

CM Omar visits flood-affected areas of Poonch, assures complete rehabilitation

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 05

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today visited the flood-affected areas of Poonch district to assess the devastation caused by the recent flash floods and cloudbursts, meet the affected families and review the relief and rehabilitation measures undertaken by the district administration.

During the visit, the Chief Minister met bereaved families in Murrah, Surankote and Arigam-Loran, expressed his heartfelt condolences and assured them of the Government's unwavering support in overcoming the tragedy.

At Murrah, the Chief Minister visited the residence of Mohd Rafiq and Riaz Ahmed, who lost seven members of his family in the flash floods. Offering his deepest sympathies, he prayed for eternal peace to the departed souls and strength to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss.

In Surankote, the Chief Minister interacted with affected families and a delegation from Sangla, Darra Sangla and Lower Sangla. The delegation apprised him of the extensive damage caused to residential houses, agricultural land and infrastructure, besides the tragic loss of lives.



The Chief Minister also visited Arigam-Loran, where he met the family of Mohd Rafiq and Riaz Ahmed, who lost seven members of their family in the flash floods. He participated in Fatiha Khwani, prayed for the departed souls and conveyed his profound condolences to the grieving family.

Interacting with the affected residents, the Chief Minister patiently heard their grievances and hardships arising from the natural calamity. He assured them that the Government stands firmly with every affected family and would ensure all possible relief, rehabilitation and assistance.

Announcing a major re-

habilitation measure, the Chief Minister said that families who have been rendered landless due to the disaster would be provided 5-marla plots for their resettlement.

Referring to the unprecedented nature of the disaster, the Chief Minister said it was unfortunate that cloudbursts remain difficult to predict with the existing technological capabilities. He said the Government would explore the adoption of advanced early-warning technologies to improve disaster preparedness and help minimise the loss of lives and property in the future. Later, the Chief Minister chaired a review meeting to assess the rescue, relief

and rehabilitation measures undertaken by the District Administration in the aftermath of the disaster. The Chief Minister directed officers to expedite damage assessment, ensure immediate relief and restore essential services. He appreciated the prompt, coordinated and dedicated response of the civil administration and other agencies involved in relief operations. He particularly commended the Deputy Commissioner, Poonch and the Senior Superintendent of Police, Poonch, for their proactive leadership and timely interventions that helped save lives and ensure swift assistance to the affected population.

24th Battalion CRPF conducts plantation drive at Yatri Niwas Bhagwati Nagar

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The officers and personnel of the 24th Battalion, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), in collaboration with Tourism and Forest Department, on Wednesday organized a tree plantation drive, here at Yatri Niwas Bhagwati Nagar.

The Chief Guest Pankaj Dwivedi, Commandant 24th Battalion CRPF, highlighted the importance of environmental conservation and emphasized the need to protect nature for future generations.

The Nodal Officer of the plantation campaign, Dr. Bhagat Singh, Deputy Commandant, welcomed the guests and participants and provided a detailed briefing on the objectives and implementation of the environmental conservation campaign.

Ashok Kumar Kalsi from



Jammu Forest Division spoke about the Forest Department's environment conservation initiatives in the district and explained the significance of the tree plantation drive being conducted at Yatri Niwas Bhagwati Nagar Jammu.

Deputy Director Tourism

Pankaj Shasan highlighted the department's participation and contribution to the plantation campaign.

During the drive, approximately 250 saplings of various species were planted.

Nirmal Gop, Second-in-Command; Neeraj Gupta (Range Officer); Dinesh

Joshi (Range Officer); Assistant Director Tourism Vaishali Ganju; Joginder Singh; Chandra Singh Pawar; Sushen Upadhyay, Assistant Commandant CRPF along with subordinate officers and other personnel participated in the drive.

Dy CM chairs 107th BoDs meet of KVIB

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Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary today chaired 107th Meeting of the Board of Directors (BoDs) of J&K Khadi & Village Industries Board (KVIB) at Fair View House Gupkar, here.

Addressing the Board, the Deputy Chief Minister said that KVIB has to be transformed into a people-centric institution that empowers artisans, revives traditional crafts and creates sustainable livelihoods in every village.

"Khadi is more than a product, it is a symbol of self-reliance and cultural identity of Jammu & Kashmir", he observed.

The Deputy CM called upon the KVIB management to work with transparency, compassion, and



urgency to ensure that the benefits of government schemes reach the last person.

Reviewing flagship schemes, Surinder Choudhary expressed satisfaction that PMEGP and JKREGP have emerged as the biggest engines of rural employment in Jammu and Kashmir.

Underlining the importance of Rural industries in J&K's economy, the Deputy Chief Minister called upon the officers that focus must

now shift to handholding of beneficiaries, proper skill training and strong market linkages so that every unit set up becomes successful and sustainable.

In a landmark decision, the Board authorized preparation of a Detailed Project Report for a new integrated complex comprising Divisional Office, District Office and a Khadi Plaza at Jammu. This will provide artisans and entrepreneurs a dedicated space for marketing, training, and

administrative support, and will give a major boost to Khadi and village industries in the region.

The meeting, among others, was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh; Registrar Cooperatives, Director Industries & Commerce Kashmir, DG Codes, Secretary/CEO KVIB, Director MSME and senior officers of KVIB and Industries & Commerce department.

Congress observes Aug 5 as black day, holds protests for statehood in J&K

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Coinciding with the seventh anniversary of the downgrading of J&K State into UT, Congress today held a strong protest-demonstration in Jammu City and all other districts of Jammu region to seek restoration of full statehood alongwith safeguards for land, jobs and natural resources.

A strong protest demonstration was held outside Rajiv Bhawan, party HQ shaheedi Chowk Jammu to express anger over the undemocratic & arbitrary abrogation of special status and disbanding and downgrading of historical state into UT on this day in 2019 and demanded restoration of full statehood, alongwith constitutional guarantees and safeguards for land, jobs and natural resources.

The protest was organized by DCC Jammu Urban and Jammu Rural and led by JKPC Working President Shri Raman Bhalla alongwith Former Minister Shri Mula Ram, Ch. Lal Singh Ex-MP, DCC President Jammu Urban Shri Yogesh Sawhney (Ex-Minister), DCC President Jammu Rural, Shri Neeraj Kundan, Shri Ved Mahajan I/C HQ, Shri G.M. Saroori (Former Minister), Ex-Legislators Th. Balbir Singh, Raman Battoo & Ch. Gharu Ram, Treasurer Rajnish Sharma, EX DCC Presidents Shri Hari Singh Chib and Th. Manmohan Singh besides others.

The protesters wearing black badges raised slogans against the BJP govt for downgrading the historical state and abrogation of special status, protections of land and jobs to the people of J & K. They carried play cards demanding restoration of full statehood and rights over land, jobs and natural resources of J&K State.

Speaking on the occasion PCC Working President Raman Bhalla blamed BJP Govt. and Centre Govt. of betrayal of people of J&K over the restoration of statehood, as promised time and



again. He Questioned BJP and Centre Govt. as to what has changed to the betterment of people of J&K and nation, seven years after August 5, 2019 decision. He said that the promise of large scale Govt. jobs and opening private sector jobs for the youth of J&K was a big bluff. He said that on 5th, August 2019, J&K has lost its identity. He questioned whether the backbone of militancy has been broken? whether the number of jobs in Govt. & private sector have increased? Whether big industrial houses have opened their units in J&K? Whether the law and order situation in J&K has normalized? Whether KPs have returned safely to Kashmir? Whether (Dil ki aur Dilon Ki Doori) has been reduced after seven years of the decision.

Shri Yogesh Sawhney said that the claims of BJP for opening of floodgates of private investments and creation of large scale jobs in private sector have proved totally false, as nothing of this sort has been witnessed. The local traders, contractors, businessmen and transporters are losing business opportunities as the contracts are being allotted to the people who are not of the residents of Jammu and Kashmir. He strongly criticized the downgrading of historical state into UT.

He said that the refusal to restore statehood, so far it self indicates that things have not normalized to the

extent prior to 5th August, 2019. Shri Sawhney said that all claims and adjectives used to downgrade the historical state into UTs, have proved to be a failed experiment and people yearn for statehood with protections for their rights over land and jobs to the local residents.

All senior leaders present on the occasion said that Congress party shall struggle for securing the aspirations of the people and would continue to struggle till achieving the statehood and other rights, claimed by the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Prominent among those attended the protest include Smt. Kanta Bhan, Zahida Khan, S. Gurdarshan Singh, Shri Amrit Bali, Suresh Dogra, Mohd Iqbal Dar, Vijay Sharma (Seva Dal), Ajay Lakhotra (NSUI), Kapil Chib, Smt., Satish Sharma, Dwarika Choudhary, Sanjeev Panda, Neeraj Gupta, Praveez Wani, Sohni Sharma, Mangal Bral, Rajesh Sharma, R.S. Randhwa, Praveen Akhter, Asha Chandan, Bimla Slathia, Prof. H.R. Sharma, Joginder Manhas, Sandeep Dogra, Rajiv Saraf, Rajvir Singh, Michael Wazir, Ranjit Manhas, Chander Prabha, Amna, Geeta, Vijayant Pathania, Latish Sharma, Anirudh Sawhney (PYC), Nasir Masih, Bharat Priye, Ashok Bhagat, Surinder Bhagat, Kuldeep Sharma, Ajaib Moton, K.K. Jogi, Rakesh Sharma, Sat Pal Sapolia, Vijay Verma, Raj Kumar, Manohar Lal,

Parshotam Lal, Ram Magotra, Arun Nayar, R.P. Magotra, Sanjay Sharma, Kirti Gupta, Rajesh Paul, Manmohan Sharma, Girdhari Lal, Ajay Kumar, Nageshwar Narayan, Jai Pal Sangral, Khemo, Raj Kumar Sodi, Prem Sharma, Surinder Kumar, Varinder Kumar, Kailash, Amit Gupta, Sahil Dogra, Ashok Kumar, Suresh Sharma, Ajay Kumar, Garu Ram, Atul Sharma, Sidharth, Amit, Ch. Maqbool, Vijay Malhotra, Sanjeev, Kirti Kumar, Parshotam Kumar, Bhushan Kumar, Gurmeet Singh, Paras Ram Baloria, Sahil Shagotra, Suresh Bargar, Dev Raj, Mangat Ram, Balwinder Singh, Gagan Bral, Jatinder Chib, Yash Pal Sangral, Raj Kumar Meenia, Ajay Kumar, Sukander Khan, Madhu Banjaj, Munish Raja, Baldev Bhagast,

Mohan Lal, Ganesh Dutt, Inder Lal, Joginder Paul, Des Raj, Govind Sharma, Praveesh Sharma, Balkar Singh, Rajinder Kumar, Rajesh Sharma, Ramesh Lal, K.D. Khajuria, Om Prakash Sharma, Praveen Singh, Raj Kmar, Rakesh Kumar, Praveen Basotra, Kaka Charanjeet, Rohit, Rishu, Sumit Kak, Dimpal, Tarsem Lal, Amit Kumar, H.S. Bagi, Janak Mehra, Jagdish Raj, B.D. Gupta, Vishal, Vijay Tagotra, Gurmeet Singh, Yash Pal Pawan Bhagat, Thomas Khokhar, Happay Randhwa, Jatinder Chib, Kushwant Singh, Rahul Karloopa, Ajeem Akhtar, Anil Kumar Parshotam Kumar, Nirmal Kumar.

DC Kathua reviews progress of PMGSY projects, stresses timely completion

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Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of works being executed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

The meeting, held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, reviewed the physical and financial progress of ongoing PMGSY projects across the district, besides taking stock of the status of sanctioned works, expenditure, quality control measures and overall implementation.

The Executive Engineers and other officers briefed the Deputy Commissioner about the progress achieved, issues requiring intervention and the measures being taken to ensure timely completion of the road connectivity projects.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the officers and executing agencies to expedite the pace of work and remove all bottlenecks hindering project implementation. He instructed



them to undertake regular field inspections, maintain strict quality standards and ensure compliance with prescribed technical specifications.

The DC also stressed the need for effective coordination among all stakeholder departments for seamless execution of PMGSY works. He called for optimum util-

isation of available resources and directed officers to closely monitor project progress to achieve the intended targets within the stipulated timeframe.

The DC also underscored the importance of completing all projects on schedule so that people, particularly those living in remote and rural areas, receive the ben-

efits of improved road infrastructure without delay.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Vishav Partap Singh; Chief Planning Officer Ranjeet Thakur; Executive Engineers, Assistant Executive Engineers, officers of PMGSY and other concerned officials.