

# State to work out comprehensive flood protection project to tame major rivers: Omar

\*Visits flood-hit areas of Kathua, Udhampur, Samba, Jammu

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 22: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah today said that State Government would work out a comprehensive flood protection programme with the Union Government to tame all major rivers including Jhelum, Chenab, Ujh and Tawi to relieve the people of the repeated devastation caused by these rivers year after year in the State.

The Chief Minister said that these rivers are causing great damage to the land, crops and property besides endangering human lives. "There is a need of formulating a well-drafted holistic plan to tame these rivers and ensure protection from floods", he said maintaining that the State Government would seek liberal Central assistance in the implementation of this stupendous programme.

The Chief Minister was talking to flood affected people at Chang Ghatti in Kathua, Barota in Samba, Makwal in Jammu, Jordian and Bakore in Akhnoor, Majalta in Udhampur during his visit to these and other areas in the districts of Kathua,



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Minister for PHE Sham Lal Sharma during visit to flood affected areas on Thursday.

Udhampur, Samba and Jammu to receive first hand appraisal of the damages caused by the

floods in these areas. The Chief Minister inspected flood damages at Chang Ghatti, Barota, Ujh, Babey Majalta, Dansal, Madeen, Jindhra, Khore, Bakore, Akhnoor, Makwal and other places in Jammu.

The Chief Minister also had aerial appraisal of various other flood-hit areas in these districts. The Chief Minister assured the people of all possible help from the State Government and said that he has already directed the administration to formulate damage assessment reports. He said the administration has also been sensitized about the promptness regarding rescue, relief and rehabilitation of affected families.

Minister for PHE and Flood Control, Sham Lal Sharma and Minister of State for Revenue, Ajaz Ahmad Khan were accompanying the Chief Minister. Deputy Chief Minister, Tara Chand also joined the Chief Minister in Akhnoor.

# Rs 8.40 cr released for rehabilitation of flood affected families

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 22: The Executive Committee of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) headed by Chief Secretary, M. I. Khanday today discussed the preliminary flood damage report received from both the Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir and matters pertaining to immediate relief to the victims of recent floods across both the divisions.

The State Executive Committee (SEC) also released an amount of Rs 8.40 crore on account of rehabilitation of affected families and clearing of liabilities of work done on account of damages caused to private property and public infrastructure due to flash floods, snow storms, wind storms, hail storm and other natural calamities during last few years.

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary directed for setting up of a Committee headed by Director General of Police (DGP) that will look into the aspects of purchase of specialized rescue equipment for various emergency centres for post disaster rescue and relief operations and capacity building for disaster management under the State Disaster Response Force. An amount of Rs 18 crore has been set aside for the purchase of the vital equipment and capacity building, the meeting was informed.

The Chief Secretary also directed for following standard

## 3 SHOs shifted

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 22: SSP Jammu, Atul Goel today ordered transfers and postings of three SHOs with immediate effect.

According to the order, Inspector O P Chib, SHO Nagrota Police Station has been transferred and posted as SHO Jhajar Kotli Police Station in place of Inspector Parvez Sajjad, who has been posted as SHO Nagrota Police Station.

Inspector Surjit Kumar has been posted as SHO Arnia Police Station in place of Inspector Inder Pal Singh, who has been shifted to District Police Line.

operating procedure for advance authorization while taking up immediate relief measures in case of various natural calamities. He said that the verification, inspection and documentation of the work done on account of temporary restoration of public infrastructure should be carried out by the competent authority at District and Divisional levels and the damage assessment and funds requirement report should be submitted to the Executive Committee for timely release of funds under SDRF.

The meeting was attended by Director General of Police, Ashok Prasad, Financial Commissioner, Revenue Dr Arun Kumar, Principal Secretary, Home, Suresh Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister, B B Vyas, ADGP, Home Guard, Civil Defence and SDRF D R Doley, Director General, J&K Fire and Emergency Services, Administrative Secretaries, and other senior officers.

# 4 KAS officers transferred, 17 probationers posted

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 22: The State Government today transferred four time scale KAS officers by placing their services at the disposal of Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj for their further adjustments against the vacant posts of Assistant Commissioners Development/ Project Officers, Wage Employment.

The KAS officers who have been shifted included Syed Qamar Sajad, Deputy Director in Directorate Social Welfare Kashmir, Nissar Ahmed Nissar, Deputy Director, District Employment and Counselling Centre, Anantnag, Showkat Mehmood, Deputy Director, District Employment and Counselling Centre, Rajouri and Gurmukh Singh, Deputy Secretary to Government, Housing and Urban Development Department.

Meanwhile, Government ordered posting of 17 Junior

# Police foil employees' march to CM residence, several detained

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR/JAMMU, Aug 22: Police today foiled the employees' march to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's Gupkar residence, detaining hundreds of them in city's different police stations.

The employees were protesting on the call given by Jammu and Kashmir Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) for implementation of the agreement signed between the State Government and JCC leadership.

The agitating employees were demanding extension of the retirement age from 58 to 60, regularization of daily wagers and removal of pay anomalies in the clerical cadre, besides budgetary support for Public Sector Undertakings.

After assembling in Polo view park, the employees



Police foiling employees' march towards CM's residence at Srinagar on Thursday.

decided to march to the CM's residence to lodge their, but a heavy contingent of police deployed few meters outside the park intercepted them.

Police used dyed water to disperse the employees and around 100 employees were taken into custody. They included top JCC leaders, Abdul Qayoom Wani, Nusrat Beigh, Farooq Andrabi and Manzoor Ahmad Pampori. They were released in the evening.

"The employees will no more suffer because of anti-people policies of the government. We want Government to fulfill its promises made to five lakh employees through an agreement. We will go for an intensified agitation if the Government's attitude towards the employees doesn't change," president EJAC-Q, Abdul Qayoom Wani told the employees gathering before taking out a protest rally.

Due to the strike called by the employees, work in most of the Government offices was affected. The employees will strike work in the offices tomorrow to mark their pen-down strike call given by their leadership last week.

Shouting slogans against the Government and in support of their demand, the protesting employees under the banner of JCC held

demonstrations at all the district headquarters and submitted memorandum to the State Government through District Development Commission-ers.

At Jammu city, the protest demonstration was held outside the office of Divisional Commissioner where several employees' leaders addressed and strongly criticized the Government for delaying tactics.

Warning a decisive agitation to get the demand fulfilled, they appealed the State Government employees to observe complete pen down strike on August 23 and hold gate demonstration in their respective office complexes.

Those who addressed the protest demonstration, included Gafoor Dar, Ganesh Khajuria, Amrik Singh, Kulwant Singh Hari Singh, Rajinder Kumar, Darshan Singh, Moulvi Muneer Ahmed, Moulvi Nazir Ahmed, Ravinder Singh, Ramesh Singh, Gopal Dass, Tanveer Hussain, Darshan Sharma, Deepak Gupta, Subash Baru, Rana, Rajiv Kumar Sharma, Jaswant Singh, Jagdish Sharma and L K Dutta.

Reports from various district headquarters said that similar protest demonstrations were held at Samba, Udhampur, Kathua, Reasi, Rajouri, Poonch, Doda and Ramban.

# Minor among 3 killed, 7 injured in mishaps

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Aug 22: A minor girl among three persons were killed and seven others got injured in accidents here today.

Two persons died and five were injured when a vehicle bearing registration number JK06-2317, on way from Kishtwar, turned turtle near Kasal Morh Kud around 11 a m this morning.

On getting information, Police reached the spot and evacuated all the seven passengers to PHC Chenani where two of them were declared as brought dead. They were identified as Mohd Shafi son of Sadar Khan of Bajwa Kishtwar and Mohd Abass son of Mohd Hussain of Bajwa Kishtwar. After first aid at PHC

Chenani, remaining five injured passengers were referred to District Hospital Udhampur.

In another accident, an eight-year girl died and two others got injured when a Maruti car rolled down in a deep gorge near Khri on the National Highway. The car bearing number JK14C-0265, was on its way from Chenani to Udhampur when the driver lost control over steering resulting into the accident.

Sunali Devi (8), daughter of Makhlan Lal of Tangh Dhar Chenani reportedly died on the spot while the injured, identified as Ravinder Kumar son of Gyan Chand of Omara Morh Udhampur and Babli Devi wife of Madhan Lal of Tangh Dhar Chenani, have been admitted in the hospital.

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