

# Union Minister Ranjan, CM Omar jointly review Animal Husbandry & Fisheries Sector in J&K

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JULY 02

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Rajiv Ranjan Singh and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today jointly chaired a high-level review meeting of the Animal Husbandry and Fisheries sectors of Jammu & Kashmir here at Srinagar, Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Agriculture Production & Panchayati Raj Javid Ahmad Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Secretary GoI Alka Upadhyay, Additional Chief Secretary Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Secretary (CDD/IT) and other senior officers from the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Principal Secretary Agriculture Production Department J&K Shailendra Kumar, Vice Chancellors of SKUAST-K and SKUAST-J, and heads of allied departments were also present.

Addressing the meeting, the Union Minister underlined the immense untapped potential in J&K's livestock and fisheries sectors and assured full support from the Centre.

"We are here today to listen, understand your challenges, and work together. Where there is scope, there must be action," he stated.

He called for joint efforts between the Centre and J&K Government to convert potential into outcomes, adding that rural prosperity can only be achieved when economic development reaches the grassroots through sustainable livelihoods.

Union Minister said that encouraging youth to enter micro and small-scale live-



stock and fishery enterprises can generate employment and inclusive growth.

He informed that a detailed plan is being drawn up involving key national institutions like the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) to build strong infrastructure and link farmers to markets.

He also announced the government's intention to hold an Exporters' Conference and a Private Sector Investment Conference in J&K to boost entrepreneurship. Emphasizing the need to shift dairy operations from the unorganized to the organized sector, the Minister stressed the importance of cooperatives and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

He cited the example of dairy cooperatives in Varanasi where milk production increased manifold, and additional income was being earned even from cattle waste. He urged J&K's officials to study and replicate such successful models.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah thanked the Union Minister for his visit and re-

iterated the significance of such joint reviews in identifying local priorities and learning from national best practices.

He observed that in J&K, large industries and factories have not always yielded sustainable results, and the real opportunity lies in strengthening traditional sectors like agriculture, horticulture, livestock, fisheries, and tourism. "Our strength lies in these sectors—not in chasing elusive factories. We must build on what is rooted in J&K," he said.

The Chief Minister highlighted that while J&K contributes 90% of India's trout production, the sector lacks organized processing and value addition. Similarly, despite high per capita meat consumption, much of the mutton is sourced from outside. He emphasized that self-sufficiency in meeting domestic demand can significantly improve incomes and reduce imports. He also spoke about the gradual decline of cooperatives in the dairy sector and assured that his government is committed to reviving cooperative culture and linking milk producers to formal processing

networks.

Referring to the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), the Chief Minister said the initiative was launched to address critical gaps in oilseed production, fodder, dairy, mutton, and fisheries. He appreciated the Union Government's support and assured that all valuable suggestions made during the review would be implemented with sincerity and urgency.

During the event, the Union Minister and Chief Minister virtually inaugurated a 50,000 litres per day Ultra High Temperature (UHT) Milk Plant at Satwari, Jammu, and held interactions with progressive dairy farmers, who shared their experiences of improved incomes and organized procurement process through cooperative societies.

The meeting concluded with both leaders reaffirming their shared vision for transforming Animal Husbandry and Fisheries into vibrant, employment-generating sectors in J&K. It was resolved to implement joint strategies for infrastructure expansion, market linkages, entrepreneur-

ship development, and co-operatives' revival, aimed at building a resilient rural economy.

Earlier, Principal Secretary Shailendra Kumar gave a detailed presentation on the performance of the Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Departments, noting that the sectors contribute ₹12,634 crore—6.25% of J&K's GDP. The livestock population includes 24.54 lakh cattle, 31 lakh sheep, 15 lakh goats, and 73 lakh backyard poultry, with annual milk production at 2,875 TMT and trout accounting for 90% of the national output.

The presentation highlighted achievements under major schemes. Under the National Livestock Mission, 2.9 lakh animals were insured and Sheep AI Centres established. Livestock Health & Disease

Control facilitated mass vaccinations and the deployment of 50 Mobile Veterinary Units has been made. The meeting was informed that NADCP has covered over 96 lakh vaccinations, and Rashtriya Gokul Mission has expanded AI services and trained over 1,500 MAITRIs. PMMSY has supported aquaculture infrastructure, ornamental fisheries, and RAS units, benefiting nearly 80,000 individuals.

Under the National Program for Dairy Development, JKMPCL is targeting ₹500 crore turnover by 2025–26, with two new milk plants underway at a cost of ₹258.10 crore. Over 11.33 lakh Kisan Credit Cards have been issued, including 2.46 lakh for AH&F. The AHIDF has achieved a 73% sanction rate, enabling private investments in dairy and poultry infrastructure.

DC Poonch visits Gurudwara Deri Sahib Khari

**POONCH, JULY 02:** In connection with the upcoming 25th Gurmat Samagam scheduled to be held on 6th July at Gurudwara Deri Sahib Khari, the Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal today visited the Gurudwara Sahib and paid obeisance. He was warmly welcomed by the Management Committee, which expressed heartfelt gratitude for his visit.

The Gurudwara premises was filled with spiritual fervour as Ragi Jathas from Punjab recited soul-stirring Gurbani Kirtan echoing the messages of peace, devotion and unity.

The Deputy Commissioner interacted with the devotees and lauded the smooth and devotional conduct of the pre-event proceedings.

## DC Ramban flags off Annual Sarvadhar Yatra from Ukheral

**RAMBAN, JULY 02:** Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Aiyas Khan today flagged off the Annual 'Sarvadhar Yatra', locally popular as Chamunda Mata Yatra, from Ukheral. The ceremony was graced by Member Legislative Assembly Ramban, Advocate Arjun Singh Raju amid rich religious, cultural and traditional fervor.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, senior officers, prominent citizens and members of the Yatra Committee were also present on the occasion.

The annual Chamunda Mata Yatra attracts thousands of devotees from across the region and beyond.

Sarvadhar Yatra is not just a religious journey but also a spiritual expedition through the breathtaking landscapes of the Hi-

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Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana and Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today had a comprehensive review of the irrigation scenario in Jammu and Kashmir in a meeting held at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was called in view of the irrigation problems being faced by the farming community besides assessing the response mechanism adopted by the department to ensure farmers are provided a reliable irrigation supply.

Legislators, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, Hasnain Masoodi, Irshad Rasool Kar, Hilal Akbar Lone and Irfan Hafiz Lone also attended the meeting and shared their concerns with respect to irrigation supply in their constituencies.

Detailed discussion was held on the working of Lift & Gravity irrigation schemes, NABARD/CAPEX/CSS projects and efficient water management for agricultural prosperity.

Javed Rana directed for effective measures to tackle the irrigation issues, especially putting an efficient response mechanism in place to address the complaints of farmers. "There is no doubt that we are facing a critical situation due to adverse climatic condi-



tions and there are shortcomings also but we have to find solutions," he said.

It is our collective responsibility to find solutions to the problems faced by our farming community amid the paddy farming, he said. He called for taking both short and long-term measures to augment the supply of irrigation water as per the requirements on the ground. He also asked for an assessment of both the machinery and infrastructure given the present climatic conditions.

Superintending Engineers were instructed to submit a comprehensive report outlining the potential measures for upgrading and strengthening the existing resources in their respective areas.

During the meeting, Rana also emphasized timely project completion, regular monitoring of public services and expedited project execution for enhanced agricultural support. The meeting centered on discussions about restoring previously existing canals that have been encroached upon, with a focus on their revival.

Rana called upon the concerned to report encroachments and illegal mining that is creating a threat to the irrigation system so that appropriate action will be taken.

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra, gave a detailed presentation on the present irrigation infrastructure. He briefed about the functioning of Lift and Gravity irrigation schemes of the department being executed in the entire UT, status of NABARD schemes being implemented under various RIDFs and Capex Budget schemes under Capex Budget 2025-26.

Shaleen Kabra also briefed about the new schemes to be proposed under PMKSY-HKHP and status of execution of the schemes under PMKSY-HKHP. He also gave details about the schemes affected due to low precipitation.

The Additional Chief Secretary highlighted that the average gauge readings in rivers have significantly decreased, adversely impacting numerous irrigation schemes across Jammu and Kashmir.

## Amarnath ji pilgrims accorded rousing reception at Udhampur

**UDHAMPUR, JULY 02:** The first batch of pilgrims of Shri Amar Nath Ji Yatra 2025 was accorded a rousing reception by District Administration Udhampur on their arrival at Kali Mata Mandir Tikri.

On reaching at Kali Mata Temple, Pilgrims were warm welcomed by DDC Chairman, Lal Chand, Member Legislative Assembly Udhampur East, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Member Legislative Assembly Chenani, Balwant Singh Mankotia, DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range Sarah Rizvi, Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur Saloni Rai, SSP Amod Ashok Nagpure, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Prem Singh, DDC Member, Ashu Sharma, ACR Dr Umesh Shan and other officers besides prominent citizens of the District.

A large number of locals along with district officers received the first batch of pilgrims at Kali Mata Mandir Tikri Udhampur.



Information Department Udhampur arranged a cultural programme in which students of Government Higher Secondary School and Sainik Cooperative Public High School Tikri presented themed based cultural items which was applauded by the pilgrims as well as locals.

The authorities urged upon the pilgrims to utilize and avail all the facilities

being extended by the government during the yatra. The pilgrims were also informed about the arrangements made for them at the base camp, besides other facilities being extended to them.

The pilgrims appreciated the goodwill gesture of Civil and Police Administration Udhampur for according them rousing reception and cooperation.

## Adopt zero tolerance approach towards illegal mining in J&K: Dy CM to Officers

**SRINAGAR, JULY 02:** Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today reiterated the Government's firm commitment to completely ban illegal mining activities across Jammu and Kashmir.

He made these remarks while chairing a high-level review meeting of the Geology and Mining Department at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

The Dy CM emphasized the importance of taking stringent action against the violators to safeguard the region's natural mineral resources. He directed the officials to adopt a zero tolerance approach towards illegal mining, ensuring a complete ban on such activities.

The Dy CM instructed the District Mineral Officers to take full control of all mining resources while keeping strict monitoring and vigilance on the ground. He warned that any laxity or negligence, in this regard, would invite disciplinary action as per



the law. Underscoring the significance of protecting the public infrastructure, the Deputy CM directed the officers to closely monitor all functional mining blocks to ensure that critical infrastructure such as bridges, roads and water supply schemes remain unaffected.

"Immediately cancel the licenses of functional blocks if any damage to infrastructure is reported and impose penalties on the responsible firms," he instructed the officials.

He also directed the de-

partment to expedite the auctioning process of mineral resources strictly as per the existing rules and regulations, while ensuring robust enforcement and strict compliance with both the Central and UT mining Acts and Rules.

The meeting featured a detailed presentation on the status of exploration and extraction of key minerals including limestone, granite, blue sapphire, gypsum, lithium and coal. The officials informed that 36 major mining leases for limestone and 233 minor mineral leases have been

issued, so far.

To further strengthen enforcement, the Dy CM called for establishment of a robust monitoring mechanism involving multi-departmental district-level task forces, flying squads, informant networks, checkpoints and e-challan systems to curb the illegal mining effectively.

Highlighting the potential of the mining sector, the Deputy CM stressed on promotion of mineral-based industries to enhance employment opportunities and revenue generation.

came from both urban and remote areas such as Samba, Jammu, Poonch, Rajouri and Billohar.

Many of them shared their inspiring journeys and experiences with the cooperative department, offering testimonials on how the cooperative movement has empowered them socially and economically.

A major highlight of the event was the distribution of registration certificates to newly registered Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), dairy and fisheries cooperatives

across Jammu Division. Successful societies were felicitated with mementos in recognition of their outstanding contributions to innovation, livelihood generation, and women-led development.

The event also featured stalls set up by various co-operatives showcasing their products—ranging from honey, pickles and spices to bakery items, milk products and handicrafts—demonstrating the vibrancy and diversity of co-operative entrepreneurship.

## Int'l Day of Cooperatives celebrated at Jammu

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The Department of Cooperatives, J&K, in collaboration with JCC Bank today celebrated International Day of Cooperatives at JCC Bank Headquarters, Bahu Plaza Jammu.

The event was held under the theme "M-PACS – Focusing on Women Empowerment and Sustainable Livelihood", highlighting the vital role of cooperatives in driving inclusive growth and sustainable development.

The programme wit-

nessed the participation of senior officials including the Additional Registrar, Cooperative Societies Jammu; Joint Registrar (Audit); Joint Registrar (Banking); Joint Registrar (Special); Deputy Registrars and Assistant Registrars from across the Jammu Division.

A significant number of women members from co-operative societies also attended reflecting the growing involvement of women in cooperative governance and enterprise.

Notably, participants