

Chief Justice visits Bandipora, reviews functioning of District Court

Also takes stock of works on under-construction district court complex

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
BANDIPORA: Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Arun Palli, on Friday visited district Bandipora and reviewed the functioning of the District Court, besides taking stock of the ongoing construction works of the new Court Complex.

On his arrival, the Chief Justice was received by Principal District & Sessions Judge Bandipora, Khalil Ahmad Choudhary and Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib; along



Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Justice Arun Palli visiting district Bandipora on Friday.

with other officers of the judiciary and civil administration.

The Chief Justice inspected various sections of the District Court

Bandipora and reviewed its overall functioning. He interacted with the judicial officers and staff and emphasized the importance of efficient and

transparent judicial processes for timely dispensation of justice.

Justice Palli also inspected under-construction District Court Complex

and reviewed the pace of work. He directed the executing agencies to ensure timely completion of the project while maintaining quality standards.

During the visit, the Chief Justice also interacted with members of the Bar Association Bandipora and assured them of all possible support in addressing genuine issues. He highlighted the importance of coordination between the Bench, the Bar, and the administration for ensuring speedy justice delivery to the people.

SCERT Jammu concludes workshop on "Environmental Sustainability and Cultural Awareness"

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Jammu, concluded a workshop on "Environmental Sustainability and Cultural Awareness" for masters, teachers, and lecturers representing all ten districts of Jammu Division.

Held under the mentorship of Shantmanu, Director SCERT, J&K, and the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor, Joint Director, JKSCERT Jammu, the workshop focused on developing actionable strategies for embedding eco-cultural values into teaching practices in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The inaugural ceremony commenced with the Lighting of the Lamp by Chief Guest O.P. Vidyarthi (Retd. IFS Officer and Sahitya Akademi Awardee), alongside Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor and other dignitaries.

The session featured a Welcome Address by Dr. Neeraj Jandial, Associate Professor, SCERT Jammu, followed by a Keynote Address by Rajesh Hali, Senior Academic Officer, who emphasized innovative pedagogical approaches for sustainable education.



SCERT, Jammu officials with participating Masters and Teachers

O.P. Vidyarthi highlighted the need for reviving traditional practices to combat environmental challenges, while Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor stressed the importance of teacher preparedness for achieving sustainability targets. The session concluded with a Vote of Thanks from Ms. Farhat Jahan, Academic Officer & Workshop Coordinator, acknowledging the collaborative efforts behind the program's success.

The technical sessions brought forward insightful perspectives from distinguished speakers. Dr. Neeraj Sharma, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Jammu, emphasized the integration of local

knowledge, Sustainable Development Goals, and cultural rootedness in environmental education. He highlighted the "Right Tree, Right Place" concept as a guiding principle for ecological restoration and sustainable afforestation practices.

Rajesh Hali, Senior Academic Officer, Central Move Office, focused on innovative pedagogies for integrating eco-cultural values in the school curriculum, advocating for experiential learning, storytelling, and community engagement. Additionally, an awareness lecture on the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan encouraged healthy, drug-free communities as a foundation for sustainable development. Group participa-

tion allowed teachers from all districts to collaboratively prepare guidelines for environmental awareness in the curriculum, reflecting local perspectives and diversity.

The workshop moved beyond awareness-building to achieve practical outcomes, with participants collaboratively designing school-level action plans for environmental sustainability and cultural awareness. Strategies included eco-friendly campus initiatives, student-led green clubs, cultural heritage projects, and vocational training in sustainable crafts, all aimed at strengthening school-community partnerships and aligning with national and global sustainability goals. The valedictory function, led by the Joint Director, focused on collective environmental duties and the importance of education in fostering responsibility among future generations, while organizers and educators expressed readiness to implement the proposed initiatives in their respective schools and communities.

The organizing team included Dr. Meenakshi Chandan (Associate Coordinator), Dr. Seema Zakir (Moderator), Rukhsana Kousar, Sabha Rasheed, Pooja Sharma, Meena Thakur, Dr. Sumita Sharma, and Monica Sharma, whose efforts ensured the initiative's success.

JKHCBAJ flays role of administration, Govt in handling present crisis, seeks restoration of Statehood for J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association Jammu has condemned the role of the administration and government in handling the present crisis, as unprecedented floods ravaged the Jammu region.

Addressing a press conference here on Friday, JKHCBAJ president, President K. Nirmal Kotwal has also drawn attention to the harrowing tragedies that recently unfolded at the revered Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine and the village of Chashoti, expressing profound grief over the irreplaceable loss of lives and suffering endured by the affected families.

In light of these devastating incidents-each marked by heartbreak and questions of preparedness, Kotwal has called for a thorough judicial inquiry to uncover the causes and accountability behind these unfortunate events, stressing that such calamities might have been prevented with timely intervention and robust safety measures.

He urged the Central



JKHCBAJ president, K. Nirmal Kotwal briefing media at Jammu on Friday.

Government to formally recognize the recent floods as a national disaster and to announce a special relief package dedicated to assisting those affected and displaced by this calamity.

In a decisive stance, JKHCBAJ reiterated its demand for the immediate restoration of Statehood to Jammu & Kashmir-a commitment already upheld by the Supreme Court of India and promised by the Union Home Minister on the floor of Parliament.

Speaking to media representatives, President K. Nirmal Kotwal, accompanied by Vice President Baldev Singh,

General Secretary Pardeep Majotra, Joint Secretary Anshu Mahajan, and Treasurer Rahul Aggarwal, asserted that restoration of

Statehood is essential to address the unique aspirations of the local population and to secure transparent, responsible governance for the region.

In view of the crisis and governmental failures, the Bar Association asserted that a Coordination Committee comprising of members from all District Bar Associations from Jammu Province, stakeholders from civil society and concerned citizens, to evaluate and discuss the future course of action to safeguard the lives and property of Jammu region residents.

Khatana visits flood-affected Jammu localities, reassures families of continued support

Says administration, forces will stay on ground until normalcy is restored

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Rajya Sabha MP and senior BJP leader Gulam Ali Khatana on Friday visited some of the worst-hit areas of Jammu to personally meet families affected by the recent floods. The unprecedented downpour, which broke a century-old record, has left many localities inundated and hundreds of families displaced.

Khatana, accompanied by MLA Bahu Ch. Vikram Randhawa, former BDC Chairman R.A. Putto, District President ST Mohd Rafiq, Ch. Noor Hussain, Ch. Mohd Alam, Naik Alam, Ch. Noor Alam, Farmam Ali, Sharafat Ali, officers of the



District Administration, BJP leaders, social activists and local representatives, toured Upper Barmini, Gurji Khatana Mohalla, Sagar Mohalla, Mattin Bibi Gali near City Hospital, Karyani Talab Narwal, Malik Market, Nalla Bathindi & Barmini, and Government HSS Sujwian Camp where flood-affected families are currently housed.

During his interactions, Khatana expressed deep sympathy with the families who have lost their homes and livelihoods. He assured them that the government will not leave them alone in this difficult hour. "We will stand by your until life returns to normal. Relief is not a one-day effort; we will continue to remain on the ground and extend all help possible," he told the residents.

Khatana said the situation is being watched at the highest level, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah regularly reviewing developments and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha coordinating relief within Jammu and Kashmir. He noted that

central agencies and the UT administration are working hand in hand to ensure that people receive timely assistance.

Khatana explained that rescue and relief work is being supported by specialised teams from across the country. He said forces on the ground have been moving people to safer places, supplying food packets and medicines, and helping restore mobility in the affected lanes and mohallas.

Khatana also pointed out that restoring power, drinking water and connectivity is a major focus and assured the public that field staff are working continuously to revive these basic services. He emphasised that instructions have already been passed to speed up restoration efforts.

Appealing for calm and cooperation, Khatana told the residents that their safety and well-being remain the top priority. "This calamity has tested our strength, but we will overcome it together. The government, local representatives, and community leaders are with you every step of the way," he said.



Expedite relief measures to provide immediate respite to suffering families: Sham asks Admn



MLA Sham Lal Sharma listening to the grievances of citizens.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and MLA Sham Lal Sharma, while listening to the grievances of citizens at a Public Grievances Camp held at the BJP Headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, expressed deep concern over the plight of people affected by the recent floods. Sharma asked the administration to expedite relief measures to provide immediate respite to the suffering families under the disaster measures. Sharma said that the Omar Abdullah-led NC government must rise to its responsibility and ensure timely execution of rehabilitation works. He pointed out that delays in restoring core infrastructure and public utility services have compounded the hardships of the people.

"There is a pressing need to

bridge the gap between the administration and ground realities. BJP is committed to being the voice of the people and will continue to raise these issues strongly at every forum," he asserted. During the camp, several deputations from areas including Rehari Colony, Radha Swami Ashram Bantalab, Samba, Nanak Nagar, Vikram Nagar Sarwal, Talab Tillo, Akhnoor, Raipur Domana, Mishriwala, and Roop Nagar met senior party leaders to highlight their concerns.

The issues raised by the delegations included the non-functioning of tube wells and hand pumps, damaged roads and pending blacktopping works, repair and construction of lanes and drains, scarcity of drinking water, and restoration of electricity in flood-hit areas.

Citizens also complained of out-of-order transformers, dysfunctional street lights, dumping of flood debris, poor maintenance of cremation grounds, pending salaries of Anganwadi workers, and delays in sanctioning of old-age pensions.

Sharma assured the deputations that all the issues raised will be vigorously taken up with the concerned departments and pursued until resolved. He reiterated that BJP stands firmly for responsive and accountable governance, with continued grassroots outreach as its hallmark. The programme was coordinated by Er. Dil Bahadur Jamwal, Incharge of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, who actively engaged with the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department for the redressal of issues related to water scarcity.

Commr Secy FCS&CA reviews availability, distribution of essential commodities across Jammu division

Directorate and all Assistant Directors of Jammu Division.

The meeting focused on availability of stock position of essential commodities along with ensuring the timely and uninterrupted supply of petroleum products to remote regions of Jammu Division. He emphasized on the need to maintain 10-15 days stock of Petrol, HSD and LPG in each district and 5 months food grains at FCI level.

During the meeting, the

Commissioner Secretary stressed on strengthening fuel distribution networks, including the possibility of establishing additional supply points in regions with high demand for petroleum products as a long-term solution in order to avert such type of crisis in future.

He further directed all Assistant Directors to work in close coordination with respective Deputy Commissioners to ensure sufficient availability of essential commodities.

While reviewing digitization of Jammu and Kashmiri Migrant ration cards under NFSA, he directed the concerned officers to complete the exercise within one month.

Later, the Commissioner Secretary also visited Food Store FCS&CA Chatha and FCI Godown Chatha in order to have first hand appraisal of availability and quality of food grains stock. He directed the officers to upgrade Food stores of FCS&CA department on the patterns of FCI.

UT Administration committed to bridging development gaps in Ladakh: LG Kavinder

Says people's concerns will be addressed on priority



Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta interacting with delegation.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KARGIL: Reaffirming the commitment of the Union Territory Administration towards inclusive and people-centric governance, the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Friday said that the government is determined to bridge development gaps and address the genuine concerns of the people in a transparent and time-bound manner.

Several delegations from different areas of Kargil called on the Lt Governor at Raj Niwas and submitted their demands and suggestions on various developmental issues. Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC, Kargil, Rakesh Kumar, and Senior Superintendent of Police, Kargil, Shree Raam R, were present during the meetings.

A delegation led by Chief Executive Councillor Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoo, accom-

panied by Executive Councillor Aga Mujtaba Mosavi and representatives from the Traspone region, demanded the establishment of a Tehsil headquarters in Traspone and the upgradation of the Primary Health Centre there into a Community Health Centre (CHC).

Member of Parliament from Ladakh, Mohamad Hanifa Jan, met the Lieutenant Governor and sought a private aircraft facility for winter travel in Kargil, the extension of the district hospital from 100 to 200 beds, and the establishment of a multi-specialty wing on the lines of AIIMS and PGI in Kargil.

Similarly, a delegation led by the Chairman of the Hajj Committee, Mohammad Ali Majaz, requested the establishment of a Passport Seva Kendra in Kargil.

A delegation of job aspirants from Kargil also called

on the Lt Governor and submitted their demands. Likewise, a delegation of contractual employees, including cooks and helpers, highlighted their issues, while a group of medical employees currently working at SKIMS raised concerns regarding their transfer.

The Lieutenant Governor patiently heard the issues raised and assured that the UT Administration would ensure their speedy redressal through a consultative and coordinated approach.

The Lt Governor emphasised that equitable growth across Ladakh is a key priority of the UT Government. "Our Administration is here to serve the people with sincerity, accountability, and transparency. Development must reach the last person in the queue, and every citizen of Ladakh should feel empowered and included in the growth journey," he added.

Help desk set up at Jammu Tawi Railway Station for stranded passengers



Government Railway Police setting up help desk.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In response to the emergency caused by heavy rains, floods and disruption of train services, a dedicated help desk has been established at Jammu Tawi railway station. The desk is staffed by officers from the

Railways, civil administration and Government Railway Police (GRP) Jammu.

Stranded pilgrims and passengers requiring assistance may visit the help desk in person or contact the dedicated landline at +91 191 2955351.