

DDC Poonch inspects flood-affected areas; Directs expedited restoration

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 26

District Development Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today conducted an extensive tour of various flood-affected areas of Poonch to assess the damage caused by recent flash floods and to review ongoing restoration and preventive measures.

During the visit, Superintending Engineer (Hydraulic) Vipan Kumar, Tehsildar Haveli Azhar Majid along with other concerned officers were present.

The DDC also interacted with the public, listened to their grievances and assured them of early restoration and relief measures.

The DDC inspected JCB machines engaged a day earlier to channelise the river flow into its proper course and directed the Superintending Engineer (Hydraulic) to ensure that the work is carried out effectively to prevent further damage and safeguard public safety.

He also inspected the protection bund damaged in the riverbed during the recent floods. He directed the concerned Executive Engineer (Hydraulic) to expedite restoration work and complete it at the earliest. He further stressed the need for proper management of the river course to prevent recurrence of flood-related damage.

The DDC also visited the SK Bridge, Bainch-Khanetar-Kalai, Chandak riverbed and inspected ongoing protection works. He issued strict directions that no unauthorised or illegal construction activity should be permitted along the



riverbed. He directed the concerned officers to take stringent action against any violations and ensure strict enforcement of regulations in the area. During the inspection, the DDC took strict action against illegal mining activities and seized a JCB machine and tractors found engaged in illegal mining at the spot. He directed the concerned authorities, including the Tehsildar Haveli, to initiate

strict legal action and register FIRs against those involved in the illegal activity.

The DDC further visited the Power Grid Station at Chandak and reviewed the impact of recent flooding on the facility. He directed the concerned Executive Engineer (Hydraulic) to take immediate measures to strengthen the protection infrastructure around the station, including the construction of protection walls

and crate works along the riverside, to prevent similar damage in the future.

The DDC directed all concerned officers to ensure timely completion of restoration and protection works and to maintain strict vigil against illegal mining and unauthorised construction along riverbeds, with public safety and the protection of vital infrastructure accorded the highest priority.

MD JPDCL reviews power restoration works in flood-hit Rajouri, Poonch

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The Managing Director, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) Gurpal Singh undertook an extensive visit to the flood-affected districts of Rajouri and Poonch to review the progress of restoration of the damaged power infrastructure and ensure expeditious restoration of power supply in all affected areas.

During the visit, the Managing Director inspected restoration works at Muradpur, Salani, Bela, Fatehpur, Saj in Rajouri district, where JPDCL teams have been working tirelessly to restore the damaged power distribution network affected by recent flash floods and incessant rains.

He also reviewed the restoration of power supply to critical PHE installations including Sangam, Nabbah, New Bela, ITI and Old Bela, stressing that uninterrupted power to drinking water supply schemes remains a top priority.

In Poonch district, the Managing Director visited Sanai, Dhundak, Lassana, Marhote, Lathung Bridge, Surankote Town, Potha to assess the restoration efforts. He also inspected the severely affected MohraBachhai area, where heavy downpours and flash floods had washed away road stretches and eroded the pole foundations of electricity poles, causing extensive damage



to the power infrastructure.

The Managing Director reviewed the restoration of the 33 kV and 11 kV distribution network, including 33/11 kV Receiving Stations, damaged poles, conductors and distribution transformers.

He expressed satisfaction over the significant progress achieved despite extremely challenging conditions, including difficult terrain, overflowing nallahs and intermittent rainfall.

He commended the dedication and commitment of engineers, technicians and field staff who have been working round the clock under adverse weather conditions to restore electricity supply.

Later, the Managing Director chaired a high-level

review meeting at the Dak Bungalow Poonch, where he assessed the overall progress of restoration works and directed all officers to continue restoration activities on a war footing.

He instructed the Chief Engineer (Distribution) to ensure immediate dispatch of poles, conductors, distribution transformers and other essential materials to the affected sites as per field requirements.

He further directed the Executive Engineers to utilise the services and resources of turnkey contractors engaged under RDSS and DA-JGUA works to accelerate restoration efforts and minimise the downtime in affected areas.

Reiterating JPDCL's commitment towards public service, the Managing

Director stated that restoration of power supply to all affected villages and critical installations, including hospitals, drinking water supply schemes and other essential public infrastructure, remains the Corporation's highest priority.

He assured that restoration operations would continue uninterrupted until normalcy is fully restored.

The Managing Director was accompanied by Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Arshad Hussain Reshi, Superintending Engineer, O&M Circle Rajouri Kuldeep Kumar Dalia, Executive Engineers and other senior officers of JPDCL, who also reviewed the progress of restoration works and interacted with field teams at various locations.

MLA Nagrota flags off 7-day exposure visit of 50 Farmers to Palampur

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In a significant initiative to strengthen farmers' knowledge and promote the cultivation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs), the Member Legislative Assembly Nagrota Devyani Rana today flagged off a seven-day exposure visit of farmers to Palampur, Himachal Pradesh, from the Chief Agriculture Office, Jammu under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) – MAP Clusters.

The exposure visit comprises 50 farmers from Keri, Sarote and Mathwar villages (MAP Cluster Mathwar) in Sub-Division Marh Jammu, who will gain first-hand exposure to advanced technologies, scientific cultivation practices, value addition, processing and marketing strategies related to medicinal and aromatic plants through interactions with experts, research institutions and progressive farmers in Palampur.

The flag-off ceremony was attended by District Agriculture Officer, Jammu Vinod Khajuria, Subject Matter Specialist (District Level) Munshi Ram Rukwal, Sub-Divisional Agriculture



Officer Marh Khalid Hassan Tantri, Subject Matter Specialist (Sub-Division Level) Vishali Bagal, besides field officers and officials of the Agriculture Department.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA emphasized the importance of exposure visits in equipping farmers with practical knowledge and innovative farming techniques. She said that the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme is transforming the agriculture sector by creating new opportunities for diversification, entrepreneurship and higher farm incomes. She urged the participating farmers to actively engage

during the visit, learn modern cultivation and post-harvest management practices and disseminate the acquired knowledge among fellow farmers upon their return. She also appreciated the Agriculture Department for organizing such capacity-building initiatives for the farming community.

SDAO Marh informed that the exposure visit has been organized to enable farmers from MAP clusters to gain practical insights into successful cultivation models, quality planting material production, processing technologies and market linkages. He expressed confidence that the visit would motivate farm-

ers to adopt scientific practices and contribute towards the sustainable development of the medicinal and aromatic plant sector in Jammu district.

The participating farmers expressed gratitude to the Agriculture Department for providing them with the opportunity to visit reputed institutions and interact with experts, which would help them improve productivity, quality and profitability of their farming enterprises.

The programme concluded with the flagging off of the farmers' contingent amidst best wishes from the dignitaries and officials for a productive and successful learning experience.

Kargil Vijay Diwas observed with patriotic fervour in Baderwah

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Kargil Vijay Diwas was observed with great patriotism and solemnity in Baderwah to commemorate the valour, courage and supreme sacrifice of the brave soldiers who laid down their lives in the 1999 Kargil War.

The commemorative programme was jointly organised by 4 Rashtriya Rifles (4RR) and 33 Battalion CRPF in collaboration with the Baderwah Administration.

The event witnessed the participation of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Baderwah, Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, Commanding Officer of 4RR, Commanding Officer of 33 Battalion CRPF, Tehsildar, SDPO, BMO, ex-servicemen, NCC cadets and a large gathering of citizens.

The dignitaries paid rich tributes to the martyrs of the Kargil War, recalling their unmatched bravery, unwavering commitment



and selfless devotion to safeguarding the sovereignty and integrity of the nation. They emphasised that the sacrifices of the

brave soldiers continue to inspire generations and reinforce the spirit of patriotism and national unity.

Ex-servicemen and NCC

cadets also joined the tribute, reflecting the collective respect and gratitude of the community towards the armed forces.

Principal District and Sessions Judge Jammu leads plantation drive at Nagar Van Raika

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A tree plantation drive was organised at Nagar Van Raika, as part of the ongoing Van Mahotsav celebrations, under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" initiative, with participation from members of the judiciary, forest officials and staff.

Principal District & Sessions Judge Jammu Ravinder Nath Watal, along with Civil Judge (Senior Division) Maleeka Sharma planted saplings at Nagar Van.

Speaking on the occasion, the Principal District & Sessions Judge lauded the efforts of the Forest Department in developing and maintaining the Nagar Van at such a picturesque



location, describing it as a valuable contribution towards environmental conservation and public well-being.

Among those present

were Divisional Forest Officer Jammu Anurag Arya, Deputy Director J01 Gamma Unit Tariq Ahmed and Standing Counsel J&K Forest Department Anchit

Sharma, along with officers and staff of the Jammu Forest Division and the J01 Forest Protection Force, who took part in the plantation activity.