

Javed visits flood affected areas of Mendhar

‘Govt will not rest until life is fully restored across J&K’

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 23

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology, Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today undertook an extensive tour of the flood-affected areas of Mendhar in Poonch district to assess the damage caused by the recent heavy rains and flash floods and review the ongoing relief, restoration and rehabilitation measures.

During his visit, the Minister was accompanied by SDM Mendhar, Imran Kataria and senior officers from various departments. He inspected the flood-affected areas of Chajjila, Mankote, Dabraj, Balnoi, Bhatidhar and Salwah to assess the damage caused by the recent flash floods.

He also interacted with the affected families and local residents to assess their losses and understand their immediate concerns and requirements. He assured the affected people that the government stands firmly with them during this difficult time and every possible assistance would be extended for their relief, rehabilitation and recovery. “We are in this to-



gether. The recent floods have caused extensive damage to infrastructure and private property across the Pir Panjal region. The government stands firmly with every affected family and we will not rest until relief reaches everyone, damaged infrastructure is restored and normalcy is fully restored across Jammu and Kashmir,” Rana maintained.

The Minister said that restoration of damaged infrastructure and rehabilitation of affected families is the government's top priority. He assured that adequate resources would be mobilised to restore nor-

malcy at the earliest and rebuild the damaged public infrastructure.

The Minister observed that the devastation caused by the flash floods has highlighted the need for long-term planning to reduce the impact of such disasters. He stressed the importance of strengthening the flood protection infrastructure, improving drainage systems, undertaking scientific slope stabilisation, enhancing disaster preparedness and adopting sustainable mitigation measures to minimise the losses caused by recurring natural calamities. During the visit, the lo-

cal residents apprised the Minister of the extensive devastation and the immense losses suffered by the affected communities.

“We stand shoulder to shoulder with the affected people in this hour of crisis. The administration is committed to ensure immediate relief, speedy restoration of damaged infrastructure and comprehensive rehabilitation of every affected family. At the same time, we must work towards long-term measures that make our vulnerable regions more resilient against such disasters in the future,” asserted the Minister.

Javed Rana reviews flood relief, restoration measures in Mendhar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 23

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest Ecology Environment and Tribal Affairs Javed Ahmed Rana today chaired a review meeting at Mendhar with the senior officers of the district administration and the concerned departments to assess the progress of relief, restoration and rehabilitation measures in the flood-affected areas.

The officers briefed the Minister on the extent of damage to public infrastructure, restoration of essential services, relief operations and the status of damage assessment.

The Minister directed the officers to expedite restoration works, ensure timely assistance to the affected families and maintain close inter-departmental coordination to facilitate early return to normalcy.



Javed Rana directed the district administration to receive and scrutinise all relevant documents submitted by the affected people to ensure that all genuine cases are processed expeditiously for relief, compensation and rehabilitation in accordance with the prescribed norms.

Addressing the affected residents, the Minister appealed to them to extend full cooperation to the administration in accurate assessment process. He assured them that the

government would examine every eligible case with sympathy and provide all possible assistance.

The Minister directed the Irrigation and Flood Control Department to take immediate measures for restoration of breaches at various vulnerable points along the Mankote Nallah and other affected locations. He also issued on-the-spot instructions to the department to prepare Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for all sites damaged by the floods, covering

both the temporary restoration works for immediate relief and permanent measures to strengthen flood protection infrastructure and mitigate future risks.

He further directed the district administration and all line departments to work in close coordination and ensure immediate restoration of all essential services. He instructed the officers to expedite damage assessment and ensure that relief reaches every affected household without any delay.

JD Agriculture (Inputs) reviews seed indent and availability for Rabi seasons in Jammu

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 23

Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs) Jammu Sanjay Anand today chaired a meeting at Krish Bhawan, Talab Tillo, regarding finalisation of the Breeder Seed Indent for all agricultural crops for Rabi 2027–28 and a review of availability of Breeder, Foundation and Certified Seed for Rabi 2026–27.

A detailed review was conducted of the requirement and availability of breeder, foundation and certified seed for major agricultural crops to ensure timely supply of quality seed to farmers during the ensuing Rabi season. Crop-wise seed demand, production targets and measures for strengthening coordination between the Agriculture Department and



SKUAST-Jammu for efficient seed planning and distribution were also discussed.

The Joint Director emphasised timely finalisation of the breeder seed indent so that adequate quantities of quality seed reach departmental farms well in advance of the sowing season. He said proper seed

planning is essential for improving crop productivity, maintaining varietal purity and ensuring successful implementation of seed production programmes in Jammu Division.

Among those present were Joint Director Agriculture (Farms/SLUB) Aman Jyoti Sharma; Professor and Head, Plant Breeding

Department, SKUAST-Jammu, Dr Tuhina Dey; Nodal Officer (Seed), SKUAST-Jammu, Dr Vijay Bharti; Potato Development Officer Jammu Ravi Sharma; Divisional Seed Certification Officer Jammu Nirmal Prakash Sharma; Assistant Botanist Ajit Singh and other officials concerned.

DC Reasi reviews monsoon preparedness; stresses timely restoration of railway road connectivity

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 23

Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today chaired a review meeting to assess monsoon preparedness, with special emphasis on the safety, maintenance and restoration of railway roads falling under District Reasi.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the condition of railway roads affected by the ongoing monsoon and took stock of restoration measures being undertaken by the Railway authorities and KRCL. He stressed seamless coordination among all stakeholders to ensure timely clearance of roads and un-



interrupted connectivity.

The DC directed the officers concerned to conduct joint inspections of vulnerable railway road stretches, identify potential risks and take immediate preventive measures. He instructed the Railway authorities and KRCL to remove

blockages without delay and restore connectivity on a priority basis.

Among those present were Additional Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Kumar, Chief Administrative Officer Northern Railway Jammu, Deputy Chief Engineer KRCL, Assistant

Commissioner Revenue Reasi, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Dharmari, Tehsildar Bhomag and representatives of Northern Railway, the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Jammu Division and Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL).

DC Udhampur reviews progress of PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in district

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 23

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting with officers, empanelled vendors and representa-

tives of agencies associated with the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana to assess the scheme's progress.

Executive Engineer JPDCL presented a status report covering applications received, vendor allot-

ments, pending cases and solar panel installations completed so far.

The DC directed JPDCL and empanelled vendors to bridge the gap between applications received and pending installations and

expedite completion of all allotted cases. He also called for an extensive door-to-door awareness campaign to educate the public about the scheme's benefits and encourage greater participation.

CS directs deptt to fast-track AI use cases to enhance public service delivery across J&K

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 23

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the progress made on the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in governance in Jammu and Kashmir and the establishment of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Artificial Intelligence here.

The meeting besides the concerned Administrative Secretaries was attended by the Representatives from Indian Institute of Technology Jammu; BISAG and other concerned officers of the Union Territory.

While reviewing the progress, the Chief Secretary observed that Artificial Intelligence has the potential to fundamentally transform governance by improving efficiency, transparency, responsiveness and quality of public services. He maintained that the Government must leverage emerging technologies not merely as digital tools but as strategic enablers for better governance, faster decision-making and enhanced citizen service delivery.

He emphasised that techno-

logical solutions should complement the existing digital ecosystem instead of creating parallel systems, thereby ensuring optimal utilisation of public resources and seamless integration with existing platforms.

The Chief Secretary called upon the Administrative Departments to proactively engage with the Information Technology Department for expeditious implementation of the identified use cases. He directed the departments to nominate dedicated nodal officers wherever required and ensure timely sharing of quality datasets essential for development, testing and validation of AI solutions.

He further stressed that data quality, interoperability and departmental ownership would remain critical to the successful deployment of AI applications across government.

Calling for a structured implementation framework, the Chief Secretary directed that sector-specific workshops be organised with all departmental nodal officers, technology partners, domain experts and implementation agencies to comprehensively assess data availability, infrastructure readiness, operational workflows and



field-level requirements before commencement of pilot projects.

He observed that such collaborative exercises would facilitate preparation of realistic implementation roadmaps while enabling departments to identify operational challenges at an early stage.

The Chief Secretary also emphasised that progress achieved under each AI initiative shall be monitored on a regular basis through defined milestones and outcome indicators so that implementation bottlenecks are resolved in a time-bound manner. He stressed the need for close coordination among all stake-

holder departments to ensure that the identified AI initiatives translate into measurable improvements in governance across the Union Territory.

Earlier, a detailed presentation was made by the Commissioner Secretary IT, Saurabh Bhagat on the organisational framework, implementation strategy, current status and future roadmap of the Centre. The presentation also highlighted the action taken on the decisions of the Union Territory Level Steering Committee, the progress achieved on the identified AI use cases and the proposed roadmap for pilot implementation across departments.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary was apprised of the progress achieved in establishing the MeitY Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence at IIT Jammu, conceived as a mission-mode national initiative to accelerate AI adoption across governance and public service delivery.

He was informed that the Centre is being readied for operationalisation, with around 10,000 square feet of space already earmarked and infrastructure being prepared for occupancy by August this year.

It was added that the implementation roadmap and key performance indicators have

been finalised in consultation with the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, while procurement of high-performance computing infrastructure has been initiated for hosting the AI Digital Public Infrastructure (AI-DPI).

Moreover the meeting was also presented with a detailed status report on the Artificial Intelligence adoption programme being implemented across the Union Territory pursuant to the decisions of the Union Territory Level Steering Committee (UTLSC) on AI.

A comprehensive review was undertaken of the twenty AI use cases identified across eight priority sectors, namely Education, Skill Development, Agriculture, Power Development, Public Governance, Health & Medical Education, Transport & Infrastructure and emerging sectors including Tribal Welfare and Security.

The Chief Secretary was informed that consultations have been held with several premier academic institutions, technology companies, start-ups and research organisations for developing practical AI solutions tailored to the requirements of the Government. Multiple solu-

tion providers have expressed willingness to undertake pilot implementations in collaboration with the concerned departments, with several pilot proposals already under technical evaluation.

The meeting reviewed the progress achieved in respect of AI-enabled interventions for foundational literacy and numeracy, multilingual learning platforms, precision agriculture, hyper-local weather intelligence, digital governance, utility demand forecasting, infrastructure health monitoring, urban flood modelling, oral cancer screening, clinical decision support systems and several other technology-enabled public service applications. The status of departmental consultations, technical validations, pilot planning and stakeholder engagements undertaken for each use case was also reviewed in detail.

The meeting concluded with a commitment from all participating departments and partner institutions to work for expeditious implementation of the AI roadmap, with the objective of harnessing Artificial Intelligence as a key driver of transparent, efficient and citizen-centric governance in Jammu and Kashmir.