

Col Mahan visits rain-hit areas in Bhoond, seeks public support

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA: Col (Retd.) and DDC Chairman Kathua Mahan Singh on Friday visited several rain-affected villages in the Bhoond block, including Sandhar, Dodla, and Jandhrali, to assess the damage caused by recent heavy rainfall.

The visit aimed to interact with affected families, evaluate losses, and coordinate relief measures in the aftermath of severe landslides and ground sinking incidents.

During the inspection, Col Mahan Singh observed extensive damage to residential properties and farmland.

In village Shara, approximately 25 houses have suffered significant structural damage due to



ground sinking on a large downslope area, with estimated losses running into crores. Landslides and outflow of debris have further exacerbated the

situation, leaving many families displaced and in urgent need of assistance.

Accompanying the DDC Chairman were officials including Yubkaran

Singh, Capt Anchal Singh, Chamel Singh, Varinder Singh, Ajeet Singh (BDO Bhoond), and other government personnel.

Together, they engaged

with the affected families to understand their immediate requirements and offered assurance of prompt relief measures.

Speaking to the media, Col Mahan Singh appealed to the civil community to extend support to those affected by the devastating natural calamity.

“This is a time when our collective efforts can make a significant difference. I urge citizens, local organizations, and well-wishers to come forward and help families who have suffered severe losses,” he said.

DDC Chairman directed local authorities to expedite relief distribution, repair damaged infrastructure, and take precautionary measures to prevent further incidents.

DC Rajesh reviews restoration measures along Ravi river bank

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KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma on Friday visited Lakhampur to take stock of the ongoing restoration efforts along the Ravi river bank which had changed its course during the recent flash floods and rains, posing threat to nearby government buildings.

Pertinently, the district administration has stepped up the restoration drive with round-the-clock efforts being made to stabilize the embankments.

DC asked the Flood Control Department and NHAI to ensure full mobilization of men and machinery for protection works so as to mitigate the threat of flooding and safeguard critical government infrastructure. He further impressed upon the agencies to utilize the fair weather window effectively while observing all



safety precautions.

Earlier, the DC visited village Babera to assess the damages caused to residential houses due to landslides triggered by heavy rains. The DC instructed the Revenue field staff to carry out immediate assessment of losses so that timely relief under SDRF norms can be provided to the affected families.

Later, the DC inspected the Bhed-Blore road which has suffered exten-

sive damage due to flash floods. He called upon the concerned agency to ensure early temporary restoration of connectivity to facilitate smooth movement of locals.

Among others, ADC Kathua Vishavjeet Singh, ASP Kathua Rahul Charak, Tehsildar Kathua Vikram Kumar, CAHO Kathua and representatives from NHAI accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the visit.

Sham Lal holds public grievances camp

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Expressing strong resentment, Senior BJP leader and MLA, Sham Lal Sharma came down heavily on the Omar Abdullah-led NC government for its irresponsible and ineffective handling of the flood devastation in Jammu.

Sham Lal Sharma was listening to the public issues, while he held a Public Grievances Camp at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Sharma said that the government's lack of preparedness and the sluggish approach of concerned departments had worsened the hardships of the public. He pointed out that essential services like water and electricity were completely mismanaged during this crisis. “The absence of a back-up plan to meet the urgent requirements of the people has thrown the lives of Jammu residents out of gear,” he remarked. A large number of



deputations from Shivalikpuram, Sharika Vihar Roop Nagar, Lower Janipur, Peer Khoo, Hira Nagar, Samba, Akhnoor, Nagrota, Dhan-sal, Udhampur and several other areas visited the party headquarters to highlight their grievances. These included water and electricity restoration in flood-affected areas, damaged roads and lanes, non-functional hand-pumps, silt clearance, repair of street lights, and other pressing civic issues.

Addressing the gathering, Sharma said that while BJP's public representatives have been working tirelessly since

the beginning of the calamity to stand with the people, the NC government has exhibited a non-serious and indifferent attitude. He also blamed the mismanagement and impractical approaches of departments responsible for public utilities, holding them accountable for multiplying the people's sufferings.

The proceedings of the camp were coordinated by Er. Dil Bahadur Jamwal, Party Incharge for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, who particularly stressed the need to resolve the water scarcity issue on priority.

ADC Khosla orders safety audit of buildings; joint survey of damages

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

BILLAWAR: In view of damages caused by recent landslides, heavy rains, and flash floods in Sub-District Billawar, an urgent meeting of officers was convened on Friday at PWD Guest House under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner Billawar, Vinay Khosla (JKAS).

The meeting was attended by Tehsildar Billawar Surinder Singh (JKAS), BMO Billawar Dr. Harvinder Singh, EO MC Billawar Varinder Singh, XEN PMGSY, XEN PWD, SDAO Billawar, AEE Flood Control, and other Sub-Division level officers.

The officers reviewed the extent of damages caused to public infrastructure, roads, water supply, power supply, and private property in the wake of



the adverse weather conditions.

He instructed the XEN PWD to conduct a safety audit of government buildings in vulnerable areas to

ensure structural stability. Further, the ADC ordered that a joint team of Patwari, JE REW, and Panchayat Secretary conduct surveys to assess damages

to RDD roads, protection walls, and residential houses for timely relief and restoration. ADC asked the BMO Billawar to depute his staff to conduct medical

check-up camps in affected areas to safeguard public health. Similarly, the SDAO Billawar was directed to assess crop damages for timely relief measures.

AEE Flood Control was tasked with centralized streamlining of rivers and nallahs to minimize the risk of future flooding and safeguard habitations. The EO MC Billawar was directed to carry out cleanliness drives along with fumigation and fogging in vulnerable areas to prevent outbreak of water-borne and vector-borne diseases.

ADC emphasized close coordination among all departments and sought regular updates on the progress of restoration works. He assured that every possible support from district administration would be extended to mitigate the hardships faced by the people.

Maharaja Hari Singh Foundation distributes aid to flood sufferers

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The Maharaja Hari Singh Foundation, under the leadership of M.K. Ajatshatru Singh, Founding Chairman, and Kunwarani Dr Ritu Singh, Founding Co-Chair, in close coordination with the District Administration Jammu, organised a relief donation drive to support the victims of the recent devastating flash floods in Jammu. The drive was kick-started on Friday at Delhi Public School Jammu.

The relief consignment comprised a wide range of essential materials to address both immediate and long-term needs of the affected families.

Speaking on the occasion, Kunwarani Dr Ritu Singh, Founding Co-Chair of the Foundation and Pro Vice Chairperson, DPS Jammu, said:

Dr Ritu Singh further an-



nounced that DPS Nagbani and DPS Katra will also be organizing similar relief donation drives in Akhnoor and Reasi in the coming days, ensuring that help reaches a wider section of affected communities.

Additionally, on the eve of Teachers' Day, all teachers of the three DPS institutions pledged one day's salary to continue the relief work in the coming days

— a testament to their spirit of community and solidarity with the victims. Receiving the relief, ADC Ansuja Jamwal (JKAS), expressed gratitude by saying “At a time when so many lives and livelihoods have been shaken, this gesture of solidarity reminds us that compassion and collective action are our greatest strengths. Such initiatives restore hope and give courage to families in distress.”

Koul inaugurates BJP office at Hiranagar

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA: BJP General Secretary (Organisation), Jammu & Kashmir, Ashok Koul, inaugurated the office of Hiranagar Assembly Constituency in the presence of local MLA Adv. Vijay Kumar Sharma.

The inauguration was performed with the chanting of Vedic mantras and the performance of a traditional Havan/Yagya, adding spiritual sanctity to the occasion.

Later, a meeting was also organized, which was attended by Mandal Presidents, Mandal office bearers, Shakti Kendra Pramukhs, Booth In-charges, and senior party leaders from



Hiranagar, Kuta, and Madheen Mandals. Prominent among those present were DDCs Karan Atri and Abhinandan Sharma, Mandal Presidents Mukesh Padha, Pardeep Singh, Som Raj, along with other senior leaders.

Addressing the

meeting, Ashok Koul thrust upon the forthcoming party programmes and called for collective efforts to further strengthen the BJP organization at the grassroots level. He said that the objective is not limited to expanding the organization, but also to re-

main among the people, understand their problems, and to work sincerely for their solution. He asked the BJP cadre to give priority to social service and dedicate themselves to public welfare with a spirit of service and discipline. He also prompted the workers

to hold a medical camp on 9th September and to give special emphasis to the ongoing cleanliness campaign. He stressed that in view of the recent natural disaster, it is the responsibility of the party cadre to extend all possible support to the affected families.

Adv Vijay Kumar Sharma congratulated the workers on the opening of the new constituency office, describing it as a significant step to improve connectivity between the organization and the common people. He said that the office would serve as a center of coordination and a platform where the issues of the public could be raised and addressed effectively.

NC continue mass contact prog, visit flood-hit areas

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Continuing their Mass Contact Programme to assess the impact of recent floods and extend support to affected families, National Conference (NC) leaders Ankush Abrol, Provincial Joint Secretary, and Dr. Vikas Sharma, Zonal Secretary, on the second day of their outreach visited Canal Road, Old Company Bagh, Ward number 19 and Ward number 14.

The initiative, launched under the guidance of Provincial President Advocate Rattan Lal Gupta and overall leadership of party president Dr Farooq Abdullah and CM Omar Abdullah, entered its second day with a strong fo-

cus on engaging directly with flood-affected communities in some of the worst-hit urban localities of Jammu city.

During their visit, the leaders interacted extensively with local residents and shopkeepers, many of whom shared the hardships they have been facing due to inundation, disruption of basic services, and damage to property. At Canal Road, several areas remained waterlogged, causing difficulties for daily commuters and residents. The NC leaders urged the authorities to expedite drainage clearance and repair damaged roads and footpaths.

In Old Company Bagh (Ward No. 19) and Ward No. 14, the team witnessed

significant damage to residential homes, community infrastructure, and civic amenities. Many families narrated how the sudden rise of floodwaters caught them off guard, damaging household items and leaving them without access to clean drinking water or electricity for days.

Abrol and Dr. Sharma assured the affected residents that their concerns would be conveyed directly to the top party leadership and emphasized that the National Conference is committed to ensuring timely and adequate relief. They also urged local municipal officials and disaster response teams to scale up their presence and improve coordination on the ground.

160 Mission YUVA cases approved in DLIC meet

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR: The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) met on Friday in Kishtwar under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma to review and approve applications submitted under the Mission Yuva Scheme.

A total of 166 applications, duly verified by the Small Business Development Units (SBDUs), were presented before the committee. Each case was assessed on eligibility, project feasibility and the applicant's socio-economic background.

After scrutiny, the Committee approved 160 applications for financial assistance and handholding support. As verified by the J&K Bank Manager, Cluster

Head Kishtwar, 06 applicants had already availed themselves of benefits under other government-sponsored schemes and their cases were accordingly rejected.

DC Kishtwar emphasized the importance of empowering youth to drive local economic growth. DC directed the AD Employment to ensure that all approved cases are forwarded to banks at the earliest so that applicants can avail themselves of timely benefits under the scheme. He further directed banks to sanction and disburse loans without delay and ensure regular mentorship to support the new entrepreneurs.

Mission YUVA continues to play a vital role in creating livelihood opportunities and promoting self-reliance among the youth of Kishtwar district.

Beopar Mandal provides relief material for flood-affected people



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, on Friday flagged off a relief van carrying essential supplies for the flood-affected families of Udhampur District. The relief material has been provided by the Beopar Mandal Udhampur for the distribution among the people affected by recent floods

induced by heavy rain.

While interacting with media persons, the Deputy Commissioner lauded the community support and the philanthropic gesture of Beopar Mandal Udhampur. She congratulated the members of the Beopar Mandal for their humanitarian contribution and stressed that collective efforts are crucial in mitigating the hardships of

flood-hit people.

DC informed that the relief material, comprising ration and other essential commodities, is meant exclusively for the families impacted by the recent floods. She further added that several teams are working tirelessly on the ground to assess damages and ensure effective relief and rehabilitation measures for the affected population.