

No stone left unturned to provide relief to cloudburst-hit people in Kishtwar: Rajnath Singh

29XNEWS
JAMMU, AUG 24

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said the Centre is making all efforts to provide relief and rehabilitation to those affected by a recent cloudburst in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district.

Reviewing the situation in the affected Chisoti village via video-conferencing from the Raj Bhawan here, Singh said it is heartening to note that the Union Territory administration, Army, NDRF, SDRF and police have done excellent work during the crisis situation.

Flash floods triggered by the cloudburst struck Chisoti, the last motorable village en route to the Machail Mata temple, on August 14, killing 65 people, mostly pilgrims, and leaving more than 100 injured.

A large-scale search operation is underway for 32 people reported missing by their families after the tragedy. A makeshift market, a langar (community kitchen) site for the annual pilgrimage to the Machail Mata temple, 16 houses and



government buildings, three temples, four water mills, a 30-metre-long bridge and more than a dozen vehicles were also damaged in the incident.

"Due to inclement weather, I could not go to the cloudburst affected areas of Kishtwar today. Reviewed the situation at Chisoti from Jammu, via video

conferencing facility," Singh said in a post on X. The review meeting was attended by Union minister Jitendra Singh, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, senior Army and police officers, among others.

"It is heartening to note that the state administration, Army, NDRF, SDRF, J&K Police have

done excellent work during the crisis situation.

Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, the Central Government is leaving no stone unturned in providing relief and rehabilitation to those who have been affected by this tragic incident," the defence minister said in his post.

SDRF Teams conduct Disaster Management Operations across Jammu after heavy rains

29XNEWS
JAMMU, AUG 24

The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams have been conducting extensive disaster management operations in various areas of Jammu, following heavy rains that led to water logging and disruption of normal life.

The SDRF teams, equipped with specialized equipment and trained personnel, have been working tirelessly to rescue stranded people in affected areas.

Key Operations: During the rescue operations SDRF teams have rescued numerous people trapped in waterlogged areas, including homes, roads and other Residential Facilities in and around Jammu city.

SDRF personnel



under the supervision of DSP SDRF 2nd Bn Jammu Dinesh Gupta rescued about 45 students trapped in IIM Hostel using inflatable boats and life saving jackets.

Areas of Operation: SDRF teams have been deployed in different areas of Jammu, including areas of Tawi River at different locations including Talab Tillo, Lower Bakshi Nagar etc. Tams have also been

working in coordination with local authorities, including the district administration, police, and other agencies.

Commandant SDRF 2nd Bn. Jammu (SSP) Zahid Naseem Manhas, while talking to the media persons said "The SDRF teams are committed to support those affected by the heavy rains. We are working tirelessly to ensure the safety of the people in the affected areas."

DM Samba visits rain-affected areas; Ensures relief measures for affected families

29XNEWS
SAMBA, AUG 24

District Magistrate Samba Ayushi Sudan today undertook an extensive tour of the rain-affected areas in the district, including Bedheri, Manohar Gopala, Mananu and Chak Manga to take firsthand stock of the situation arising out of incessant rainfall.

During the visit, the District Magistrate personally interacted with the local residents, patiently listening to their grievances and concerns. She assured the people that district administration stands firmly with them in this hour of difficulty and that every possible measure is being taken

to mitigate their hardships.

The DM directed the officers of line departments to immediately initiate damage assessment of houses, crops and public infrastructure, and to prioritize restoration of essential services in the affected habitations. She stressed upon prompt coordination between Revenue, PWD, PHE, Power and Rural Development Departments to ensure swift redressal of issues being faced by the public.

Ms. Sudan also visited the Community Hall, Samba, where several families displaced due to the rains have been accommodated. She

reviewed the relief arrangements including food, drinking water, bedding, medical aid, sanitation facilities and issued on-the-spot directions for ensuring that all basic needs of the affected families are met without delay.

Highlighting the importance of preparedness, the District Magistrate emphasized that disaster response is not only about immediate relief but also about long-term resilience. She asked officials to keep close vigil on vulnerable locations, maintain readiness of machinery and ensure public advisories are disseminated widely to avoid any untoward incidents.

LoP Sunil Sharma briefs Rajnath Singh on Chasoti tragedy, Defence Minister gave on-the-spot approval for several measures

29XNEWS
JAMMU, AUG 24

Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma on Sunday briefed Defence Minister Rajnath Singh through video conferencing on the ground realities in cloudburst-hit Chasoti village, highlighting the massive loss of life and property, as well as urgent developmental needs of the remote Padder region.

Owing to bad weather, Rajnath Singh could not physically reach Padder. Instead, he connected from Raj Bhawan, Jammu, along with Union MoS PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. Senior officers of the administration also joined the video link, where Sharma gave a detailed ground report on the situation.

Sharma, who has been present at the site for over a

week personally supervising relief efforts, apprised the Defence Minister of the scale of damage to agriculture, horticulture, livestock, and infrastructure. He also commended the voluntary work of organizations like the RSS, Sewa Bharti, and local NGOs, who have been working shoulder-to-shoulder with the administration in rescue and relief operations.

Understanding the religious and cultural significance of the annual Machail Yatra, which draws over five lakh pilgrims, Sharma, as per news agency Kashmir Indepth News Service (KINS), stressed that the existing PMGSY road was inadequate. He demanded its widening, installation of crash barriers, and takeover by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in view of its strategic and cultural importance.

Among his key demands

were: Immediate construction of a motorable Bailey Bridge at Chasoti to restore connectivity. Establishment of an Army Goodwill School in Padder for quality education in the underserved region.

Sanctioning of a petrol pump in Padder to overcome logistical hurdles during emergencies. Installation of mobile towers in no-network zones to ensure communication in disaster situations.

Expedited release of financial aid from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) and sanction of a comprehensive rehabilitation package covering agriculture, horticulture, livestock, and businesses.

After listening to the detailed briefing, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh gave on-the-spot approval for several measures. These included construction of the Bailey Bridge at Chasoti,

sanctioning of an Army Goodwill School, a petrol pump at Padder, and directions to immediately improve mobile connectivity.

Rajnath Singh emphasized that relief measures must be swift and uncompromising. "Every affected family must feel the support of the Government in this difficult time. The Centre will not only provide immediate relief but also ensure long-term infrastructural development and disaster preparedness in Padder," he assured.

Expressing gratitude for the swift response, Sunil Sharma said, "The Defence Minister's compassionate approach and immediate approvals have given new hope to the people of Padder. Strengthening Machail Yatra infrastructure and overall development will secure livelihoods and dignity for this region."

JKSSB exams cancelled after paper leak allegations spark outrage

29XNEWS
JAMMU, AUG 24

Allegations of a paper leak ahead of a recruitment test emerged in Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, with political parties criticising the ruling National Conference (NC) for "wrecking the future" of the youth, prompting the cancellation of the examination. The Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) announced the cancellation of the written test and said they would be held afresh.

In an order, the JKSSB stated the OMR-based written examination was scheduled for Sunday from 11.00 am across 35 examination venues in Jammu and Srinagar. However, due to weather-related exigencies, the timings were rescheduled to 12.00 noon. The examination was successfully conducted across 34 venues, but could not be conducted at one venue.

"In view of the above, it has been decided by the Board to cancel the OMR-Based Examination for the posts of Junior Engineer (Electrical), Power Development Department, conducted on 24.08.2025 and shall be conducted afresh," the

order said.

The fresh dates for the examination shall be notified separately, it added.

Earlier, social media was flooded with videos purportedly showing candidates outside the examination hall at Kothi Bagh Higher Secondary School attempting to answer questions from the test for the Junior Engineer (Electrical) positions. Many claimed that the question paper was available on social media before the examination.

Subsequently, protests erupted outside the centre against the Jammu and Kashmir Service Selection Board (JKSSB).

Political parties directed their ire at the NC, asserting that the paper leak represented a "blow" to the youth of J-K.

"After banning books and locking schools, the sale of SSB exam papers by the government is yet another blow to J&K's youth. This is the so-called 'youth package' for a region where 65% of the population is under 35," the PDP said in a post on X.

"Scam after scam, and now another SSB paper leak. Students are seen openly trying to solve problems, yet after banning books and locking schools, the government's sale of exam papers

is another blow to J&K's youth," PDP leader and MLA Pulwama Waheed Para said.

Iltija Mufti, another leader from the PDP, slammed the NC government for "wrecking" the future of the youth who had placed their faith in the party.

"Youngsters across J&K placed an overwhelming faith in the NC, hoping for transparency in recruitment exams after electing them. But I'm appalled at how the NC government is wrecking their future because of their sheer incompetence to even conduct today's JE Electrical Exam at Kothi Bagh Centre," Mufti said on X. Mufti added that instead of promoting transparency, "today's paper leak suggests that this government is becoming a den of corruption".

Peoples' Conference chief Sajad Lone termed the paper leak as "brazen daylight robbery" in recruitment.

"We have finally made it. We are top in scams. This is nothing short of brazen daylight robbery in recruitment. Will someone please tell us what is happening?" he said in a post on X.

Lone alleged that candidates for the JE electrical examinations were initially asked to leave the exam halls because the paper was

cancelled. He claimed that some students continued taking the exams, and later, they were all requested to come back in again.

"The paper is on social media well before the aspirants are ready to take the exam. Will heads roll, or will we be dished out yet another round of third-grade fiction?" Lone, who is also an MLA from Handwara, questioned.

Ruling NC Lok Sabha MP Aga Ruhullah commented that this was "yet another collapse" of the JKSSB system, and blamed the Lieutenant Governor's administration.

"This is the direct result of a wrecked setup overseen by an unelected and unaccountable establishment," Ruhullah said in a post on X.

He claimed that the scams that began under the "so-called LG's watch have not stopped".

"Instead of safeguarding the future of our youth, books are being banned and schools taken over; the unresolved issue of reservation is taking a further toll on the future of youth," he said.

The Srinagar MP called on the elected government to reassess its role and approach as "the current path is failing our youth and our identity".

DC Rajouri reviews disaster preparedness

Inspects progress of work on ₹5.61 Cr Bridge Project in Frontier Nowshera

29XNEWS
RAJOURI, AUG 24

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, today conducted an extensive tour of the frontier areas of Nowshera, including Pukarni, Jajot Kandoo, Lam and Qila Darhal to assess disaster preparedness and review damages caused by incessant rainfall in the region. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected critical infrastructure, including the ongoing work on the Steel Super Structure Bridge over Jambhir Nallah, which is being executed at a cost of ₹5.61 crore. He emphasized the timely completion of the

project to ensure enhanced connectivity and convenience for residents.

The Deputy Commissioner also held interactions with the local populace, listening to their concerns and resolving several grievances on the spot. He took a detailed review of essential services, including water supply, electricity and other basic amenities being provided to the public and issued necessary instructions to officers for further improvements.

ADC Nowshera, Pritam Lal Thapa, Tehsildar Qila Darhal, Jahangir Khan, SI Police Post Lam and other district and sectoral officers accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the visit.

AYUSH Health check up camp held at Utterbehani

SAMBA, AUG 24:

An AYUSH health checkup camp was organized at Samba.

A medical team from AHWC Moutlian and GAD Salmeri comprising of Dr Sonika (MO AHWC Moutlian), Dr Tabassum (MO GAD Salmeri), Satish Salathia(W&W) and Kanta Devi (ASHA Worker Moutlian) and under the guidance provided essential

and supervision of Dr. health services to a large number of beneficiaries. The primary objective of the camp was to provide comprehensive health checkups and promote public awareness about benefits of AYUSH and to enhance the overall health and well-being of the residents by offering accessible traditional and holistic healthcare services.

