Div Com, IGP Jammu visit flood-hit areas, review relief measures

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 20

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Jammu Bhim Sen Tuti today visited the flood-affected area of Bella in Rajouri to assess the ground situation following the recent flash floods.

During the visit, the Divisional Commissioner and IGP directed the officers and field functionaries deployed on the spot to expedite restoration works, including clearance of damaged road stretches and restoration of essential services so that normalcy is restored at the earliest.

They also visited the Relief and Rehabilitation Centre established at Government Boys Higher Secondary School Rajouri, where they reviewed arrangements made for the affected families.

Interacting with the Nodal Officer and displaced residents, they directed the district administration to ensure adequate availability of safe shelter, food, drinking water, medical care, clothing and other essential facilities without inconvenience.

Talking to the affected families, the Divisional Commissioner assured them that the government stands firmly with them during this difficult time and that every possible assistance would be extended to ensure their safety, comfort and well-being until the situation returns to normal, directing all departments concerned to remain responsive and provide the best possible services.

Later, the Divisional Commissioner and IGP chaired a review meeting to assess the flash flood situation and the preparedness and response of departments concerned.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner took a detailed overview of response measures undertaken by different departments and called for close coordination to ensure timely relief, restoration of essential services and effective disaster management.

The Deputy Commissioner and Senior Superintendent of Police were directed to identify vulnerable flood-prone hotspots for shifting residents to safer locations during emergencies; the district administration to make effective use of public address systems and sirens to alert people about rising water levels and facilitate timely evacuation; the Chief Planning Officer to coordinate with the Power Development Department for early restoration of power supply in affected areas; the Irrigation and Flood Control Department to keep flood-control machinery in readiness and maintain continuous monitoring of water levels through the gauging system and the Chief Medical Officer to ensure availability of medicines, medical staff, ambulances and other healthcare facilities at the block level.

The Divisional Commissioner directed all departments to remain on high alert, maintain round-the-clock coordination and ensure swift response to any emerging situation to safeguard lives and minimise the impact of flash floods.

Among those present were Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, SSP Rajouri Gaurav Sikarwar, ADDC Malik Zada Sheraz Ul Haq, ACR Mohd Jahangir Khan, SE Jal Shakti Rajouri Sunil Kumar, CMO Dr Manohar Lal Rana and other officers concerned.

CM Omar reviews restoration, relief measures amid heavy rains; directs proactive preparedness across J&K

NEW DELHI, JULY 20: Continuing his close monitoring of the situation arising from the recent heavy rains across Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired another high-level review meeting through video conference from New Delhi to assess restoration works, relief measures and overall preparedness across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting comprehensively reviewed the latest ground situation, including restoration of essential services, road connectivity, availability of food and other essential supplies, healthcare arrangements, relief operations and the preparedness of all departments in view of continuing adverse weather conditions.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister was informed that restoration of power supply in Poonch district is progressing on a war footing and is expected to be completed by tomorrow evening. He directed the Power Development Department to ensure that restoration works are completed within the stipulated timeline and that any remaining issues are addressed without delay.

The status of roads affected due to landslides, flash floods and heavy rainfall also came under review. Stressing the importance of restoring connectivity at the earliest, the Chief Minister instructed the concerned departments to expedite restoration works, particularly on roads critical for movement of people, relief operations and essential services.

Emphasising the need for continued vigilance, the Chief Minister directed the district administrations to maintain focused attention on vulnerable habitations and take all necessary measures to safeguard residents living in flood-prone and landslide-prone areas. He instructed officers to use historical flood data to identify high-risk locations along rivers and streams and ensure timely evacuation wherever the need arises.

The Chief Minister further ordered strict regulation of traffic movement on landslide and shooting-stone-prone stretches to minimise the risk of accidents and ensure public safety.

He also directed the administration to ensure uninterrupted availability of food grains, medicines, drinking water and other essential commodities in affected areas. Stressing the importance of preparedness, he instructed that adequate stocks be maintained and advance distribution of rations be undertaken wherever continued rainfall may disrupt road connectivity.

Expressing concern over the widespread waterlogging witnessed in several parts of Srinagar city following today's rainfall, the Chief Minister directed the concerned departments, including the Srinagar Municipal Corporation, to adopt a proactive approach in preventing urban flooding. He instructed that men, machinery and dewatering pumps be pre-positioned at identified vulnerable locations to ensure swift drainage of accumulated rainwater and restoration of normal public movement.

Reviewing the situation in Kashmir Division, the Divisional Commissioner informed the meeting that despite heavy rainfall, the overall situation remained under control and essential infrastructure, including roads and drinking water supply, continued to function normally. He said migratory families residing in vulnerable areas had been shifted to safer locations. In view of the forecast of intense rainfall across South Kashmir tomorrow, advance warnings have already been issued and the entire administrative machinery has been mobilised to respond promptly to any eventuality.

Briefing the meeting on Jammu Division, the Divisional Commissioner Jammu stated that major road stretches damaged during yesterday's rains have been restored, while work is continuing on a war footing to repair power transmission lines and restore drinking water supply, particularly in Poonch district. He informed that additional doctors, including gynaecologists, are being deployed to ensure uninterrupted healthcare services in remote areas. Relief centres providing food, drinking water and medicines are fully operational, while the process for disbursement of the Chief Minister's ex gratia relief announced earlier today has already commenced. He further informed that allocation of essential supplies, including three months' food grains, is being processed on priority, petroleum supplies are being closely monitored and restoration of mobile connectivity across affected areas is progressing steadily.

Providing a technical assessment, the Jal Shakti Department informed the meeting that localized damage has been reported to water supply infrastructure and irrigation channels in several parts of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in Poonch and Rajouri districts. Restoration works are being carried out on a war footing, with adequate manpower, machinery and field response teams deployed across vulnerable locations in both Jammu and Kashmir divisions to restore water supply and irrigation facilities at the earliest.

The Chief Minister also directed all departments to strengthen inter-departmental coordination, closely monitor weather forecasts and remain fully prepared to respond swiftly to any emerging situation. He instructed the Divisional Commissioners to submit detailed situation reports every six hours to the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction to facilitate continuous monitoring and timely decision-making.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister reiterated that the safety and well-being of the people remain the Government's highest priority. He directed the administration to act proactively, efficiently and with empathy so that no citizen suffers during this critical period, while ensuring speedy restoration of essential services, timely relief to affected families and effective preparedness to deal with any further weather-related challenges.

DC reviews progress of various flagship schemes in Udhampur

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 20

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of various flagship schemes for rural development and welfare at district headquarters.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a sector and scheme-wise review and directed officers concerned to expedite implementation of ongoing schemes and achieve prescribed targets within the stipulated timeframe.

BDOs were instructed to expedite tendering, preparation of estimates and allotment of new works for their timely execution.

The DC further directed departments concerned to prepare a comprehensive list of solid waste-generating establishments, including roadside dhabas along the National Highway and ensure identification and registration of all such institutions; organise at least one water conservation activity in every Panchayat and launch awareness campaigns to encourage public participation; and intensify IEC activities to create greater awareness about government schemes and ensure maximum outreach and community participation.

DC Reasi reviews rain damage, directs early restoration of essential services

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 20

Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek, also Chairman District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), today chaired a meeting to review the district's preparedness for the monsoon season and assess damage caused by recent heavy rains.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the preparedness of all departments to deal with emergencies arising from heavy rainfall, flash floods, landslides and other monsoon-related incidents, directing officers to remain on high alert, ensure round-the-clock monitoring of vulnerable areas and maintain close coordination for prompt response.

He also reviewed damage caused to roads, public infrastructure, water supply schemes, power infrastructure and private property due to the recent rains and instructed departments concerned to expedite restoration works and ensure early restoration of essential services in affected areas.

The Deputy Commissioner directed officers concerned to prepare detailed damage assessment reports within two days to facilitate timely disbursement of relief; prepare temporary restoration plans for damaged infrastructure; identify vulnerable areas in advance to ensure timely evacuation and rehabilitation of residents and earmark suitable relief centres; stock and distribute essential relief material in advance in vulnerable locations; and keep adequate manpower, machinery and emergency equipment ready for immediate deployment.

The DC directed timely dissemination of weather advisories and urged the public to remain vigilant during heavy rainfall and strictly follow advisories issued by the administration. He further directed all departments to maintain effective coordination and submit regular updates on preparedness, damage assessment and restoration activities through the monsoon season.

Among those present were ADDC Krishan Lal, ADC Rakesh Kumar, CPO Narinder Kumar, ACD Mukesh Kumar, Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti, JPDCL and other officers concerned.

JKCIP-backed FPOs of Kishtwar record strong growth in herbal, horticulture sectors

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 20

Meeting the representatives of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), the Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma praised their work and urged them to continue with the same commitment to strengthen the rural economy and enhance farmers' income.

Under the guidance of Vice Chancellor SKUAST Jammu Professor BN Tripathi and supervision of FPO Development Officer Kishtwar Dr Shahnawaz Ahmed, the Chenab Forest Herbal Farmer Producer Organisation Cooperative Limited Kishtwar under the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement in Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP) Scheme, has supplied herbal products worth ?1,46,600 to Cooperative Super Bazar, Jammu and to the Zonal Conference of the Department of Cooperatives held at Srinagar. Besides this, products worth ?85,600 were supplied to Cooperative Super Bazar, Jammu and products worth ?38,000 were sold to Amritsar-based firm Bala Ji Enterprises.

The consignment comprised 14 different items, including Immunity Booster Tea, Lung Detox Tea, Sleep Well Tea, Women Wellness Tea, Sugar Tea, Mix Mushroom Tea, Cold Cough & Flu Tea, Male Wellness Powder, Saffron, Hair Growth Oil, Joint Pain Oil, Nabi Oil and Shilajit. In total, 200 packages were supplied to promote local herbal products through the cooperative retail network.

For the Zonal Conference of the Department of Cooperatives held at Srinagar, the FPO supplied products worth ?61,000. The consignment included 100 packages of Immunity Booster Tea and 100 packages of Lung Detox Tea, totalling 200 packages.

The initiative aimed to showcase the quality of herbal products produced by local farmers on a UT-level platform. The Chenab Forest Herbal FPO continues to provide better market linkages to rural farmers and promote traditional herbal products of the Chenab Valley.

In the horticulture sector, Himalayan Walnut Farmer Producer Organisation, Mughalmaidan, operating under JKCIP, has emerged as a key player in promoting walnut cultivation and boosting farmers' income.

The FPO specialises in producing high-quality grafted walnut plants using scientific techniques to ensure better yield and disease resistance. During the last financial year, Himalayan Walnut FPO sold 4,000 grafted walnut plants worth ?20 lakh, providing direct livelihood support to local growers and contributing to the expansion of walnut cultivation in the region. The grafted plants have been well received by farmers for their superior quality and assured productivity.

Building on this success, the FPO has set a target of producing and selling 10,000 grafted walnut plants this year. Under the guidance of JKCIP, Himalayan Walnut FPO is undertaking large-scale grafting and nursery activities at Mughalmaidan to meet growing demand and strengthen the walnut economy of the district.

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