

# BJP holds day-long meetings to assess flood losses and strengthen relief operations



**TT CORRESPONDENT**  
JAMMU, AUG. 27 : Jammu & Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) held a series of meetings at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to review the situation arising out of the recent flash floods triggered by incessant rains in the region.

The meetings began with a hom-age to the victims of the landslide tragedy on the route to Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan, followed by prayers for the swift recovery of the injured.

The meetings were addressed by J&K BJP President Sat Sharma, party General Secretary (Org.) Ashok Koul and Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) Jugal Kishore Sharma, who were also accompanied by party General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra and Baldev Singh Billawaria.

MLAs Sham Lal Sharma, Yudhvir

Sethi, Dr. Rajiv Bhagat, Arvind Gupta, Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat, Surinder Bhagat, former Minister Priya Sethi, district Presidents, senior leaders, and the District Units were present in these meetings spanned over the day in the party headquarters.

During the deliberations, leaders from different districts shared first-hand accounts of the ground situation, highlighting the widespread loss of life and property, severe damage to public infrastructure such as roads, electric poles, embankments of Tawi and Nikki Tawi rivers, drains, houses, household essentials, total loss of electric and electronic goods, eatables, dry ration, vehicles, crops, and livestock.

It was observed that normal life in many areas had been completely disrupted.

Sat Sharma, while addressing the

meetings, said that the party stands firmly with the affected people in this hour of crisis and it should be witnessed in the working of every activist. He said that the priority is to ensure timely relief and rehabilitation of all victims. He said that all the district units and activists must remain at the forefront of rescue and relief operations.

He directed that the relief camps must be strengthened with essential supplies so that no family remains unattended. He also stressed the need for immediate medical assistance. After floods, the risk of outbreak of communicable diseases rises sharply. Public awareness campaigns, medical camps, and preventive measures must be initiated without delay, he added.

Ashok Koul said that the party cadre has already been actively participating in rescue operations in various affected localities. He said that the party is coordinating with administration to ensure electricity, drinking water, medicines, and communication services, which need to be restored at the earliest. BJP workers will continue to assist the people till normalcy returns, he assured.

Jugal Kishore Sharma expressed solidarity with the victims, stating that the scale of damage is massive, and urgent intervention is required. He shared that after having first hand assessment of the situation, he has already taken up the matter at the appropriate levels to ensure adequate measures for the relief to the affected families and for speedy restoration of infrastructure.

# Tony visits rain-hit Bathindi, urges authorities to restore washed-out roads ahead of Dangal event

**TT CORRESPONDENT**

JAMMU, AUG. 27 : DDC Suchetgarh and senior Congress leader Taranjit Singh Tony on Tuesday visited Chata, Bathindi Sagri Mohalla and other areas in Bathindi, where heavy rains have caused extensive damage, including the washing away of a key road.

During his visit, Tony interacted with local residents who expressed deep concern over the disruption in daily life due to the collapse of the road. People complained that despite repeated requests, the authorities have failed to construct a durable protection wall, which is essential to prevent future damage.

Expressing strong displeasure over the poor planning of the Public Works Department (PWD), Tony said, "The road has been washed out because of unscientific work. Unless a proper protection wall is built, every penny spent will go waste. This has been happening repeatedly, and people continue to suffer due to the negligence of the authorities."

He appealed to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Jammu and



Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) to take urgent steps to restore the road, particularly in view of the upcoming grand Dangal event at Panj Peer, Bathindi. The event is expected to witness the participation of reputed wrestlers from across the country and even abroad. "Such a prestigious cultural and sporting event cannot be held smoothly if basic connectivity is not restored," he warned.

Locals informed Tony that the collapsed road has not only cut off internal movement but also posed safety hazards for children, elderly people, and commuters.

They said the administration must take proactive measures rather than wait

for public resentment to mount.

Tony reiterated that Bathindi and its adjoining areas have been continuously ignored by the government despite being thickly populated and highly sensitive. He stressed that both urban development and disaster preparedness need to be taken seriously, failing which the situation will worsen with every spell of rain.

Highlighting the importance of the upcoming Dangal, Tony said such events are not only a matter of pride for Jammu but also help in preserving the region's sporting traditions and attracting tourism. "We cannot afford to present a picture of administra-

tive apathy before the visiting sportspersons and guests from outside the Union Territory," he added.

He also urged the administration to involve local representatives and technical experts while undertaking restoration work so that long-lasting and sustainable solutions are implemented instead of temporary patchwork.

The visit concluded with locals thanking Tony for raising their concerns and demanding that the government act swiftly to restore connectivity before the Dangal begins. Vinay Sharma, Rakha, Mohd Shiraz, Wasim Malik, Yousuf Malik and others were present on the occasion.

## FSD conducts food safety enforcement drives in Shopian

**TT CORRESPONDENT**  
JAMMU, AUG. 27 : The Food Safety department (FSD) Shopian conducted a targeted enforcement drive today across meat/mutton shops within the district.

The operation aimed at ensuring compliance with food safety and hygiene regulations, safeguarding public health, and curbing violations in the meat/mutton trade.

During inspection, 09 FBOs (Food Business Operators) were compounded under section 69 of FSS Act for violations observed during the drive.

Four FBOs were recommended for action under the unsanitary conditions provisions of the Act in the court of the Adjudicating Officer (ADC) under food safety.

Several shopkeepers were warned that continuing non-compliance would result in stricter consequences.

Shopkeepers were urged to maintain high standards of hygiene and adhere strictly to all regulatory provisions, besides they were also cautioned against hanging carcasses outside the shop, to maintain proper market hygiene and regulatory compliance.

The department reiterated its commitment to ensuring safe and wholesome meat products for consumers. Non-compliance with food safety standards carries consequences under the FSS Act, 2006, and may lead to penalties, closures and other legal actions. Consumers were encouraged to report any suspected food safety violations to help protect public health.

## DC Ramban inspects progress of Restoration Work on NH-44



**TT CORRESPONDENT**

RAMBAN, AUG. 27 : Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today conducted an extensive inspection of the National Highway-44 from Nashri to Banihal stretch, which has been affected due to heavy rainfall over the past few days. The incessant rainfall triggered landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones at several vulnerable spots, disrupting traffic movement.

SSP Arun Gupta, SSP Traffic NHW Raja Adil Ahmed, ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak, ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo, Project Director NHAI Shubam Yadav, and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

During the inspection, the

Deputy Commissioner inspected critical stretches at Karoal (Batti), Maroge, and Kishtwari Pather, which have suffered damage owing to recurring landslides and shooting stones.

He directed the Project Director to intensify restoration works on the highway to ensure safe and timely resumption of traffic movement. Executing agencies were also instructed to mobilize adequate men and machinery to complete clearance and protection works at the earliest.

Apart from the highway, the DC also visited areas affected by flash floods adjoining River Chenab and other Nallas. He also took stock of functioning of designated lodgment centres and reviewed the arrangements

made for the affected families. He instructed the concerned departments to remain vigilant and ensure adequate services and supply of essential services to displaced people.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed Beacon, PWD, and PMGSY to expedite restoration of all internal roads which are blocked due to landslides. The Deputy Commissioner also directed officers of JPDCL, Jal Shakti and other departments to restore Water, Power and other services and supplies on a war footing basis.

Speaking to media persons, the DC said that the District Administration has kept all rescue and relief teams on high alert.

He said, "All necessary arrangements have been made at identified locations across the district for affected people. Our priority is to ensure the safety of citizens, timely restoration of road connectivity, and adequate supply of essentials."

He added that the District Administration, in coordination with Police, SDRF, NHAI, Beacon, Health and other line departments, is fully prepared to tackle any emergency situation arising out of the prevailing weather conditions.

## Sat, Sham visit flash flood-affected areas of Jammu North, assure full support

**TT CORRESPONDENT**

JAMMU, AUG. 27 : Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir President Sat Sharma, accompanied by senior party leader and MLA Jammu North Assembly Constituency Sham Lal Sharma, visited the flash flood-affected areas of Jammu North to take stock of the situation and meet the affected families.

The leaders toured Sarika Vihar, Shivalik Puram, Roop Nagar, and the camp sites established for the flash flood victims at Kailash Resort housing about 250 flood affected families from ward-67, Kullain New Basti and another camp inside Aap Shambhu Mandir at Upper Roop Nagar housing about 150 flood-affected families. They interacted with the displaced families, enquired about their well-being, and assured them of every possible support.

Pankaj Padha, Sahil Mahajan, Ravish Mengi, Suresh Khajuria, Rekha Manhas, Sunita Gupta, and several other BJP leaders were also present.

Expressing deep concern over the damage caused by the floods, Sat Sharma said that the calamity has brought immense suffering to several families who have lost their homes and belongings. He stated that the BJP stands firmly with the vic-



tims in this hour of distress and will leave no stone unturned in ensuring maximum relief through the government and administration. He stressed upon the concerned departments to initiate relief and rehabilitation measures on a war-footing, covering proper shelter, food, health facilities, and restoration of damaged infrastructure. He assured that BJP will continuously monitor the situation and press upon the authorities to act swiftly, so that no affected family feels neglected.

Sat Sharma reassured the people that the BJP, under the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is committed to their welfare and will make sure that relief and rehabilitation reach every affected person without delay. They further

assured them that the party and the administration will stand by them until normalcy is fully restored.

Sham Lal Sharma emphasized the importance of preparedness in the wake of recurring natural calamities. He said that both the administration and the people must remain alert and ready to deal with any further natural fury. Highlighting the urgent need for long-term planning, he called for improved drainage systems, disaster management mechanisms, and public awareness campaigns to minimize the impact of such disasters in the future.

He assured that BJP legislators will act as a bridge between the people and the government to ensure grievances are addressed on priority.

## Rains aftermath: DC Udhampur inspects condition of NH-44

**Orders immediate restoration of damaged road stretches**



**TT CORRESPONDENT**

UDHAMPUR, AUG. 27 : Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai along with Additional Superintendent of Police Sandeep Bhat today conducted comprehensive inspection of National Highway-44 to assess the damages caused due to incessant rains over the past few days.

The team undertook an on-ground assessment of the damages caused by

continuous rainfall, including landslides, road blockages and disruptions to vehicular traffic.

The DC emphasized the need for swift clearance of debris, restoration of road connectivity, and proactive safety measures to prevent accidents.

She also directed officials to remain on high alert and extend every possible assistance to com-

muters stranded due to road blockages.

The Additional SP highlighted that adequate deployment of police personnel has been ensured to regulate traffic movement and provide assistance in coordination with district administration and NHAI authorities.

The DC reiterated the administration's commitment to safeguarding lives, restoring normalcy at the earliest and ensuring effective disaster response.

The district administration has appealed to the public to avoid unnecessary travel on NH-44 during heavy rains and follow official advisories for their safety.

For any emergency or assistance, citizens may contact the District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC) at 01992-272727, 272728, Mobile: 9697136717, 7889941318 or Police Control Room (PCR) at 01992-276915.

## Kundria calls for unity, patience, cooperation in the wake of natural calamity

**TT CORRESPONDENT**

JAMMU, AUG. 27 : Eminent Dogri and Urdu writer Abdul Qudir Kundria has expressed deep sorrow and concern over the widespread devastation caused by the recent spell of heavy rains across Jammu and Kashmir and in other parts of the country. The calamity has resulted in tragic loss of lives, destruction of homes, and damage to infrastructure, leaving almost every family in the region affected in one way or another.

Kundria said that this is a time for patience, courage, and collective resilience. He stressed that society must rise above political considerations and focus entirely on humanity. Only through compassion and solidarity, he said, can people ensure that relief and rehabilitation efforts reach every household that has suffered.

Highlighting the role of grassroots-level officials, he appealed to the public to extend complete cooperation to Patwaris, electricity linemen, Panchayat secretaries, teachers, police personnel, sarpanches, panches, lam-

bards, chowkidars, Anganwadi workers, helpers, and staff of other departments. According to him, it is only with the support and coordination of these officials that the extent of losses can be properly recorded and forwarded to the administration, enabling victims to receive timely aid.

Abdul Qudir Kundria also made a heartfelt request to the district administration and all officers of the concerned departments to personally visit the affected areas. He urged them to meet people face-to-face, listen to their grievances, assess their losses, and encourage them to stand firm in this difficult time. He said such steps would not only help in efficient relief distribution but also restore the confidence of citizens who are feeling helpless in the wake of the disaster.

The writer offered special prayers for those who lost their lives across Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the districts of Reasi, Mahore, Katra, Vaishno Devi, Chassoti, Kishtwar, Kathua, Udhampur, Rajouri, Poonch, Ramban and in other affected regions.

## DC Ganderbal reviews functioning of Rural Development Department

**TT CORRESPONDENT**

GANDERBAL, AUG. 27 : Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a meeting to review the overall functioning of the Rural Development Department (RDD) in the district.

The meeting reviewed the submission of estimates for various works approved under CAPEX 2025-26, functioning of Panchayat Ghars, and the status of projects under Solid Waste Management (SWM), Plastic Waste Management, Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), and Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs) across the district.

Executive Engineer RDD briefed the chair on the status of estimations received from the Block Development Officers (BDOs), tendering progress, and ongoing works.

DC directed all BDOs to submit estimates of all approved works within two days to facilitate timely tendering and ensure that projects are



allotted and initiated without delay.

Discussing the status of Panchayat Ghars and land availability issues in some panchayats, DC instructed the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP) to identify suitable land in the affected panchayats in coordination with Tehsildars and resolve any land-related bottlenecks to expedite the construction of Panchayat Ghars.

Similarly all BDOs were instructed to review the status of construction of various assets under SBM(G) and expedite

their completion.

Reiterating the district administration's commitment to equitable and holistic development of all blocks, DC urged officers to work in close coordination and focus on timely implementation of all developmental works.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Fahim Bhaq; Chief Planning Officer, ACP, Executive Engineer RDD, and all BDOs of the district.