

Union Minister promises optimal support for J&K's Dairy, Fisheries development

Visits SKUAST-K, interacts with farmers

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 02

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Rajiv Ranjan Singh, who is on a two day visit to Kashmir, today said the central government will extend all possible support to J&K for developing dairy and fisheries sectors.

The Union Minister was speaking at a function, ‘Reimagining Livestock & Fisheries with Future Ready Farmers: Vision 2030’, at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K).

The Union Minister reaffirmed the Central Government’s commitment towards agricultural advancement and farming community in J&K. He said that these sectors need to be organised by strengthening and bringing them under Cooperatives at district, block and panchayat level to benefit the dairy farmers, who are mostly small and marginal. He added that there is tremendous potential for exports for Kashmir trout and niche dairy products, however, that requires processing and value addition. He said his Ministry will provide full support to the UT government for establishing retail dairy outlets in



each district.

J&K Agriculture Minister, Javid Ahmad Dar; Union Secretary Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairy, Alka Upadhyaya; Principal Secretary APD (J&K), Shalendra Kumar; Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Professor Nazir Ahmad Ganai; Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-J, Professor BN Tripathi; Additional Secretary, Union Ministry for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Varsha Joshi; Animal Husbandry Commissioner, DAHD, Abhijit Mitra and Joint Secretary Ministry of Fisheries, Sagar Mehra were present at the function.

Rajiv Ranjan Singh also interacted with the dairy and fisheries farmers,

Poshu Sakhis and entrepreneurs, who informed him about the progress of these sectors in J&K over the years besides projecting their issues and challenges.

Earlier at SKUAST-K, the Union Minister toured the SKUAST-K Hig Density Apple orchards, followed by an inspection of various stalls showcasing groundbreaking agricultural innovations, particularly in animal sciences. A key highlight was the Minister’s interaction at a stall featuring recently produced India’s first gene-edited sheep, a testament to the cutting-edge research being conducted at SKUAST-K in animal husbandry. This achievement places India at the forefront of advanced genome editing technologies in live-

stock.

J&K Agriculture Minister, Javid Ahmad Dar, thanked the Union Minister for his support in transforming the livestock and fisheries sector in J&K. He stressed on processing and value-addition of livestock produce for economic empowerment of the farming community.

Shalendra Kumar, gave an overview of the dairy and fisheries sectors of the UT while Vice-Chancellor SKUAST-K briefed about the university’s working.

The officers and faculty members from SKUAST-K, Directors and officers from the line departments and a huge number of farmers were present on the occasion.

“Tailor Women’s Garments” Training Program inaugurated at SBI RSETI Ramban

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A month-long “Tailor Women’s Garments” training program was inaugurated today at SBI Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), Ramban with the participation of 25 enthusiastic women candidates from various panchayats across the district. The program is aimed at equipping rural women with tailoring skills to promote self-employment and economic empowerment.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Ramban Shakeeb Ahmad Rather as the Chief Guest who formally inaugurated the training alongside Director SBI RSETI Ramban S. Harvinder Singh with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp. The event also included the distribution of training kits to all enrolled candidates.

During the program, the Director RSETI briefed the Chief Guest about the objectives and structure of the training program, highlighting that the candidates have been mobilized from remote and diverse areas of the district. He emphasized the importance of such residential training programs



in transforming rural women into self-reliant entrepreneurs. He also elaborated on the curriculum which includes modern stitching techniques, fashion trends, entrepreneurial competencies and financial literacy.

In his address, the CPO congratulated all the trainees and appreciated RSETI Ramban’s continuous efforts in promoting livelihood opportunities in rural areas. He acknowledged the wide scope of tai-

loring as a sustainable self-employment avenue and encouraged women to take full advantage of the training. He also provided insights into various government-sponsored schemes, including PMEGP, JKREGP and Mudra, which are designed to support aspiring women entrepreneurs.

The program concluded with heartfelt gratitude expressed by the trainees to the Chief Guest and RSETI staff for providing them

with this valuable opportunity. A formal vote of thanks was presented, followed by the signature “RSETI Clap”, marking the conclusion of a successful inauguration.

SBI RSETI Ramban continues to work under the aegis of the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and SBI with a mission to build capacities and transform lives through skill-based training and self-employment support.

Directorate of Rural Sanitation accords traditional welcome to SANJY pilgrims at Nunwan

NUNWAN/ BALTAL, JULY 02: Directorate of Rural Sanitation today extended a traditional welcome to the first batch of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025 pilgrims at the Nunwan and Baltal base camps.

In a gesture symbolizing warmth and harmony, the Yatris were greeted with garlands by officials of the Directorate and the sanitation teams, setting a tone of devotion and cleanliness for the Yatra ahead.

Girls dressed in traditional Kashmiri attire, along with sanitation volunteers, added cultural vibrancy to the welcome ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Director General Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra emphasized the department’s commitment to providing clean sur-



roundings, eco-friendly facilities, and round-the-clock sanitation services throughout the Yatra period.

“Welcoming the devotees with respect and care

marks the beginning of our service to them. Cleanliness and hospitality go hand in hand during this spiritual journey,” she said.

The Directorate has also deployed dedicated sanitation

teams, put in place bailing and shredding machines, and installed QR-coded toilet facilities to maintain hygiene and streamline sanitation management.

RAJOURI, JULY 02: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, today chaired a meeting at Dak Bungalow Rajouri to review the preparations for the smooth and successful conduct of the upcoming Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra.

During the meeting, the DC took a comprehensive review of the arrangements including parking facilities, deployment of medical teams, availability of drinking water, installation of mobile toilets, security, sanitation, lodging, and other essential services.

The DC directed the concerned officers to ensure deployment of AYUSH instructors at all lodgement centres to provide basic wellness services to the pilgrims. The Tourism Department was instructed to install informative hoardings at prominent locations and set up a dedicated stall to promote local tourism and culture.

The Jal Shakti Depart-



ment was asked to ensure the availability of water tankers at all critical points and conduct daily testing of water samples to maintain hygienic standards. The Executive Officers of Municipalities were directed to provide mobile toilet facilities at all lodgement and congregation points.

To strengthen surveillance and ensure security,

the DC emphasized the installation of CCTV cameras at lodgement centres. Self-Help Groups (SHGs) will be facilitated to set up stalls for local products and refreshments. The Information Department was asked to ensure that Public Address Systems are functional at all lodgement centres for timely announcements and information dissemination.

Instructions were also issued for the deployment of Executive Magistrates at various critical points, fire safety audits of langars, and timely arrangements for tents and bedding facilities for the pilgrims.

The Power Development Department was directed to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply at all lodgement centres.

DC Shopian chairs DLCC review meeting on Tobacco Control

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The District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) review meeting was held today at Mini Secretariat, Shopian to facilitate the strict enforcement of ‘Control of Tobacco Protection Act, 2003’ (COTPA) and ‘National Tobacco Control Program’ (NTCP) in the district.

The meeting, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Shishir Gupta, reviewed the measures and action taken till date towards the promotion of Tobacco free society. Officers of the health department presented various provisions of COTPA and NTCP for awareness of the stakeholder departments. They called for the conduct of enforcement drives against smoking in the public places with focus on imposing fines against the violations.

The DC directed for ensuring strict enforcement of Tobacco Control measures especially in prohibited public places including the educational and healthcare institutions.

Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra -2025

Traffic Advisory

The yatris, travelling to seek blessings of Shri Amarnath Ji, in their own/rented cars/buses or any other mode, are requested to travel in the main Yatra convoy only, starting from Bhagwati Nagar Jammu daily; in the interest of smooth and secure conduct of Shri Amarnath ji Yatra 2025.

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