

17<sup>th</sup> October, 2025

Howrah

### Press Note

The Government of West Bengal continues its round-the-clock relief, rehabilitation, and restoration operations across the flood- and landslide-affected areas of North Bengal. Under the constant guidance and monitoring by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, administrative teams, led by the District Magistrates in the affected districts, are working tirelessly to ensure timely restoration of normalcy for affected families. Today, the Hon'ble Chief Minister felicitated civil defence volunteers, forest officials and other field level officials for their steadfast contributions in relief operations in Jalpaiguri district through virtual mode, acknowledging their dedication and selfless service. Hon'ble Chief Minister also virtually handed over job letters to next-of-kin of three victims of landslides in Darjeeling district. Furthermore, she also distributed job letters to the next-of-kin of eleven individuals who tragically lost their lives due to electrocution during the recent flood situation in Kolkata. Hon'ble Chief Minister re-iterated that the Government of West Bengal remains fully committed to ensuring the safety, rehabilitation, and speedy recovery of all affected families, with relief and reconstruction efforts continuing on a war footing until normalcy is completely restored.

Today, the Chief Secretary, in a virtual meeting with all the districts, reviewed the ongoing relief, rehabilitation, and restoration operations across the flood and landslide affected areas of North Bengal, emphasizing the need for coordinated and timely action.

In Darjeeling district, 19 relief shelters are operational, accommodating 638 persons. Special Relief Kits are being distributed by Block and Gram Panchayat teams, while gruel kitchens are providing freshly cooked meals. Static and mobile medical teams are ensuring access to healthcare, and female hygiene counters are supplying sanitary items, iron-folic acid tablets, and baby food. A total of 41 Sufal Bangla stalls and mobile vans, including 11 additional units, are ensuring uninterrupted access to essential food items. Outreach camps are assisting residents with reissuance of lost documents, and over 200 damage assessment teams are evaluating damages and collecting applications for reconstruction of damaged houses under Banglar Bari Scheme.

Coordinated relief operations continue in Jalpaiguri district, where farm-gate procurement of vegetables through Sufal Bangla stores has provided additional income for farmers. Gruel kitchens in Bamundanga and Tundu are catering to the affected families. In Darjeeling, infrastructure repair and restoration works are progressing swiftly in landslide-prone areas, including Dudhia Bridge, Tabakoshi, and Thanaline. Tourist help desks have been set up to assist visitors in affected regions.

In Kalimpong district, relief measures include distribution of tarpaulins, dhotis, saris, blankets, and children's clothes. Disaster Management Kits and Special GR Rice are being provided to the most affected residents in remote areas and special outreach medical camps are attending to women and infants.

Alipurduar district has seen the organization of Special Outreach Camps, including at Salkumar-I Gram Panchayat, where essential documents lost during floods such as ration cards, voter IDs, job cards, land records and Aadhaar cards have been reissued. Relief materials,

including essential food, clothing and sanitary supplies have been distributed at Par Malangi basti under Kalchini Block. The Agriculture Department is supporting farmers through distribution of seeds and agricultural tools to resume cultivation post-floods.

Control rooms across the affected districts operate 24x7, providing necessary assistance, while Civil Defence Volunteers are deployed in vulnerable areas to support any further rainfall-related contingencies.