

Satish Sharma inspects Tawi River embankments, assesses situation

Announces to donate two months' salary to CM's Relief Fund

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma today conducted an extensive inspection of the Tawi river embankments to assess the water level situation and review the preparedness of the district administration in dealing with any flood-related eventualities.

He was accompanied by ADC Jammu Anusya Jamwal, senior officers from the Flood Control, Irrigation & PHE, Revenue, and Disaster Management departments.

The Minister, during the visit, took stock of the safety measures put in place to protect habitations located along the river banks and in adjoining low-lying areas. He was briefed by officials about the deployment of



Transport Minister Satish Sharma inspecting Tawi river embankments to assess the water level situation.

machinery, availability of rescue boats, positioning of medical and relief teams as well as arrangements for temporary shelter camps in case of emergencies.

While interacting with the officers on the ground, the Minister directed them to maintain round-the-clock monitoring of the river water level and ensure a

swift communication mechanism between field staff and control rooms. He asked for the immediate dissemination of alerts to the public in the vulnerable areas so that people can be safely evacuated at the earliest in case of any exigency.

The Minister further stressed upon ensuring adequate stock of ration, drink-

ing water, medicines and other essentials at relief centres. He directed the Civil Supplies department to make advance provisions so that no family faces hardship in the event of displacement.

Expressing satisfaction over the arrangements already made, Satish Sharma said the government has put in place a robust mechanism for flood preparedness, but constant vigilance and coordinated response are critical in dealing with such natural challenges. He appealed to the general public to remain calm yet cautious and to cooperate fully with the administration by following advisories and safety guidelines.

In a humanitarian gesture, the Minister announced that he will be donating his two months' salary to the Chief

Minister's Relief Fund, reaffirming commitment towards supporting relief and rehabilitation efforts. He said that such contributions, though modest, can go a long way in extending timely help to families affected by natural calamities.

"The safety and welfare of the people is our topmost priority. The government is fully geared up to respond to any situation and all possible assistance will be extended to safeguard lives and property. We stand shoulder to shoulder with our people in this hour of need", the Minister maintained.

The Minister assured that the administration will remain on high alert until the situation normalizes and reiterated that proactive steps will be taken to mitigate risks and minimize damage.

JKSC introduces nets at Surankote cricket facility



Officials posing with participating teams at Poonch.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: The Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council (JKSC) today installed nets facility at the fast growing cricket training facility at Sports Stadium, Surankote, here.

The initiative was taken by local cricket enthusiasts and prominent sports promoters of the district, who approached the Secretary JKSC pleading the case of those young cricket trainees of this remote border district.

The Secretary was kind enough to address the pleas of the sports community and added to cricket facilities at the sports stadium.

Important to mention here that local cricketer, Imran Fazli, who has done NIS certificate course, has been training the youngsters from the remote tehsil at the sports stadium Surankote for the last some time.

"We appreciate the gesture of the Secretary JKSC for accepting the request of the locals and added the nets facility at the sports stadium, where interest for the game of cricket has been growing," said Mohd Tariq, chairman of the Shaheed DySP Manjit Singh Memorial Volleyball Club, who declared the facility open for the cricketers.

Among those prominent present were Manager Sports Stadium Poonch, Mushtaq Ahmed; Dr Yousaf, BMO Surankote; Muzaffar Ahmad, ZPEO Surankote; Thair Mirza, Sarpanch and Zafar Hussain Shah, district Poonch cricket association president.

DC reviews restoration efforts post rainfall



DC Jammu Dr Rakesh Minhas assessing ongoing restoration work at Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Jammu Dr Rakesh Minhas conducted a tour of Jammu city to assess the ongoing restoration work post heavy rainfall.

He inspected Circular Road, the Sitlee Water Supply Station and the 4th Tawi Bridge.

At the Sitlee Filtration Plant, Dr Minhas reviewed the progress of repair and restoration of the rising

main and other related works. He directed concerned officers to accelerate the pace of restoration for resumption of normal water supply to the affected areas. SE PHE Sunil Gandotra briefed him on the status of the works.

The Deputy Commissioner also convened a meeting with SSP Joginder Singh; SSP Traffic Farooq Qaiser; ADDC Sher Singh and officers from NHAI,

NHIDCL and other concerned departments to discuss the situation on the 4th Tawi Bridge, which suffered damage due to rise in Tawi River. The meeting discussed traffic management, public safety, prevailing rainfall conditions and potential challenges.

Assistant Commissioner Anmol Rathore accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the tour.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu city has witnessed unprecedented damage due to the recent spell of heavy rains, leaving several parts of the city waterlogged and the residents distressed.

The incessant downpour has particularly affected low-lying areas, where water mixed with heavy silt and debris entered homes, causing severe inconvenience and damage to property.

In the emerging situation, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has immediately swung into action, deploying teams headed by nodal officers including Transport officers and sanitation officers with prime focus on flood hit areas by pressing additional machinery into service to address the crisis.

To increase the manpower for restoration works, as many as 200 extra Nallah labours were hired on emergency basis for muck cleaning and sanitation works.



Massive cleanliness drives are being undertaken at a war footing to clear the accumulated mud and debris from the affected areas.

Along with the mobilization of available machinery, extra machinery was hired to combat this situation.

Prominent among the worst-hit localities are Peer Ko, Gorakh Nagar, Rajendra Nagar and Gujjar Nagar, where operations are on round-the-clock to restore normal living conditions.

Some of the areas of Gujjar Nagar, Rajinder Nagar, Sangrampur were cleared and work on other areas is in progress on fast track basis.

The overflow of the Tawi River has further aggravated the situation, inundating its adjoining areas and leading to substantial damage to infrastructure and residential premises. To counter this, Dr. Devansh Yadav Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation has issued strict instructions to

all departments to expedite the cleaning process, restore essential services and provide immediate relief to the residents. He is personally visiting the spots and monitoring the ground level situation.

Large mounds of mud and debris are being removed with the help of heavy earth-moving machinery, including JCBs, while field teams continue to manually clear clogged lanes and drains. Special focus is being laid on the restoration of water supply, with water being distributed through tankers on a ward-to-ward, community-based system to ensure uninterrupted access to drinking water for the citizens.

In addition to sanitation and water restoration, the continuous rains have also disrupted electricity supply in several pockets of the city. The JMC is working in coordination with the concerned

departments to expedite the repair and restoration work to minimize inconvenience to the public.

Given the risk of water-borne and vector-borne diseases in the aftermath of such flooding, Dr. Devansh Yadav has appealed to residents to cooperate with the ongoing operations, maintain cleanliness in their surroundings and avoid consumption of untreated or contaminated water. Awareness measures are also being intensified to prevent any outbreak of diseases such as dengue, malaria and cholera. The Jammu Municipal Corporation reassures all residents that every possible step is being taken to bring the city back to normalcy at the earliest. Continuous monitoring of the situation is being carried out and emergency response teams are on high alert to address any emerging needs.

Karate belt grading test held



Karate player receiving certificate.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Renmei Goju-Ryu Karate Do Federation of India (RGKFI), an approved unit of the All India Karate Do Federation, conducted belt grading test, here.

The test, wherein seven karatekas emerged successful to the next grade, took place under the overall supervision of chief instruction of the federation, Shihan Sanjeev

Dewan, a sixth degree black belt and founder of RGKFI and AKAJK.

In total 20 young karate practitioners appeared in the test and finally seven of them qualified for the next grade, a handout issued here today informed.

Among those who qualified were Gulzar Ahmed Ganai (Kulgam), Moin, Murtaza Mohd Zahid, Mir Mudassir (all Baramulla), Mayank Gupta, Ankur Kapoor and Aman Gupta (all Jammu).

Jammu Veterans clinch championship trophy of 1st J&K Veterans Cup

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu Veterans emerged as the champions of the 1st J&K Veterans Cup by defeating Kashmir Veterans in the final match and whitewashing the 3-match series 3-0. The prestigious championship was organized by Veterans Cricket Association J&K in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council and was played at the iconic Sher-i-Kashmir Cricket Stadium, Srinagar.

The series witnessed thrilling performances showcasing the passion and spirit of veterans' cricket across the Union Territory.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony, Vivek Suri, General Secretary of the Veterans Cricket Association J&K, congratulated both teams for their sportsmanship and said, "This tournament is not just about cricket, but about bringing together veterans from Jammu and Kashmir on a common sporting platform. The enthusiasm and commitment shown by all players prove that age is no barrier when it comes to passion for the game."

On the other side, Nazir Ahmad, Captain of Kashmir Veterans, lauded the efforts of his team despite the defeat



Jammu Veterans team in jubilant mood after winning trophy.

and stated, "It was a great experience to compete in this historic first edition of the Veterans Cup. Though we could not win, the spirit of the game prevailed, and we look forward to bouncing back stronger in future editions."

The Veterans Cricket Association J&K announced that the tournament will be made an annual event to continue fostering unity, healthy competition, and camaraderie among cricketing veterans.

In the final match, Jammu Veterans, after winning the toss, posted a competitive 161 runs in 20 overs. Vishav

starred with a solid 78 runs, while Ajay Kumar added a handy 25. For Kashmir Veterans, skipper Nazir Ahmad picked up 2 wickets, while Waseem, Tahir, and Mehraj claimed a wicket each. Chasing 162, Kashmir Veterans stumbled early at 18 for 3, but a spirited 96-run partnership between Mushtaq (86) and Tahir (32) revived hopes. However, they fell short of the target by 5 runs, ending at 156 all out. For Jammu, Rakesh Dada (3 wickets), Vishav (2 wickets), and Mubashir (1 wicket) were the key wicket-takers.

HC upholds 10-year sentence in family murder case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh has upheld the conviction of Gul Mohammad Khan of Doda under Section 304-II RPC, ruling that the 2012 Chenab river tragedy was a case of culpable homicide due to negligence, not premeditated murder. The court rejected the Union Territory's appeal seeking his conviction for murder under Sections 302/201 RPC.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Sanjeev Kumar and Justice Sanjay Parihar observed that the prosecution had failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that Khan had intentionally killed his wife and two daughters by pushing their Maruti van into the Chenab river. Instead, it held that the trial court was correct in convicting him for a negligent act committed with knowledge of its likely consequences. On March 24, 2012, Khan was driving a Maruti van with his wife Rubina Begum, daughter Hira, and an infant when the vehicle plunged nearly 600 feet into the Chenab at Reggy Nallah, killing all three. Initially booked under Sections 279 and 304-A RPC, the charges were later enhanced to murder; citing marital discord and Khan's alleged resentment over having two daughters. In September 2021, the Additional Sessions Judge, Doda acquitted Khan of murder but convicted him under Section 304-II RPC, sentencing him to 10 years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs 50,000. Upholding that verdict, the High Court pointed to contradictions in prosecution testimony, a weak motive theory, and the unreliable account of an alleged eye-witness, whose statement was recorded more than a month after the incident. "The prosecution has failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the respondent murdered his wife and two children. The trial court was right in convicting him under Section 304-II and acquitting him of murder," the Bench observed while dismissing the UT's appeal. The conviction and sentence of 10 years rigorous imprisonment with a Rs 50,000 fine thus remain intact.

Court denies anticipatory bail in 250 Kg poppy straw case

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Court of Special Judge (NDPS Cases), Jammu, YP Sharma has rejected the anticipatory bail application of Fayaz Ahmad Dar of Pulhalla, Baramulla, accused of supplying 250 kilograms of poppy straw seized by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in Jammu in July 2021.

Delivering the order, Special Judge Y.P. Sharma observed that Dar had violated interim bail conditions, failed to cooperate with investigators despite repeated notices, and allegedly played a central role in a drug trafficking network. The Court underlined that custodial interrogation was essential to complete the investigation. The case stems from the seizure of 250 kg of poppy straw from Janak Singh at Narwal Mandi, Jammu, on 16th July 2021. During investigation, Dar allegedly emerged as the supplier. Although served notices under Section 67 of the NDPS Act, he did not appear before the agency for months. He had secured interim anticipatory bail on March 8, 2025, but treated it as "absolute bail," ignoring the condition to cooperate with the NCB. Counsel for the petitioner, Kaisal Hasan, contended that Dar was innocent, falsely implicated, and entitled to bail on parity with co-accused Janak Singh, who had already been granted bail. He also cited several Supreme Court judgments, including Tofan Singh vs. State of Tamil Nadu. Court relied on recent Supreme Court pronouncements, including Dinesh Chander vs. State of Haryana, which upheld refusal of bail in similar narcotics cases. "Given the gravity of allegations, the petitioner's non-cooperation, and the mandate of Section 37 NDPS Act, anticipatory bail cannot be granted," the Court ruled. Accordingly, the interim protection granted on March 8, 2025, was withdrawn, and the application was dismissed.

Morning Walkers Association Bahu Plaza expresses condolence on demise of Inderjeet Verma

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: With deep sorrow, the members of the Morning Walkers Association, Bahu Plaza, J a m m u, expressed heartfelt condolence on the demise of Association's member Inderjeet Verma.

A condolence meeting was held on Tuesday, where two minutes of silence was observed to pay tribute to the departed soul.

Association members prayed to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed and strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

