

CM Omar interacts with delegations; development, community issues discussed

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 06

Several delegations called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at his residence here today, apprising him of a range of developmental and welfare-related issues concerning their respective areas and communities.

Member of Rajya Sabha Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo called on the Chief Minister along with a delegation of residents from Paddar in district Kishtwar. The delegation submitted memoranda highlighting development requirements in sectors including tourism, public works and power in the Paddar region. A delegation of Kashmiri Migrants also met the Chief Minister and presented a memorandum of demands. Former DDC Members



Pooja Thakur and Shameem Begum also called on the Chief Minister and apprised him of various issues concerning their respective areas. A delegation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), led by Abdul Ghani Teli,

called on the Chief Minister and raised issues pertaining to the welfare and development of OBC communities. A delegation from the Ambedkar Education Society, Jammu also met the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister heard

the delegations patiently and took note of the issues raised. He assured them of his administration's commitment to public welfare and said that genuine concerns and individual grievances would be addressed on merit.

Kathua hosts Buyer-Seller Meet to strengthen horticulture marketing

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The Department of Horticulture (Planning and Marketing), Jammu and Kashmir today organized a Buyer-Seller Meet themed "Connecting Farmers with Markets" here at Government Degree College for Women Kathua. The initiative aimed to strengthen market linkages and promote agri-business partnerships.

The event brought together a diverse range of stakeholders including prominent growers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), traders, exporters and agri-entrepreneurs. It provided a vibrant platform for direct interaction between buyers and sellers, facilitating better price realisation and transparency in horticulture trade.

The meet featured Business-to-Business (B2B) interactions and knowledge-sharing sessions on key topics including export potential of horticultural produce, adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and integration



with e-market platforms such as National Agriculture Market. The department reiterated its commitment towards empowering stakeholders through targeted training, capacity-building programmes and facilitation of market access at national and international levels.

The programme enabled direct interaction among farmers, FPOs and institutional buyers, besides traders from Kathua and adjoining districts including Samba, Udhampur, Reasi and Jammu, opening avenues for transparent price negotiations and long-term business opportunities.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Horticulture (Planning and Marketing), Ghulam Jeelani Zargar reiterated the government's commitment towards developing robust marketing mechanisms to strengthen linkages between growers and buyers and to build an integrated value chain in the horticulture sector.

He highlighted key initiatives under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme and Jammu and Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project, envisaging establishment of integrated pack houses, grading and sorting lines and expansion of cold chain infra-

structure to reduce post-harvest losses and improve product quality.

Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma delivered the keynote address, appreciating the department for organizing the first-ever Buyer-Seller Meet in Kathua and emphasizing the importance of strengthening market linkages for the benefit of farmers and horticulture stakeholders.

General Manager DIC Mushtaq Chaudhary and other district officers from agriculture and allied departments were also present on the occasion, besides buyers from outside the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

DC Ramban inspects Animal Husbandry Sector units established under HADP, IDDS

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Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan today conducted a spot inspection of the Animal Husbandry sector units established under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS) in the district.

Accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Showkat Hayat Mattoo, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Dr. Rajesh Arora and other concerned officers, the Deputy Commissioner visited several locations to assess the functioning, infrastructure and progress of the units set up to strengthen the dairy and livestock sector in the district.



The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the Milk Value Addition Unit at Maitra and a Dairy Farm established at Sunari, besides inspecting other units set up under the schemes. He interacted

with the beneficiaries and sought feedback regarding the implementation of the schemes and the support being provided by the concerned department.

The DC directed the Animal Husbandry Department to provide continuous technical guidance and handholding to the beneficiaries so that the units operate efficiently and achieve the intended objectives.

Ramban FPO gets Rs 25 lakh for Milk Value Addition Unit

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Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan today handed over a cheque of ₹25 lakh to Chenab Dairy Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) based at Sujmatna Hevagon, Magerkote.

The funds have been provided for the establishment of a Milk Value Addition Unit under the Dairy Development Scheme of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

The initiative aims to strengthen the dairy sector in the district by promoting value addition and enhancing income opportunities for local dairy farmers. Notably, this is the second such milk processing unit established in District Ramban under the scheme.

The unit has been sponsored by the Animal Husbandry Department with a 100 percent subsidy component under HADP. The



financial assistance includes ₹20 lakh for procurement of machinery, ₹2 lakh as working capital and ₹3 lakh for a vehicle to facilitate transportation and marketing of dairy products.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the Animal Husbandry Department in developing proper market linkages to ensure that the processed dairy products reach a wider consumer base.

der HADP will play a crucial role in strengthening the rural economy and supporting the livelihood of farmers," he noted.

Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Dr. Rajesh Arora informed that the Animal Husbandry department would also assist the FPO in developing proper market linkages to ensure that the processed dairy products reach a wider consumer base.

The Milk Value Addition Unit will process locally produced milk into value-added products such as curd, paneer and ghee, which will help increase the profitability of dairy farming in the area. The initiative is expected to benefit local dairy farmers by providing them with better prices for their produce while also creating employment opportunities in the region.

Doda admin mulls formulation of Youth Engagement Plan

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District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda Krishan Lal today chaired a meeting in the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex to discuss and formulate a Youth Engagement Plan for the district.

At the outset, the DDC reviewed the existing youth-oriented initiatives being implemented by different departments. He held a detailed discussion with the departments regarding their respective plans for organising youth engagement activities.

The concerned officers were asked to organise awareness camps and distribute pamphlets highlighting government



schemes for youth. The officers informed the chair about the youth engagement activities being conducted by their respective departments and assured that further efforts would be made to enhance youth participation across the

district. He called for organising sports activities, skill development training and career counselling sessions to actively involve young people in developmental activities.

The meeting was attended by the ADCC

Roshan Lal, CPO Manesh Kumar, GM DIC Ashfaq Khanji, DSWO Zubair Ahmed, DAHO, DSHO and other concerned officers and officials. ADC Bhandarwah, CEO BDA, SDMs and other officers attended the meeting virtually.

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In a proactive move to discuss and streamline traffic movement within main town and its adjoining areas, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat today chaired a comprehensive review meeting with the stakeholders, at DC office.

The meeting was aimed at evaluating the effectiveness of existing traffic arrangements and identifying bottlenecks that hinder the smooth movement of vehicles and commuters.

Recognizing the importance of a well-regulated transport system in the town, the DC called for a coordinated approach and solicited cooperation from all the stakeholders, adding the ultimate goal is to minimise inconvenience to the general public, commuters and local businesses/traders.

During the meeting, representatives from the Traders Union, Market Association, and Transport Association raised their concerns regarding traffic



congestion at Mehndi Kadal, Lal Chowk, Ganjipora, Court Road, Ashjipora and other places besides provision for parking places, taxi stands and util-

ities of importance. They also shared grassroots-level insights and raised the issues faced by them due to heavy traffic, roadside parking and jamming.

Power Shutdown by KPDC
SRINAGAR, MARCH 06: Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDC has informed that the Shutdown of 33 KV Baramulla-1st Kanlibagh Tapline will be observed due to which power supply to GMC, Kanlibagh, Microwave, Sangri and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 01 PM on 07 March 2026. Similarly, shutdown of 33 KV Matan Pahalgam line will be observed due to which power supply to Pahalgam, Batkoot, Aishmuqam, Saller and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 02 PM on 09 & 11 March 2026. Likewise, shutdown of 33 KV Pampore-Pulwama line will be observed due to which power supply to Kakapora, Newa, Pahoo, Nehama, Zadoora, Gudoor, Parigam and adjoining areas will be affected from 08 AM to 12 Noon on 10 & 12 March 2026.

The chair decided that a field visit will soon be conducted to get a first hand stock of the bottlenecks and other challenges. Also a robust strategy on traffic management will be put in place in consultation with all stakeholders.

Instructions were issued to the officials from MVD, Traffic Police, and MCA to explore modalities for decongesting the main town besides improving its beautification and drainage system.

On the occasion, the CEO, MCA informed that under town beautification Phase II, funds to the tune of Rs. 1 crore have been released, out of which 64 lakh stand allotted for construction of passenger sheds at multiple locations. He further informed that Rs 10 lakh have been received under CDF under which street lights will be installed particularly at the dark spots.

The meeting was also attended by the ADC (M), ACR, Tehsildar, SHO Anantnag, officials from traffic police, MVD, MCA, representatives from street vendors and other stakeholders.

DC Kupwara inaugurates Hygienic Retail Fish Sale Outlet at Handwara

KUPWARA, MARCH 06: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today inaugurated a Hygienic Retail Fish Sale Outlet at Handwara.

The inauguration was held in presence of ADC Handwara Javed Naseem Masoodi, AD Fisheries Dr. Salman Rauoof Chalkoo, LDM, Executive Engineer R&B, Lead District Manager J&K Bank Kupwara, Tehsildar Handwara, FDO Handwara and other concerned officers from the Fisheries Department and district administration.

The outlet has been established by the Department of Fisheries Kupwara in collaboration with J&K



Bank under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, marking a significant step in strengthening the district's fisheries sector. Speaking on the occasion, the DC said the outlet will serve as a dedicated, hygienic marketplace for fish farmers, ensuring

proper handling, storage, and sale of fish products. He highlighted the tremendous trout production potential of the Mawar belt, adding that the outlet will help farmers market their produce effectively in nearby markets while guaranteeing quality and hy-

giene for consumers. The DC inspected the facility and directed officials to maintain strict hygiene and monitoring standards, emphasizing that public health and consumer trust must remain top priorities. He further announced that the fish sale at the outlet will be conducted twice a week, every Tuesday and Friday, with scope to increase frequency as demand grows.

The initiative is expected to empower local fish farmers, create career opportunities for youth in fisheries, and strengthen marketing avenues, thereby supporting livelihoods and promoting sustainable growth in the sector.