

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Dy CM flags off specialised essential services trucks for remote areas

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 06

In a significant initiative aimed at strengthening the public service delivery in remote and underserved areas of Jammu province, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today flagged off three specialised essential services trucks for the districts of Doda, Udhampur and Jammu.

The deployment of these vehicles marks a strategic step towards enhancing the administrative and logistical capabilities of the concerned districts, ensuring prompt and efficient delivery of essential public services, particularly in far-flung and difficult terrains.

The project has been executed at a total cost of ₹1.05 crore, with each specialised truck costing approximately ₹35 lakh. Equipped with advanced tools and machinery,



these vehicles are expected to significantly improve the responsiveness and operational efficiency of field agencies in addressing the public infrastructure and service-related requirements.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister

reiterated the government's unwavering commitment towards equitable regional development and strengthening infrastructure across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that the government remains focused on ensuring that the people living in remote and

peripheral areas receive quality public services without discrimination. He emphasized that the strengthening of field-level infrastructure and logistics is essential for improving the governance and accelerating developmental activities on the ground.

Javed Rana reviews summer contingency, flood preparedness measures in Jammu division

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Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology, Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the summer preparedness of the Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) departments across the Jammu division.

He underscored the need for proactive planning to ensure uninterrupted water supply and robust flood management in the run-up to the monsoon season.

While reviewing the measures being taken to combat water stress during the upcoming peak summer months, Javed Rana directed the concerned officers to ensure all water supply schemes are functional at full capacity and that preventive maintenance is completed well in advance. He stressed that no lapse in drinking water availability would be tolerated and responsibility will be fixed to ensure uninterrupted services.

The Minister directed the officers to ensure a prompt and proactive response to the emerging water stress situations, with focused interventions in vulnerable habitations. He stressed that all efforts should be geared up towards reducing the number of water-stressed areas and ensuring uninterrupted drinking water supply during heatwave conditions.

The Minister also reviewed the status of the existing water supply schemes and directed the officers to



prepare a comprehensive plan for their upgradation and strengthening. He emphasised that older schemes must not be neglected while developing new infrastructure, as their efficient functioning remains crucial for ensuring reliable water supply.

The Minister also stressed the need to expedite work on JJM schemes nearing completion. He directed the officers to ensure their timely commissioning before the onset of the peak summer season so that the benefits reach the people without delay.

Javed Rana further directed the officers to formulate a comprehensive district-wise action plan for rainwater harvesting and sustainable groundwater recharge, with a focus on innovative and locally suitable interventions.

While enquiring about the repairable hand pumps in Jammu division, he called upon the concerned that all repairable units are restored before peak summer stress.

During the meeting, the Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti (I&FC) Jammu, presented a PPT apprising of the works carried out, so far, by the department. He also high-

lighted the future plans of the department besides the contingency plan devised for the eventuality.

The Minister was informed that Heatwave Response Protocols have been activated across all districts, with Control Rooms established at both Provincial and District level to ensure round-the-clock emergency response.

Besides, district-wise Water Vulnerability Maps have been prepared, identifying villages and habitations at risk of water stress between May and August 2026, with prioritised interventions planned for high-risk zones.

On infrastructure readiness, the Minister was apprised that comprehensive inspection of critical water supply infrastructure is underway, with accelerated repair and maintenance work focused on leak detection and upkeep of electro-mechanical components. Standby pumps and generators have been positioned at strategic locations while adequate stocks of spare parts and treatment chemicals have been ensured for the high-temperature season.

To address supply disruptions, a fleet of water tankers has been deployed for rapid

response, with strategic filling stations identified for efficient loading.

The Minister directed that daily monitoring of water source discharge rates and groundwater levels be carried out across all districts. He also stressed the need for weekly review and coordination meetings to maintain operational oversight, ensure timely interventions and address emerging challenges in a proactive manner.

Regarding flood preparedness, the Minister reviewed the status of flood mitigation and preparedness measures being undertaken across vulnerable areas.

He stressed the need for proactive planning to minimise the risks during the ensuing monsoon season. He directed the officers to adopt both structural and non-structural measures to remain fully prepared for any eventuality and ensure effective coordination for timely response and protection of lives and property.

He underscored the importance of proactive planning, technology-driven early warning systems and robust inter-agency coordination.

math of natural calamities and assessed the progress achieved so far.

The meeting was informed that 14 PWD works are under execution in Basohli and 3 others have been completed, while 31 works have been completed in Billawar PWD division and one work is in progress.

Similarly PWD Kathua has completed 04 works and 26 others are under execution. The PWD Hiranagar has completed 11 works and work on the remaining projects is in progress.

The meeting was further

informed that restoration works being executed by BRO at Tikri, Sukha Nallah and Bhedu Nallah are progressing at a rapid pace.

Reviewing preparedness for the ensuing rainy season, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned agencies to clear blocked drains along roads and bridges to maintain smooth water flow and prevent waterlogging.

The Jal Shakti Department informed that DPRs for eight restoration works have been submitted for approval, while the Power De-

velopment Department reported that out of four sanctioned works, two have been tendered and the remaining two shall be tendered shortly. It was further informed that approval of restoration projects under the Irrigation and Flood Control sector is at the final stage.

Stressing timely completion, the Deputy Commissioner directed all executing agencies to take up the works on mission mode and ensure completion of critical projects before the onset of monsoon.

'Nasha Mout ki Dastak' Nuked Natak performed by Sangam Theatre Group

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JAMMU, JUNE 06

Sangam Theatre Group Reasi performed Hindi Nuked Natak "Nasha Mout ki Dastak" here at Dogra Chowk Jammu as a part of 'Nasha-Mukt Jammu Kashmir Campaign by the Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha, and was organised by Department of Excise and Taxation city Excise Range North Jammu on the direction of worthy Excise Commissioner J&K Vaibhav Kohli and Dy.

Excise Commissioner Executive Jammu Sanjay Bhat under the direct supervision of Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive) Jammu, Excise & Taxation officer City North Range Jammu MS Sonam Verma conducted this drug awareness pro-gramme. Sajad Majid inspector and other officers of the department was also present on the occasion.



The artist who performed in the nuked Natak included Raja Aamir Khan, Ishan Mansotra, M. Akram Khan, Simran Kour, Rajesh Ajnabi, Akash Masi, Arun Sharma and Aasim. The play was Directed by M. Akram Khan. The actors presented different situations where the menace of drugs has consumed the lives of its takers and its traders also. It is like a live bomb which will certainly explode, sooner or

later that is a different issue. The only way to escape from it is to stay away from it and also prevent your dear ones to go near it, conveys the play. Audience appreciated the content of the nuked play and performers of the actors who grabbed the attention of the audience with his energetic performance of the artist and also thanks the Excise and Taxation department J&K for organizing such type of nuked in these

areas for the awareness of the youth & General public.

The play highlighted with very clear tone the dangers involved in drugs consumption warned about the outcomes of consuming drugs and the pain afflicts on its consumers, which is thousand times greater than the vicarious pleasure it offers. Audience including Youngsters witnessed the show in large numbers.

Dr Ritu expresses deep anguish over damage to Historic Shri Gadhadhar Temple

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JAMMU, JUNE 06

Kunwarani Dr. Ritu Singh, accompanied by Mr. Ashok Sharma, Secretary, J&K Dharmarth Trust, and officials of the Trust, today visited the historic Shri Gadhadhar Ji Temple adjoining the Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex to assess the damage caused by the recent collapse of a portion of the temple wall.

Expressing deep anguish over the incident, she described it as a matter of serious concern for devotees, heritage lovers and the people of Jammu. The temple, built during the reign of Maharaja Gulab Singh, is a cherished symbol of Jammu's spiritual and cultural heritage and has served as a centre of faith for generations.

The Kunwarani noted with relief that no casualties were reported despite the fact that hundreds of devotees had visited the temple shortly before the collapse.

"It is only by the blessings of Shri Gadhadhar Ji that a

major tragedy was averted. Hundreds of people had gathered at the temple shortly before the incident. The safety of all present is truly a blessing," she said. During her visit, she observed that the impact of the collapse extended beyond the temple structure itself. The surrounding area, which is home to numerous families, has also suffered damage. She expressed concern over reports of damage to public infrastructure, including water supply lines, and emphasized that the safety of residents living around the temple must be treated as a matter of utmost priority.

"This is not merely about a heritage structure. Thousands of people live in and around this historic precinct. Their safety and well-being must be protected while undertaking any developmental or restoration activities," she stated.

Kunwarani Dr. Ritu Singh also highlighted the temple's special association with the women of the erst-

while Dogra Royal Family. For generations, the ladies of the Royal Family have been devoted worshippers at Shri Gadhadhar Ji Temple and have played a significant role in preserving its traditions and religious practices.

"Even today, large numbers of women regularly visit the temple to offer prayers and participate in religious observances. The damage caused to this sacred shrine has deeply hurt the sentiments of countless devotees, particularly women who share a long-standing spiritual connection with this place," she said.

As a member of the erstwhile Royal Family and a devotee herself, she expressed solidarity with all those distressed by the incident and urged the authorities to act without delay.

The Kunwarani called upon the concerned authorities to immediately undertake a comprehensive structural assessment of the temple complex and surrounding areas through

qualified experts and ensure that all necessary measures are taken to prevent further damage.

She further urged the administration to initiate restoration and reconstruction of the damaged portions of the temple in accordance with established heritage conservation norms, preserving its original architectural and spiritual character.

Reaffirming her commitment to Jammu's heritage, Kunwarani Dr. Ritu Singh offered her full cooperation and support to the administration and all concerned agencies in efforts aimed at restoring and safeguarding this invaluable religious and historical landmark.

"Our heritage temples are living symbols of faith, history and identity. Shri Gadhadhar Ji Temple holds a special place in the hearts of the people of Jammu. I urge the authorities to take immediate and effective steps to restore the damaged structure and ensure the safety of the surrounding community," she said.

Cong questions silence of BJP-RSS over Gadhadhar temple damage, seeks white paper on Mubarak Mandi Complex

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Congress has raised serious questions over the silence of BJP-RSS over the issue of massive damage to the historic Gadhadhar temple of great religious importance at Mubarak Mandi due to the sheer negligence and unprofessional execution and huge excavations in the complex contrary to the norms for protected monuments. The party has demanded a white paper on the Mubarak Mandi Dogra heritage Complex, the funds spent so far, future planning the agencies involved in the execution with future road map.

Addressing a press conference at Rajiv Bhawan PCC HQ Jammu today, JKPC Working President Raman Bhalla, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, EX-MLC I/C HQ Ved Mahajan, Senior Leader & EX-DCC President Th. Manmohan Singh alongwith local leaders Chander Shekhar, Atul Sharma, Ram Magotra, Virinder Kumar and Pawan Sharma questioned the silence of BJP-RSS over the most important issue of reli-



gious sanctity of Hindus and the heritage of Dogras. Two days after the incident, BJP is silent and missing and the local MLA was seen defending officials more than listening to the grievances of the locals and residents of the area, who are hurt and suffering for several years due to mismanagement and poor planning and ruthless execution, said Raman Bhalla.

Chief Spokesperson Mr. Ravinder Sharma raised concern over the destruction and removal of historic Chabutra, the symbol of Lok Adalat during Maharaja rule. How can a declared protected Monument of Dogra identity and culture be dealt with in such a ruthless manner, without sharing any road map or details with the stakeholders and in the absence of experts. The deep digging and

excavations adjacent to the over 200 years old temple and buildings itself is the proof of recklessness and ill-planned execution. They are eyeing the estate and commercial aspects, only instead of achieving the goal of preservation of Dogra heritage. For years the work is going on in the complex and the people in the surroundings are suffering numerous civic, transport and water problems but no one is listening to them and BJP is not bothered except votes, in the name of religious sentiments and Dogras but when comes question of fixing accountability they turn deaf years and shut their eyes.

What can be more cruel joke with Dogra heritage and city of temples that is happening with most prestigious heritage in full public view quite in violation of

norms. Hence a white paper be issued with full details of spending, funds available, the agencies and contractors

Involved, the future roadmap and planning and the condition of the civic amenities and other facilities for localities around. Huge changes and modifications and destructions have been caused.

They declared to take up the issue with LG today evening during a meeting and said that congress shall not allow the Dogra heritage to be destroyed by the vested interests with criminal silence and connivance of BJP. Local Congress leaders Chander Shekhar, Ram Magotra and others raised the concerns of the neglect of the issues faced by inhabitants of the Mubarak Mandi Complex and around due to ill-planned and ruthless execution of the works. People are facing hard times due to disruption of connectivity, water problem and sewerage system damage as the authorities neglect their problems besides keeping them in dark about the exact planning.