

Amid incessant rains, CM Omar continues high-level reviews to intensify relief, restoration efforts



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 22

Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah today chaired another review meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the restoration works, relief measures and overall flood preparedness across Jammu & Kashmir that has arisen due to incessant rains and flash floods.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Health, Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and other senior officers.

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, Minister for Youth Services & Sports, Transport, Information Technology, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Science & Technology, ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, all Deputy Commissioners attended the meeting through Video Conferencing.

While chairing the meeting, Chief Minister stressed the need for maintaining a high state of preparedness to effectively deal with

flood-like situations arising from erratic weather patterns.

The Chief Minister emphasized the importance of adopting long-term flood mitigation measures, noting that recurring flood-like events necessitate sustained planning and resilient infrastructure. He instructed the concerned departments to take all necessary steps to minimise loss of life and property, ensure restoration of essential services, particularly drinking water and electricity, within 24 hours, prioritise vulnerable locations, and intensify efforts to trace and retrieve missing persons.

The Chief Minister directed the Divisional Commissioners of Kashmir and Jammu to undertake an immediate assessment of the flood situation and identify the worst-affected districts. He further directed that adequate funds, on the pattern followed during 2025–26, be placed at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioners of these districts to facilitate immediate relief, rehabilitation and restoration of damaged infrastructure.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the rescue and relief operations in the flood-affected districts of Poonch

and Rajouri. He directed the district administrations to ensure that all relief camps are adequately equipped with essential food, drinking water and medical facilities for the affected population. The meeting was informed that joint rescue and relief operations involving the Civil Administration, Police, SDRF, NDRF, Army, BRO and other line departments were launched immediately after the flash floods and are continuing in the affected areas.

The Chief Minister directed the concerned officers to intensify efforts for the restoration of electricity supply in the worst-affected districts of Poonch and Rajouri, observing that the restoration of drinking water supply schemes is largely dependent on the timely restoration of power. He instructed the Power Development Department to complete the restoration works within the stipulated timeline and ensure that any remaining issues are resolved without delay so that essential public services, particularly water supply, are fully restored at the earliest.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the district-wise status of relief disbursement and damage assess-

ment, directing the Deputy Commissioners to ensure timely assistance to all affected families in accordance with the prescribed norms. He also reviewed the damage to houses, livestock, public infrastructure and agricultural land, and instructed the concerned departments to expedite assessment, restoration and compensation without delay.

During the meeting detailed presentation was made by Divisional Commissioners Jammu/Kashmir of their respective regions highlighting the flood preparation and relief measures undertaken.

The Chief Minister was informed that the Kashmir Division has put in place a comprehensive flood preparedness mechanism, with all Deputy Commissioners, district administrations and line departments on high alert. Rescue teams, evacuation centres, emergency equipment and essential services have been positioned to ensure a prompt and coordinated response to any eventuality.

The meeting was informed that 654 vulnerable villages with an estimated 7.22 lakh population at risk have been identified across the Valley. As a precautionary measure, 1,505 people from vulnerable areas have already been shifted to designated rescue centres, while evacuation plans remain in place for other vulnerable locations.

Officials informed that 744 rescue centres, 108 SDRF boats, 25 Army boats, 98 satellite phones, 102 identified helipads and adequate emergency response funds have been kept ready to strengthen rescue and relief operations.

Anil Kumar inspects landslide-affected NH-44 stretches, reviews restoration works in Udhampur

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Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Public Works Department, Anil Kumar Singh, today conducted an extensive inspection of the landslide-affected stretches of National Highway-44 from Udhampur to Chenani to review the damage and the progress of restoration works.

He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Minga Sherpa, along with officers from the Civil Administration, Traffic Police and the National Highways Authority of India.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner briefed the ACS on the extent of damage caused by recent landslides along the Udhampur-Chenani stretch of NH-44. He informed him about the ongoing restoration, debris clear-

ance and road repair works being undertaken to restore normal traffic movement.

The ACS personally monitored the situation and directed the NHAI authorities to expedite restoration works to ensure the early clearance of the

highway and minimize inconvenience to commuters and the general public. He also inspected the Toldi Bridge site, reviewed the status of the bridge project.

Emphasising seamless traffic management, Anil Kumar directed the Traffic Police and NHAI to work in

close coordination to maintain smooth and uninterrupted traffic flow on NH-44. He instructed the concerned agencies to remove debris and clear all landslide-affected areas at the earliest while ensuring the safety and convenience of commuters.

Jal Shakti, Estates & Revenue Departments mourn the passing of Ramprasad Kabra

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A condolence meeting was held today at the Civil Secretariat to mourn the sad demise of Shri Ramprasad Kabra, father of Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti & Estates Departments and Financial Commissioner, Revenue here.

The meeting was co-chaired by the Director Finance, Jal Shakti Department; Director Estates; and Special Secretary to the Government, Jal Shakti Department.

The solemn gathering was attended by senior officers and officials representing the Jal Shakti De-

partment, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Estates Department, and the Financial Commissioner Revenue (FCR) office.

Prominent among those present included Mr. Imtiyaz, Director Planning, JSD; Mr. Hitesh Gupta, Additional Secretary, JSD;

Mr. Vivek Phonsa, Additional Secretary, Home Department; and Mr. Muneer-ul-Hassan, Additional Secretary, Law. Deputy Secretaries, Deputy Directors, Under Secretaries, Assistant Directors, personnel from the Personal Section, Section Offi-

cers, and other non-gazetted staff also attended the mourning ceremony.

During the meeting, the participants expressed their profound grief and conveyed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. They highlighted the values of the departed soul and stood in solidarity with Shri Shaleen Kabra and his family in this hour of immense grief.

As a mark of respect for the departed soul, a two-minute silence was observed by the attendees. The gathering prayed to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed soul and to bestow strength and courage upon the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Sakeena conducts extensive tour of South Kashmir, reviews situation following incessant rainfall

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On the directions of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today visited various South Kashmir districts and took stock of the prevailing situation following incessant rainfall.

During her visit, the Minister chaired separate review meetings at the district headquarters with the respective Deputy Commissioners and senior officers from the line departments to assess the preparedness and response measures being undertaken in view of the adverse weather conditions.

The Minister took a comprehensive review of the situation, including flood preparedness, functioning of emergency response mechanisms, restoration of essential services, availability of healthcare facilities, road connectivity, power and water supply, and arrangements for evacuation and relief, wherever required.

At Kulgam, the Minister chaired a comprehensive review meeting to evaluate the readiness of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) for potential weather induced emergencies.

MLA Devsar, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad Shah; Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam; ADC, Kulgam, Vikar Ahmad Giri, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Development and other district and sectoral officers of concerned departments were present in the meeting.

Reviewing the flood protection and mitigation measures undertaken by various departments and agencies, the Minister directed all concerned officers to maintain a high level of

preparedness and ensure the close monitoring of water levels in rivers to effectively respond to any emergency. She stressed on early identification of weaker spots and strengthening the flood protection and mitigation measures along the vulnerable areas of Veshow, Vethyatra and other streams.

Sakeena Itoo underscored the need for taking up immediate flood mitigation works as well as long term proposals of flood mitigation in low lying and vulnerable areas of the district.

MLA Devsar also put forth vital observations and suggestions on the weather conditions and preparations for flood mitigation.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Kulgam and ADC, Kulgam presented a detailed overview of the district's preparedness, highlighting department-wise mitigation strategies and the operational readiness of relief, rescue, and rehabilitation mechanisms.

At Shopian, Sakeena Itoo chaired a review meeting with the district administration and concerned officers to take stock of the prevailing weather conditions and the preparedness of various departments to deal with any eventuality at the Mini-Secretariat.

During the meeting, the Minister reviewed the availability of essential commodities, the status of power and drinking water supply, availability of medicines and other emergency stocks, and the preparedness of the concerned departments. She stressed the need to ensure uninterrupted essential services and directed officers to remain vigilant, particularly in vulnerable areas.

The Minister said that the government is closely monitoring the situation and is commit-



ted to ensuring the safety and well-being of the people. She directed all departments to remain on high alert, maintain close coordination and ensure prompt response in case of any emergency.

The Minister also urged the public to follow official advisories, avoid unnecessary travel to vulnerable locations, and cooperate with the administration during the prevailing weather conditions.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta; Additional District Development Commissioner, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, Chief Planning Officer, Chief Medical Offi-

cer, Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti and KPDCL, Irrigation, besides officers from the Revenue, Police, Health, R&B, Municipal, Food, Disaster Management and other concerned departments.

At Pulwama, Sakeena Itoo also chaired a meeting to review the district's preparedness for any flood-like situation in view of the ongoing rainfall across Jammu and Kashmir.

MLA Pampore Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi; Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom; other senior officers of Health Department, Food & Civil Supplies, R&B, Irrigation & Flood Control and KPDCL were present during the meeting.

During the meeting, the Min-

ister conducted a comprehensive review of the district's disaster preparedness, including the functioning of emergency response mechanisms, deployment of rescue teams, availability of rescue equipment, identification of vulnerable areas, flood mitigation measures, status of embankments, dewatering arrangements, stock of essential commodities, uninterrupted drinking water and power supply, healthcare preparedness, road connectivity, communication systems and functioning of designated relief and rescue centres.

Addressing the officers, Minister Sakeena Itoo said that the months of July, August and September remain crucial from the disaster management per-

spective. She directed all departments to remain in a state of complete readiness and ensure close coordination for an effective response to any eventuality.

The Minister emphasised the timely identification and relocation of vulnerable families, particularly nomadic communities and those living in low-lying areas, to safer locations whenever required. She directed the concerned departments to strengthen vulnerable embankments, maintain adequate stocks of essential medicines, ensure availability of doctors and paramedical staff, keep ambulances and emergency medical teams on standby and ensure uninterrupted healthcare services.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, apprised the Minister about the overall preparedness of the district. He informed that the District Emergency Operations Centre has been made operational round the clock, while Tehsil and Zonal Level Control Rooms have also been activated for prompt response. He added that weather advisories are being issued regularly, inter-departmental coordination has been strengthened and adequate arrangements have been put in place to ensure uninterrupted essential services, including power and drinking water supply.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Pampore Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi stressed the need for strengthening embankments at vulnerable locations, removing encroachments along water bodies, improving drainage infrastructure and ensuring sustained preventive measures to minimise future risks.

Later, at Anantnag, the Minis-

ter held detailed assessment of disaster related preparations and availability of essential supplies in the district.

Emphasising on the need for utmost vigilance, Sakeena Itoo directed the district administration to maintain round-the-clock monitoring of flood-prone and vulnerable areas and ensure timely dissemination of weather advisories and alerts among the public. She instructed the officers to keep men and machinery in complete readiness to deal with any emergency arising due to the continuing rainfall.

The Minister directed the officers to shift nomadic families living near river banks to safer locations. She stressed that the safety and well-being of the people should remain the highest priority and asked all departments to work in close coordination for swift response in case of any eventuality.

She directed that emergency control rooms should remain fully functional and adequately staffed to address public grievances and facilitate immediate assistance.

She also directed the Jal Shakti department to rectify drinking water pipelines in cloudburst-hit Awoora area immediately and keep drinking water through tanker supply readily available for the local population.

The Minister also directed the CMO Anantnag to maintain duty roster in all hospitals in letter and spirit, and also keep ambulances available in all flood prone areas to deal with any kind of exigency.

Among others, the meeting was attended by ACR, CPO, SES of PWD, KPDC & Jal Shakti/Hydraulics, CMO, CEO, AD FCS&CA, DD F&ES, DySP SDRF and other senior officers of various line departments.

