

NC demands special package for flood affected areas

***Takes stock of damages**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 18: Expressing concern over the damages caused due to flash floods in the wake of recent rains in Jammu region, National Conference today urged the Government to sanction special package and immediate interim relief in favour of the sufferers.

At a high level meeting of National Conference functionaries here this evening, chaired by Devender Singh Rana Provincial President called for immediate restoration of various protection bunds, road network and other public utility services that have suffered damages due to water logging and flash floods, besides shifting such of the families to Government buildings whose houses have been damaged.

Those who were present in the meeting included Sr. Vice President Surjeet Singh Sialthia, Vice President Mushtaq Ahmad Bukhari, Central Secretary Kr. Rachpal Singh, ex-MP Mirza Abdul Rashid, ex-legislators Sheikh Bashir Ahmad, Babu Ram Pal, Brij Mohan Sharma, Th. Kashmir Singh, Pt. Govind Ram Sharma, Satpal Lakhotra besides senior party leaders Jugal Mahajan, Dharamveer Singh Jammwal, Rajesh Bakshi and others.

The meeting took a detailed appraisal of the damages caused in Samba, Poonch, Rajouri, Kathua, Jammu and other pockets of the region and stressed the need for providing special package and immediate interim relief to the sufferers.

The Provincial President



Provincial President NC Devender Singh Rana chairing a meeting at Jammu on Sunday.

He urged the administration for carrying out urgent survey to assess the losses so that those suffered could be compensated. He also stressed the need for immediate restoration of various utility services like electricity and drinking water wherever these have been affected.

Speaking on the occasion, the National Conference leaders sought round the clock functioning of the essential departments and close monitoring of water level in various rivers and Nallas so that necessary preventive and rescue measures are undertaken in the event of eventualities.

They also exhorted upon the officers of the divisional and district administration to be prompt and extra vigilant towards their services to deal with the situation arisen due to heavy rains and flash floods in the region effectively.

The Provincial President exuded confidence that visits of ministers and top ranking offi-

cial in the flood affected areas will ensure better coordination between various departments and help in mitigating the problems confronted to the people. He stressed the need for dewatering the water logged areas and covering these by disinfectants for the overall health and hygiene. He also sought the survey and assessment of crop damages so that the farming community is adequate compensated.

Mr Rana appreciated the efforts of the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in further mobilizing the administration for meeting the challenge posed by the incessant rains for about a week now. He also urged the Disaster Management Authority to beef up its operation for rescuing the flood affected people.

JCC's protest, strike program on Aug 22, 23

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 18: The Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) of State Government employees has resolved to hold strong protest demonstration outside the office



JCC leader Mohd Gajoor Dar addressing press conference at Jammu on Sunday.

of Divisional Commissioner Jammu on August 22 and complete strike in offices on August 23.

Talking to media-persons here today, senior JCC leader Mohd Gajoor Dar said that JCC leadership has decided to organize massive protest demonstration on August 22 at Jammu at the Divisional Headquarters, Rail Head Complex. The purpose is to force the Government for immediate implementation of the agreement that is enhancement of retirement age from 58 to 60 years, regularization policy for ITI

Stranded due to bad weather, Omar plays cricket with locals

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 18: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah showed his cricketing skills as he played the game with the locals of Brenwar, a remote village in Budgam district, where he was "grounded" due to bad weather. "Got stuck in Brenwar, Budgam on Saturday when the weather grounded me. So played cricket with the locals," Omar wrote on micro-blogging site Twitter.

The Chief Minister had gone to the village yesterday to inspect the 7.5 MW Small Hydro Power Project (SHPP) set up on IPP mode over Doodhganga Nallah, a tributary of Sukhnaga.

Omar said he was happy to be "grounded", apparently referring to the opportunity he got to do things that he would not be able to do in the normal course.

"I've never been happier to be grounded and more disappointed when the weather cleared and we took off," he said.

"With the wicket keeper more keen to report the proceedings of the match, I'll sneak a few byes," Omar tweeted.

He also posted a picture of himself in action while batting on the micro-blogging site. Omar, an avid fan of cricket, follows the game keenly and tweets about matches and developments regularly.

BJP rebel MLAs announce Rs 10 lakh each from CDF for Kishtwar Relief Fund

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 18: The breakaway group of seven BJP MLAs led by former Union Minister and MLA Jammu West Prof. Chaman Lal Gupta today announced to contribute Rs 10 lakh each from their Constituency Development Fund (CDF) towards the Kishtwar Relief Fund.

This was decided in a meeting held by these MLAs here under the leadership of Prof Gupta. Out of seven MLAs four including Prof Gupta, MLA. Reasi, Baldev Raj Sharma, MLA Domana, Bharat Bushan

alias Bodhi and MLA R S Pura Prof Garu Ram were present in the meeting. The other three MLAs including MLA Basholi, Jagdish Raj Sapotia, MLA Bani, Master Lal Chand and MLA. Hiranagar, Durga Dass could not attend the meeting as they were preoccupied in their respective constituencies. However, they have also accepted the decision and approved the same telephonically, said Prof Gupta.

Meanwhile, Prof Gupta while expressing serious concern over the failure of Government in providing war footing rescue and relief measures to rain and flood hit people urged the Government to take immediate rescue and relief operations in hand.

Addressing the meeting, Prof Gupta emphasized that the administrative machinery should be geared up at war footing to provide helping hand to the people who are faced with a serious situation arising out of heavy rains and floods.

He pointed out that thousands of houses have been damaged, many lives have been lost, several bridges damaged, road connectivity has been disrupted, standing crops at thousands of areas have been almost destroyed and the life in general has been put out of gear.

He said it appears that the official machinery was not prepared to visualize and take measures to meet the challenges of the rains season. He urged the Government to take the note of the situation at the highest level.

Prof Gupta also stressed for immediate measures for sanitation, especially in slum areas to check the outbreak of diseases.

4 youth held for inciting violence

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Aug 18: The police has arrested four youth for allegedly pelting stones and inciting the other people for violence in the town here.

A police spokesman said that on the complaints of the locals of the area four persons from both the communities have been arrested for resorting to stone pelting during curfew in the town near a religious place and creating communal tension. They also incited some people of the area.

Those arrested were identified as Rajet Gupta, Royal Gupta, son of Raman Gupta, residents of Ward No 10 Rajouri, Naseem Raja, son of Raja Dar of Ward No. 8 and Mohd Razak, son of Nazir Ahmed of DC Colony Rajouri. Cases have been registered against them at Police Station Rajouri. Some more persons are likely to be arrested in this connection, the police said.



Devotees paying obeisance to Chhari Mubarak of Machail Mata at Bhaderwah on Sunday. -Excelsior/ Tilak Raj

Historical Machail Yatra leaves from Chinote temple

Excelsior Correspondent

BHADERWAH, Aug 18: Historical Machail Yatra left from Chandi Mata temple Chinote, Bhaderwah for Paddar Kishtwar this morning under tight security arrangements. Hundreds of pilgrims in a cavalcade of 300 vehicles left for the holy temple of Chandi Mata in Machail amidst chanting of bhajans and religious hymns.

The devotees from different parts of the State were the part of the yatra. A large number of people including men, women and children gathered in Bhaderwah town to pay their obeisance to Chhari Mubarak. Earlier a religious procession was taken out in Bhaderwah town under full security cover given by police team led by SHO Bhaderwah, Gurmeet Singh under the supervision of Additional SP Roop Lal Bhagat.

The yatra which was not allowed to halt at Kishtwar due to disturbances in the town will directly leave for Paddar and it will reach there tomorrow for a night halt.

Next day i.e on August 20, the yatra will leave for Masoo and on August 21 it will leave for Chasoti. The yatra will reach Machail temple of Mata Chandi on August 22. The devotees will perform Parkrama of the temple on August 22 and the traditional dance. On August 23 a hawan will be performed in the morning which will be followed by Jagrata in the night.

On August 24 Chhari

Mubarak will return towards Bhaderwah.

This was stated by Machail Yatra Management Committee led by Thakur Kulbir Singh. Mr Singh also complimented the Bhaderwah people and administration especially SDM R K Bharti and local police in smooth passage of holy Chhari Mubarak from Bhaderwah to Thathri.

Despite the curfew restrictions in Kishtwar, the people came to streets to welcome the Chhari Mubarak and the yatra as there was a lot of enthusiasm

among the people to greet the yatra.

However, there was a lot of resentment among the people for not allowing the private vehicles else than those accompanying the holy mace to leave for the pilgrimage of Machail Mata. Many pilgrims who left in their private vehicles from Jammu and other parts of the region to perform darshan at holy temple at Machail were not allowed to go further from Prem Nagar Doda and they had to return from Prem Nagar Doda.

Police solves 5 more burglary cases, recovers 300 grams gold

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 18: With the recovery of 300 grams more stolen gold, Jammu Police have solved a number of theft cases

In all, Sanjay Gupta's arrest led to recovery of more than 800 grams of stolen gold worth Rs 30 lakh approximately, he added. The recovered 300 grams



SSP Jammu Atul Goyal briefing media persons about recovery of stolen gold on Sunday. -Excelsior/ Rakesh

gold, which pertains to five cases under FIR number 123/2012, 154/2012, 04/2013, 56/2013 and 72/2013 at Police Station Bakshi Nagar, would be handed over to the real owners.

The SSP, who was flanked by SP City J S Johar, SDPO Bakshi Nagar Shabir Khan and SHO Bakshi Nagar Daleep Singh, stressed that Jammu Police would leave no stone unturned for curbing all types of criminal activities, including thefts. He also sought cooperation of general public for keeping a check on the crimes and criminals.

On transfer of his custody to Police Station Bakshi Nagar, the accused confessed to have committed five more burglaries leading to recovery of 300 grams of gold, the SSP explained.

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