

LOP Sunil Sharma slams J&K Govt's inaction, highlights BJP's relief efforts amid rain havoc

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Leader of Opposition (LOP) in the J&K Assembly, Sunil Sharma, on Tuesday addressed a press conference at the BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, accompanied by Dr. Narinder Singh (BJP National Secretary), MLAs Sham Lal Sharma and Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal.

Sunil Sharma expressed grave concern over the widespread destruction caused by incessant rains, cloudbursts, and flash floods across the Jammu region.

He noted that the devastation began with a cloudburst in Chashoti village on August 14, followed by another in Kathua on August 16, and worsened due to continuous rains between August 24-26, impacting districts like Jammu, Samba, Udhampur, Reasi, and others.

He emphasized that BJP leaders and MLAs have been



LOP J&K Assembly, Sunil Sharma addressing a press conference at Jammu on Tuesday.

actively involved in rescue and relief operations, calling it their duty towards society.

BJP representatives have continuously raised public concerns with the administration and coordinated with officials for quick relief action.

Sharma, however, criticized the NC-led J&K government for its inadequate response, calling their actions "lip service" and "eyewash."

He accused the government of displaying "step-motherly treatment" toward Jammu and failing to respond on a war footing, especially in areas of electricity and water supply.

In contrast, Sharma praised

the Union Government and LG administration for their swift and committed action. He cited the timely rescue operation on the Mata Vaishno Devi route, recent visit of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and the on-ground assessment by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who met affected families, MLAs, and BJP leaders to chalk out a comprehensive relief strategy.

Sharma announced that all 28 BJP MLAs have contributed Rs 1 crore each, totaling Rs 28 crore, while BJP MPs pledged Rs 2.5 crore each, bringing the total relief

amount to Rs 35.5 crore.

Additionally, the Union Government has released Rs 209 crore to the UT Disaster Response Fund (UT-DRF) and formed a high-level committee to submit a report within two days, after which a final relief package will be announced.

He shared that medical camps will be held on September 9, and cleanliness drives on September 10-11, following the Union Home Minister's directives.

Sharma also urged that affected farmers be allowed to sell accumulated aggregates and that free ration be distributed to victims.

Reaffirming BJP's commitment, Sharma said the Union Government, BJP, and LG administration are fully devoted to ensuring maximum relief and rehabilitation, unlike the NC-led government, which has failed the people in their time of need.

Yudhvir Sethi's 24x7 Jan Seva wins hearts in Jammu East

Offers voluntary service at Jogi Gate cremation ground cleanliness

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi, has once again proven why he commands respect and affection through his continuous public service initiatives.

Demonstrating a strong sense of social responsibility, Sethi along with BJP Karyakartas and NGOs volunteers on Tuesday offered voluntary service (Shramdan) at the Jogi Gate cremation ground, leading a cleanliness drive to improve facilities for the local community.

Alongside this, Yudhvir Sethi also organized free medical camps in different parts of his constituency, ensuring healthcare access for underprivileged residents.

In the wake of recent heavy rains and floods, he further extended relief support, arranging free Langar Sewa for flood-affected families in



MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi with others cleaning flood-hit at Jogi Gate cremation ground on Tuesday.

Jammu East.

Known for his accessibility and people-first politics, Sethi has been personally visiting various localities, listening to grievances, and ensuring swift redressal of public issues. His initiatives cover a wide spectrum-from immediate relief to longer-term civic improvements like water supply, electricity, sanitation, and community health.

Speaking during one of his interactions, Sethi

remarked, "Public service is not bound by office hours. For me, Jan Seva is a 24x7 responsibility. People have reposed their faith in me, and it is my duty to be with them in their joys and sorrows. My aim is to ensure every household in Jammu East feels connected to their representative."

Community leaders, residents, and even political opponents acknowledged his tireless efforts. Locals noted that his constant presence during crises has

reassured them that their concerns will not be overlooked. Many praised his approach as an example of genuine leadership rooted in empathy.

Sethi also reiterated his commitment to long-term development, promising better facilities for traders, students, senior citizens, and youth. With a blend of relief, service, and forward-looking initiatives, Yudhvir Sethi continues to embody the spirit of people-centric leadership in Jammu East.

Air Vice Marshal, Air Commodore call on LG Kavinder

Discusses Strategic Preparedness, Developmental Cooperation



Air Vice Marshal Vikas Sharma along with Air Commodore Sanjay Prabhu, calling on LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta.

STATE TIMES NEWS

LEH: Air Vice Marshal Vikas Sharma, Air Officer Commanding, Headquarters Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, along with Air Commodore Sanjay Prabhu, Air Officer Commanding 21 Wing Air Force Station, Leh, on Tuesday called on the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder

Prabhu assured the Lt Governor of continued cooperation in all matters of strategic and humanitarian importance. They also highlighted the ongoing efforts of the Air Force in augmenting logistical support and maintaining operational readiness in the Union Territory.

The Lt Governor appreciated the vital role being played by the Indian Air Force in safeguarding the borders, supporting civil administration during emergencies, and ensuring connectivity in the far-flung regions of Ladakh.

The LG reiterated the UT Administration's commitment to working closely with the Indian Air Force to strengthen national security and accelerate developmental initiatives in the region.

Gupta, at Raj Niwas.

The meeting focused on strengthening synergy between the civil administration and the Indian Air Force in Ladakh, particularly in the areas of strategic preparedness, disaster management, infrastructure development, and welfare of the local population.

Air Vice Marshal Sharma and

Ravinder visits rain affected areas of Sunderbani, meets migrant families of Gande



Former MLC Ravinder Sharma visiting several rain/flood affected areas of Sunderbani.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SUNDERBANI: Former MLC and Chief Spokesperson JKPC Ravinder Sharma visited several rain/ flood affected areas of Sunderbani and Beripattan Tehsil and met the affected people including the migrant families who have taken shelter in Middle School Gande.

Accompanied by prominent Congress leaders of the area, N C Sharma, Sdr Ajit Singh, Rajesh Jamwal, Ashok Kumar, Romesh Kumar, Sunil Kumar, Vinod Kumar, Mr Sharma visited several areas to assess the huge damage to the vital roads of Langer, Hathal, Lyal Bandi, Mahahanand road besides damage to houses, landslide in Town including ward no 3 etc.

He also visited Gande area of Nah Panchayat and met the migrant families from Changrote who had to shift to take shelter in Govt Middle School Gande after their path to the remote hamlet Changrote was washed away. He offered some relief material and listed their genuine demand for alternate state land in the nearby area for shifting their residence.

Ravinder Sharma urged the government to provide alternate residential and agriculture land to these six families in the village out of available state/ custodian land for rehabilitation.

He also expressed concern over some cracks in the hilly forest area nearby localities of Sunderbani and Akhnoor tehsils besides Beripattan Tehsil and advised people to

adhere to advisory of the administration in this regard.

He demanded adequate relief and rehabilitation measures for the people and assessment of damage to individuals besides farmers and reconstruction & restoration of road network and water supply schemes on war footing.

MLA Bani provides relief to flood-affected families in Machwa area



MLA Bani, Dr. Rameshwar Singh distributing relief among rain-hit people.

STATE TIMES NEWS

BANI: In a humanitarian gesture, MLA Bani, Dr. Rameshwar Singh, on Tuesday visited the flood-affected Machwa area of Chandal Panchayat and distributed relief material among the distressed families.

The recent heavy rains and flash floods have caused widespread destruction in the region, leaving several families homeless and dependent on immediate support. Dr. Singh personally interacted with the affected residents, listening to their grievances and assuring them of every

possible assistance from his side as well as from the government.

He distributed essential relief items including ration kits, clothes, blankets, and other necessities to help the victims cope with the aftermath of the calamity. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Singh said, "The devastation caused by the floods in Machwa and adjoining areas is heartbreaking. My priority is to stand shoulder to shoulder with the affected people in this hour of crisis. Relief measures have been initiated, but I assure the residents that I will take up their con-

cerns with higher authorities to ensure proper rehabilitation and long-term mitigation."

The MLA emphasized the need for strengthening disaster preparedness in vulnerable regions like Bani to prevent large-scale damage in the future.

He urged the administration to expedite compensation to the victims, restore damaged infrastructure, and provide temporary shelters for displaced families.

"It is the duty of every representative to safeguard the interests of the people. I will make sure that no family in Machwa remains unheard or unattended," Dr. Singh asserted.

Locals expressed gratitude towards the MLA for visiting them during difficult times and extending timely relief.

They hoped that the administration, with the MLA's intervention, would soon initiate concrete measures for rehabilitation and restoration of normalcy in the flood-hit areas.

Dr. Singh reiterated his commitment to continue monitoring the situation and extending full support until the affected families are rehabilitated.



Baba Bhair Devsathan Trust members during a meeting.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A meeting of the Baba Bhair Devsathan Trust (Regd.) was held on Tuesday at Dogra Brahman Partinidhi Sabha, Chanakya Chowk, Parade, Jammu, where trustees expressed deep concern over the massive damage caused to the shrine's infrastructure due to the recent floods, particularly the washing away of the steel footbridge on Tawi River at Katal Batal, Tehsil Nagrota.

Chairman of Baba Bhair Devsathan Construction Committee and former DC (Retd.) B.S. Jamwal, NMC President Subash Shastri, Committee General Secretary Ritiz Khajuria, along with representatives of various social organiza-

tions, criticized the administration's "halfhearted approach" towards the trust's demands, which have been pursued consistently for over three years. They said much of the infrastructure developed by the trust has been damaged by the unprecedented flood fury.

The BDST leaders

appealed to the Lieutenant Governor and Chief Minister of J&K UT to immediately take steps for restoring connectivity by constructing a suitable bridge and approach track leading to the shrine, especially with the upcoming Baba Bhair Dev Kartik Purnima three-day Mela in view. Trust President

Balwant Singh, General Secretary Ramesh Sharma, and Advisor Advocate P.C. Sharma alleged that despite a DPR being prepared and submitted for the construction of a road from Village Aithem to Bhair Devsathan, "vested interests" sabotaged the proposal.

The trust further urged the UT Administration, MP, and local MLA to intervene urgently to restore facilities and provide compensation for the losses suffered.

Prominent persons present included Om Parkash Sharma, Subash Sharma, Ex-Sarpanch Kirpal Singh, Girdhari Lal Sharma, Advocate Anshu Sharma, Pawan Sharma (Rinku), Joginder Singh, and others.



with the civil administration and other agencies during such disasters shows its discipline, professionalism, and commitment to the people," he said.

He added that the Army's contribution in emergencies, whether natural calamities like earthquakes, floods, and avalanches or man-made crises, has always been extraordinary. From providing medical aid to ensuring

BDST expresses concern over damage to Shrine infrastructure, seeks urgent intervention

Demands reconstruction of damage steel foot bridge

food, shelter, and connectivity, the Army continues to serve as the first responder in the most difficult terrains and circumstances.

Beyond these emergency roles, the Army has also played a vital part in nation-building by developing infrastructure in border and remote regions, ensuring better connectivity and security for citizens.

Dr. Pardeep underlined that these efforts of the Indian Army are further strengthened by the unwavering support and visionary policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. Under the Modi government, modernization of

the armed forces, enhanced disaster management systems, and greater synergy between defense forces and civil administration have been prioritized. This has enabled the Army to perform its duties with even greater efficiency and preparedness.

"The Indian Army, fully supported by the Modi government, remains the pride of every Indian. Its service in defending borders, saving lives in disasters, and building the nation reflects its motto of selfless dedication. The BJP salutes the unparalleled sacrifices and contributions of our soldiers," Dr. Pardeep said.

Insurance Companies be directed to compensate for losses: CCI Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Arun Gupta, the President of CCI Jammu thanked Union Home Minister Amit Shah for visiting areas affected by Cloudbursts, Landslides and flash floods. Gupta expressed hope that the affected families would receive financial assistance commensurate with their losses. He also stated that the situation in Jammu is very grim due to extensive destruction caused by the natural calamity.

The Jammu region has recently experienced significant destruction due to heavy rains, cloudbursts, landslides and flash floods. This has led to loss of 70 precious lives at Chasoti in Kishtrwar district and 40 pilgrims have lost their lives enroute Mata Vaishno Devi and more than 100 pilgrims are still missing.

Arun Gupta also expressed that due to heavy rains and sudden rise of water in River Tawi unbelievable destruction has been witnessed everywhere, damaging some vital bridges and rendering many families homeless. Flood water has entered many houses and about 2 feet mud/filth is lying in these houses and people are unable to reach their homes which severely hinder the relief and rehabilitation process.

Arun Gupta pointed out that since last about 100 years people have never witnessed such type of destruction caused due to any natural calamity. In 2014 flash floods in Srinagar your goodwill had issued necessary direction for providing suitable help and financial assistance to the affected families. Now it is the turn of Jammu and we hope that this time also your goodwill will issue necessary directions on the same patterns to mitigate the problems and suffering of the affected people of Jammu region.

He further requested the Union Home Minister to issue necessary directions to the Insurance companies to pay 90% of losses whether it is residential, commercial or vehicle related losses to give immediate relief and mitigate the sufferings of the affected persons.

Relief, restoration, compensation will be expedited: Col Mahan



LOP Sunil Sharma, Col. Mahan Singh (Retd), DDC Chairman Kathua and others visiting flood-hit area.

to review the ongoing restoration, relief, and reconstruction efforts.

He emphasized the need for urgent measures to provide compensation to affected families and restore essential services such as electricity, water supply, and road connectivity.

Accompanying him during the tour were Col. Mahan Singh (Retd), DDC Chairman Kathua; Dr. Bharat Bhushan,

MLA Kathua; Advocate Vijay Sharma, MLA Hiranagar; BJP General Secretaries Gopal Mahajan and Baldev Billawaria; BJP District President Updesh Andotra; DDC Vice Chairman Raghunandan Bablu; DDC Member Karan Atri; and several other prominent leaders.

Welcoming the visit, Col. Mahan Singh expressed gratitude to the senior BJP leader for his proac-

tive outreach.

"Sunil Sharma's visit to Kathua at this difficult time shows his sincere concern for the people. His presence has boosted the morale of the affected residents. We are confident that with his intervention, the issues of relief, restoration, and compensation will be expedited," Col. Singh said.

The visiting leader assured the locals that he would raise their plight in the Assembly and press for a comprehensive relief and rehabilitation package.

"No family should be left behind in this hour of crisis. Restoration of damaged infrastructure and compensation to the victims will be my top priority," Sharma added.

The visit was widely hailed by residents and local representatives as a much-needed step to draw immediate attention to the scale of destruction in Kathua.