

CEC Kargil Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon Reviews Winter Preparedness in Light of current Meteorological Advisory

Kargil, January 22, 2026: In view of the advisory issued by the Meteorological Department, UT Ladakh, dated 21 January 2026, the Hon'ble Chairman/Chief Executive Councillor (CEC), LAHDC Kargil, Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoon, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the preparedness of the district administration for the prevailing and anticipated winter conditions.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner briefed the on the weather advisories issued by the Meteorological Department and the overall preparedness of the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA). Detailed discussions were held on traffic regulation measures, identification of avalanche-prone and red zones, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for snow clearance at critical mountain passes including Zojila, Penzila, and Namkila.

The CEC lauded the commendable efforts of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), Ladakh Police, and the Sub-Divisional Administration—particularly SDM Drass—for maintaining road connectivity under extremely harsh winter conditions. Emphasizing the strategic and economic importance of Zojila Pass, the CEC termed it a “lifeline” for the region and directed BRO officials to intensify snow clearance operations immediately after snowfall ceases, in order to keep the pass open for as long as possible.

Directives were issued to the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department to ensure uninterrupted water supply and to the Power Development Department (PDD) to maintain stable electricity supply, with special focus on hospitals and other essential installations. The Municipal Committee was instructed to ensure timely snow clearance in urban areas, strictly avoiding the use of teeth-type machines that could damage road surfaces.

The Mechanical and R&B Departments were directed to maintain close coordination and share a consolidated list of available machinery, along with their locations and road jurisdictions, with all SDMs and concerned officials to avoid any confusion. The Police Department was directed to strictly enforce the mandatory use of snow chains for vehicles. Instructions were also issued for the installation of temporary movable toilets near check posts and adjoining areas to prevent open defecation.

Health preparedness was reviewed in detail. The CEC directed the Chief Medical Officer to ensure advance referral of pregnant women and labour cases before one month expected delivery to the near PHC, CHC and District Hospital, maintain sufficient stock of essential medicines, and ensure availability of doctors, further directing that doctors should not proceed on leave during the critical winter period.

The CEC also directed the SDM Drass to maintain adequate backup stocks of food grains, if required. Briefing the meeting, SDM Drass informed that two labour sarais with a capacity of 20 persons each have been established near Drass, another labour sarai with a capacity of 20 is operational near TIC Minamarg, and an additional capacity of 20 is available at the Dak Bungalow. He further assured that electricity supply and food stocks have been arranged and will be provided as and when required.

Cec directed to ensure adequate availability of food grains, heating arrangements, and electricity supply at labour sarais for strained labours and passengers.

Instructions were also issued to SDM Sankoo and SDM Zanskar to ensure uninterrupted medical services, availability of essential food supplies, and smooth snow clearance operations in their respective sub-divisions.

All executing agencies were directed to strictly prevent dumping of soil near roads, ensure effective snow clearance, and take necessary measures to prevent vehicular skidding and accidents.

It was emphasized that weather advisories and related information must be widely disseminated among the public, emergency and essential services kept fully operational, and public grievances promptly addressed through the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).

The CEC further stated that in case of severe weather conditions, remedial measures, including the temporary closure of educational institutions for a few days, may be considered in the interest of public safety.

The meeting was held at the Conference Hall of LAHDC Kargil and was attended by Hon'ble Executive Councillors Kacho Mohammad Feroz and Aga Syed Mujtaba; Deputy Commissioner/CEO, LAHDC Kargil, Rakesh Kumar; Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kargil; Additional Deputy Commissioner Kargil and Administrator, Municipal Committee Kargil, Nitin Yadav; Chief Engineer, Project Vijayak, Imteeaz Kacho; Commander 762 BRTF, Rahul Oberoi; Chief Medical Officer Kargil; Executive Engineers from R&B, PMGSY, PHE, Mechanical, and PDD (M&RE); SDM Sankoo; officials of MC Kargil; senior officers of Ladakh Police including DySP HQ, DySP Traffic, and DySP SDRF Kargil; and representatives of NHIDCL Kargil.

Sub-Divisional Magistrates of Drass, Sankoo, Shakar Chiktan, and Zanskar, along with Executive Engineers from Zanskar divisions, participated in the meeting through virtual mode.



