

Commissioner SMC conducts extensive City Tour to review waterlogging situation

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 20

In view of the persistent rainfall and the resultant waterlogging in several parts of Srinagar, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, today conducted an extensive tour of vulnerable areas and key public establishments to assess the prevailing situation and review the Corporation's dewatering and emergency response measures.

He was accompanied by Joint Commissioner (Administration), Nuzhat Qureshi; Executive Engineers of the Drainage Circle, and other senior officers of the Corporation.

During the visit, the Commissioner inspected several waterlogging-prone locations, including Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, Eidgah, Khanyar, Hari Singh High Street (SHS) and other low-lying areas across the city.

The Commissioner reviewed the functioning of dewatering stations, mobile pumping units, stormwater drainage infrastructure, and the deployment of field teams engaged in round-the-clock operations. He directed the concerned officers to ensure uninterrupted functioning of all dewatering facilities, maintain continuous surveillance of vulnerable locations, and respond promptly to reports of water accumula-



tion, particularly around hospitals, major roads, commercial hubs, and other critical public infrastructure.

Emphasising the importance of proactive field management, the Commissioner instructed officers to intensify monitoring during the ongoing spell of inclement weather, strengthen coordination among all engineering wings, and ensure that pumping stations, drains, and stormwater drainage networks remain fully functional to facilitate the swift discharge of rainwater and minimise inconvenience to the public.

The Commissioner also reviewed the preparedness of emergency response teams and directed officials to keep adequate man-

power, machinery, and mobile pumping units readily available for immediate deployment wherever required. He stressed that uninterrupted civic services and public safety must remain the Corporation's foremost priority during the prevailing weather conditions.

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation's 24x7 Control Room continues to remain fully operational to receive and address public grievances related to waterlogging and other civic emergencies. Citizens have been advised to report incidents of water accumulation, blocked drains, or related issues through the SMC Helpline Numbers: 0194-2474499, 0194-2470465, or the Toll-Free Helpline: 1800-180-7038.

Dedicated emergency response teams have been deployed across the city to ensure timely intervention and effective grievance redressal.

Reaffirming the Corporation's commitment to public welfare, the Commissioner stated that the Srinagar Municipal Corporation remains on high alert and will continue to take all necessary measures to safeguard public safety, protect critical infrastructure, and ensure the uninterrupted delivery of essential civic services throughout the ongoing rainy spell. He also appealed to citizens to make use of the 24x7 SMC Helpline for the prompt reporting and redressal of waterlogging-related issues.

Heavy Rains: Sub-Divisional Administration Karnah yakes proactive measures

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In view of the forecast of continued adverse weather conditions and heavy rainfall during the coming week, the Sub-Divisional Administration Karnah has intensified preparedness measures and initiated proactive steps to safeguard the lives and property of residents, particularly nomadic families residing in vulnerable areas.

The administration has mapped all nomadic/migratory families of the Sub Division and issued advisories to them to avoid camping near nallahs, water channels, landslide-prone locations and other vulnerable areas for the next one week. The families have been advised to remain vigilant, follow safety precautions and immediately inform the administration in case of any emergency.

Meanwhile, due to heavy rainfall during the night, the seasonal hut of a nomadic family belonging to Altaf Ahmad, son of Kaloo Chachi, resident of village Nachiyar, was damaged. On receiving information,



the Sub-Divisional Administration responded promptly and provided immediate assistance to the affected family, including a kitchen set, tarpaulin and ration kit. Altaf Ahmad, who sustained minor injuries, was shifted to Sub-District Hospital Tangdhar for medical examination and necessary treatment and was discharged after being attended by the medical team. SDM Karnah, along with

SHO Karnah, visited the affected site, assessed the damages and interacted with the nomadic families residing in the area. The families were sensitized about the precautionary measures to be adopted in view of the prevailing weather conditions and the advisory issued by the administration.

The SDM Karnah also inspected a minor landslide triggered on the CTC Road due to rainfall. The road stretch had been tem-

porarily restored by Beacon authorities, and necessary directions were issued for early clearance of debris and ensuring uninterrupted vehicular movement.

The Sub-Divisional Administration Karnah continues to closely monitor the situation and has activated all field-level mechanisms to ensure timely response, emergency assistance and public safety during the ongoing spell of inclement weather.

DIET Shopian concludes 3-Day Capacity Building Program on 'Substance Abuse and Addiction Awareness'

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The District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Shopian, successfully concluded a three day Capacity Building Programme on "Substance Abuse and Addiction Awareness".

The programme was organised with the objective of equipping teachers with the knowledge, practical skills, and preventive strategies required to address the growing challenge of substance abuse among adolescents and to strengthen awareness initiatives across educational institutions in District Shopian.

The programme was inaugurated on July 17, 2026, by Neetu Gandotra, Principal, DIET Shopian, who highlighted the pivotal role of teachers in shaping responsible and healthy citizens. She stressed that educational institutions must serve as safe, supportive, and inclusive spaces that promote mental well being, positive life choices, and resilience among students.

The Principal also presided over the valedictory function and appreciated the enthusiastic participation and commitment shown by the teachers throughout the programme. She urged the participants to translate the knowledge gained into meaningful action by initiating awareness campaigns and preventive activities in their respective schools.

During the three day programme, participants were sensitised on various



dimensions of substance abuse and addiction, including its causes, risk factors, early warning signs, preventive interventions, counselling approaches, and the crucial role of schools in creating awareness and fostering a drug-free culture among students and the wider community.

The concluding session was graced by Imtiyaz Ahmad Mir, Deputy Superintendent of Police (HQ), Shopian, who interacted

extensively with the participants. Drawing upon his field experience, he highlighted the ground realities of drug abuse, particularly in the context of District Shopian, and underscored the collective responsibility of teachers, parents, law enforcement agencies, and society in combating the menace.

He shared real-life case studies, discussed the challenges encountered in tackling drug-related issues, and reaffirmed the com-

mitment of the Jammu & Kashmir Police towards eliminating substance abuse through sustained enforcement, awareness, and community participation.

The programme concluded with a collective pledge to strengthen school based preventive education, foster greater awareness on substance abuse, and work collaboratively towards building a healthier, safer, and drug free society.

DC Bandipora inspects vulnerable areas amid prevailing Weather Situation; Reviews preparedness

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In view of the prevailing weather situation and continuous rainfall, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Monday conducted an extensive inspection of vulnerable locations across the district to assess the situation on the ground and review preparedness.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the Receiving Station Ajas, Tangwani Bridge, and Aragam Bridge, besides reviewing the condition of other adjoining areas vulnerable to weather-related incidents.

The DC took stock of the impact of the inclement weather, inspected the status of critical infrastructure, and directed the concerned departments to remain on high alert and



ensure close monitoring of all vulnerable locations.

She emphasized prompt response, inter-departmental coordination, and immediate action in case of any emergency to safeguard public life and prop-

erty. The DC also instructed officers to keep men and machinery in readiness and maintain round-the-clock vigil in view of the prevailing weather conditions.

The District Administra-

tion continues to monitor the situation closely and has urged the public to remain vigilant, avoid unnecessary travel to vulnerable areas, and follow official advisories issued from time to time.

RCFC NR-II promotes Scientific Cultivation of Medicinal Plants through Awareness Programme at KVK Kupwara

KUPWARA, JULY 20: The Regional Cum Facilitation Centre, Northern Region-II (RCFC NR-II), National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, SKUAST-K, on Monday organized a Training-cum-Awareness Programme on "Opportunities in Cultivation of Medicinal Plants of Kashmir Valley" at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kupwara.

The programme aimed to promote the scientific cultivation, conservation and commercialization of high-value medicinal plants native to the Kashmir Valley while creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for farmers, youth and other stakeholders.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) G.M. Bhat, Head, KVK Kupwara, highlighted the importance of medicinal plants in ensuring livelihood security and



emphasized their immense potential for commercial cultivation both as sole crops and intercropped.

Dr. Sofi Imtiyaz Ali, Project Manager, RCFC NR-II, delivered a detailed lecture on conservation strategies, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), market linkages and value addition of commercially important

medicinal plants of the region. He stressed the need to shift from unsustainable wild harvesting to scientific cultivation in farmers' fields to reduce pressure on natural habitats.

He also highlighted the prevailing market demand and price trends of key medicinal plants and underscored the vast poten-

tial for medicinal plant-based enterprises in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. He further outlined the ongoing initiatives of RCFC NR-II to promote conservation, cultivation and commercialization of medicinal plants across the region.

Addressing the participants, Er. Falak Jan, Technical Officer, RCFC NR-II, spoke on value addition and entrepreneurship development, encouraging farmers, youth and aspiring entrepreneurs to explore medicinal plant cultivation as a viable source of income and self-employment.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from farmers, aspiring entrepreneurs, youth and other stakeholders, besides scientists and technical staff from KVK Kupwara and the RCFC NR-II team.

KPDCL issues Public Safety Advisory, puts Field Machinery on High Alert

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In view of the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) forecast of heavy to very heavy rainfall, thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds, the Chief Engineer, Distribution, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), has issued a comprehensive advisory for the general public and directed all field functionaries to remain on high alert to safeguard public life, protect electrical infrastructure and ensure continuity of essential power supply services.

The advisory stated that adverse weather conditions may lead to uprooting of trees, landslides, waterlog-

ging and flooding, which could damage overhead power lines, distribution transformers, electric poles and other power infrastructure.

It further noted that temporary interruptions in power supply may be necessary at certain locations to ensure public safety and facilitate emergency restoration works.

The general public has been strongly advised not to touch or approach electrical conductors, poles, transformers, feeder pillars or any other electrical installations during inclement weather, as these may become live due to leakage of electric current. Every fallen conductor or damaged pole should be treated as live and dangerous. People have also

been advised to avoid waterlogged areas where electrical installations or overhead power lines are present and not to cross flooded locations containing electrical infrastructure. Residents have been cautioned against attempting any electrical repairs during rainfall or while standing on wet surfaces. In case water enters residential or commercial premises, consumers should switch off the main electrical supply only if it can be done safely.

The advisory has urged residents of flood-prone and landslide-prone areas to remain vigilant, as waterlogging, soil erosion, falling trees and landslides may damage electrical infrastructure.