTV cameras have been installed in all shops.

DC directed the CEO to prepare a roster for awareness camps and to submit Action Taken Reports (ATRs)

regarding complaints received through complaint boxes. He further instructed that village-level Committees constituted under the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan be imparted training as per the scheduled roster.

The meeting also reviewed the functioning of addiction treatment facilities and mental health programs. It was informed that all departments have declared their offices as “No Smoking Zones” under COTPA provisions. To expand preventive healthcare efforts, the ARTO was directed to organize medical camps in coordination with the Health Department.

The Excise and Taxation Officer (ETO) briefed that raids have been conducted and around 21,800 kg of lahan was recovered. The DC also directed the concerned authorities to provide alternate employment opportunities to eligible persons of affected areas under Mission Yuva.