

# JAMMU & KASHMIR

## Yasha reviews performance of FPOs in J&K

### Emphasizes on critical role of FPOs in developing rural economy

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, MAR 28

Commissioner Secretary Cooperatives, Yasha Mudgal today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the performance of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) registered under the Central Sector Scheme across Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Registrar Cooperatives, Mohammad Shafi Chak; Regional Director, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), Lalit Goel; Director Finance, Cooperative department; Managing Directors of Anantnag Central Cooperative Bank, Jammu Central Cooperative Bank, and Kamco Bank; representatives from SKUAST Jammu and SKUAST Kashmir; and other senior officers of the Cooperative Department.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, Yasha Mudgal emphasized on the critical role of FPOs in enhancing farmers' income, strengthening agricultural value chains, and promoting collective farming practices. She stressed on urgent need for expediting registration process of remaining FPOs, ensuring timely release of financial assistance, and providing continuous



handholding support to make these organizations sustainable and viable in the long run.

She directed the Regional Director, NCDC to create widespread awareness among the general masses, especially farmers, about the range of financial loans and other facilities available for the smooth functioning of FPO cooperatives. She assured that all necessary support will be extended to FPO cooperatives for scaling up their business operations as per the guidelines of the scheme. She further directed that capacity building programmes for all FPOs shall be organized in the coming days and all FPOs should be credit-linked at the earliest to strengthen their financial position. The Commissioner Secretary instructed all Cluster Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) to achieve the prescribed milestones without delay so that early release of

funds can be ensured by NCDC and FPOs do not face any funding constraints in their day-to-day operations. She highlighted that in view of limited government jobs for youth, FPOs have immense potential to function as powerful livelihood generation accelerators, particularly for strengthening the rural economy and contributing towards the national goals of "Viksit Bharat" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat".

The Commissioner Secretary directed the administrators of District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) to increase number of awareness programmes for boosting membership in the FPOs. She emphasized that every FPO must avail the first tranche of the Equity Grant at the earliest for ensuring smooth functioning. She further instructed all CBBOs to ensure better coordination among various stakeholders, in-

cluding line departments, implementing agencies, and financial institutions, so that the desired objectives of the Central Sector Scheme are achieved within the stipulated timelines.

During the meeting, Regional Director, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) gave a detailed presentation on the status of FPOs promoted in J&K through various Cluster Based Business Organizations (CBBOs) including SKUAST Jammu and SKUAST Kashmir, JKDCF, District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs), and YMC.

## Javid Dar inaugurates Sub-Divisional Veterinary Hospital at R S Pura

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, MAR 28

In a significant move to strengthen the livestock healthcare and support the farming community, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today inaugurated the Sub-Divisional Veterinary Hospital at Ranbir Singh Pura (R.S. Pura).

The newly established facility is set to enhance access to quality veterinary services for the farmers across R.S. Pura, Suchetgarh and adjoining areas, thereby contributing to improved livestock productivity and rural livelihoods.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by MLA Suchetgarh, Professor Gharu Ram Bhagat; Director Animal Husbandry Jammu, Sanjay Gupta; Director Agriculture Jammu, Anil Gupta; Director Horticulture Jammu, Gul Syed; SDM R.S. Pura, Anuradha Thakur, along with other senior officers, local representatives and larger gathering.



The Minister described the hospital as a vital asset dedicated to the farming community, equipped to provide comprehensive healthcare services for bovine animals as well as pets. He emphasized that the facility will ensure timely treatment, preventive care and better disease management for livestock.

Javid Ahmad Dar directed the concerned officers to ensure that all services and facilities are made fully functional, enabling the farmers to access quality veterinary care at their doorsteps.

Highlighting the government's focus on holistic agricultural growth, the

Minister said that 29 schemes under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) are being implemented to transform the agriculture and allied sectors. He termed agriculture a noble and sustainable profession, urging the youth to take it up as a viable career option and become job creators. He further underscored that the government is providing substantial subsidized financial assistance to support establishment of agriculture-based enterprises.

Emphasizing the importance of research and data-driven planning, the Minister stated that students, scholars and professionals

are being encouraged to actively engage with rural communities, visit villages and panchayats and collect field-level data to strengthen policy formulation and improve outcomes in agriculture and allied sectors.

The Minister further highlighted the vast potential of the horticulture sector, noting that new varieties of fruit crops are gaining ground, thereby opening new avenues for farmers' income enhancement. He reiterated that Jammu and Kashmir provides a conducive and supportive ecosystem for cultivation of diverse crops.

## SMVDU organizes Collective Singing of Vande Maatram under 150-Year Commemoration



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, MAR 28

NSS SMVDU organized a collective singing event as part of Phase 3 of the 150-year commemoration of "Vande Maatram". The event aimed to promote a sense of national pride and cultural awareness among the university community.

The programme was conducted in the esteemed presence of Vice Chancellor, Professor Pragati Kumar, Dean Student Welfare Prof. R. K. Mishra, Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Balbir Singh, NSS Programme Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar. Students, faculty members, and staff participated in the event and rendered "Vande Maatram" in unison. Prof.

Pragati Kumar discussed the importance of Vande Maatram in India's Independence struggle and its relevance in today's context. NSS volunteer Pratibha Singh sang a full 3 minutes Vande Maatram in front of the students before the start of the collective singing. The initiative reflected the university's commitment to fostering cultural values

and encouraging collective participation in activities of national importance. The event concluded successfully, leaving a sense of unity and shared responsibility among the participants. Around 100 students participated in the collective singing event. NSS volunteers Pravallika and Tanushka Pandotra coordinated the whole event.

## Budget Session-2026: Calling Attention Motion

### Rs. 27.245 lakh disbursed among fire victims in Eidgah constituency: Dy CM

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, MAR 28

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today said that about Rs. 27.245 lakh have been disbursed among the fire affected families in Eidgah constituency during 2024-25 and 2025-26 financial years.

While replying to the calling attention moved by Legislator Mubarak Gul in the Legislative Assembly, the Deputy Chief Minister said that a total 14 Fire incidents have been reported in Eidgah constituency in last two years.

He said that responding promptly, immediate relief and rescue measures were



initiated by the District Administration preventing any further loss.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the relief assistance, admissible under

SDRF norms, has been provided to the fire victims from time to time out of the funds available under SDRF. He added that during 2024-25 and 2025-26, in fire incidents in Eidgah Constituency, relief assistance was provided to 20 fully damaged houses (21.30 lakh each), 15 partially damaged houses (76,500 each), 3 fully damaged huts (78,000 each) and 1 damaged cowshed (73,000).

"The recent Fire incident cases of the year 2026 are under active consideration and eligible persons shall be provided relief assistance on priority as per SDRF norms," he added.

## GMC Udhampur delivering efficient services under prescribed norms: Health Minister

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, MAR 28

Minister for Health and Medical Education Sakeena Itoo today informed the House that the government Medical College (GMC) and Associated Hospital Udhampur is functioning in conformity with the prescribed norms and standards and continues to provide efficient healthcare services to the public.

The Minister said this in reply to the Calling Attention motion moved by Pawan Kumar Gupta in the Legislative Assembly today.

He added that all essential departments, including Out-Patient Department (OPD), In-Patient Department (IPD), Emergency Services, and diagnostic facilities, are fully functional and adequately catering to the healthcare requirements of the region.

Regarding the incident reported on the night of 23rd January, 2026 in the Casualty/Emergency Section of Associated Hospital, Udhampur, the Minister said that an Internal In-



quiry Committee was constituted forthwith to ascertain the factual position and the circumstances surrounding the occurrence of this unfortunate incident. She added that the Committee has observed that the patient had either expired prior to arrival or succumbed immediately upon being brought to the hospital and the formal declaration of death was made subsequently in view of the presence of attendants/relatives.

The Minister also said that the findings of the Inquiry Committee established that the doctors and medical staff on duty responded promptly and discharged their professional responsibilities in accordance with the established medical protocols under the circumstances.

She further said that in view of the incident and the circulation of related videos on social media platforms, the government appointed Professor Ashutosh Gupta,

Principal, Government Medical College, Jammu, as the Inquiry Officer to conduct a comprehensive probe into the sequence of events, including administrative, security and institutional aspects.

The Minister reiterated the commitment of government to ensure efficient and accountable functioning of Government Medical Colleges and Associated Hospitals across the Union Territory, while upholding the highest standards of patient care, institutional discipline and professional conduct. She added that necessary directions have been issued to the concerned authorities to ensure orderly functioning of emergency services and effective coordination in handling such situations.

The Minister also acknowledged the important role of public representatives in raising the matters of public concern. She expressed optimism that all the stakeholders will act in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect to ensure the smooth functioning of healthcare institutions in the larger public interest.

## Wildlife deptt taking measures to tackle human-wild boar conflict: Javed Rana

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, MAR 28

Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment, Javed Ahmad Rana, today informed that the Department of Wildlife Protection has taken several measures to effectively and promptly mitigate human-wild boar conflict in and around Dachigam National Park, including New Theed village.

The Minister was replying to a Calling Attention Motion moved by Salman Ali Sagar on behalf of Ali Mohammad Sagar in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister stated that, as part of mitigation efforts, a cement concrete toe wall has been constructed along the existing chain-link fencing over an approximate length of 3 kilometre to prevent wild boars from burrowing beneath the fence. He added that regular anti-plastic and sanitation drives are being conducted within and around Dachigam National Park to remove waste that may attract wild boars.

He further informed that the Dachigam Control Room is functioning round the clock to respond to incidents of wild boar sightings outside the park.

The Minister said that due to effective management of the human-wild



boar conflict, no human injuries have been reported so far in and around Dachigam National Park, including New Theed village.

He added that regular advisories and awareness programmes are being conducted in fringe villages, particularly for the farming communities. In addition, regular patrolling is being carried out and equipment such as noise guns and firecrackers are used, whenever required, to deter wild boars from entering affected villages.

The reply further stated that the wild boar (Sus scrofa) is an alien invasive species in the Kashmir habitat in general and Dachigam National Park in particular and was introduced during the reign of Maharaja Gulab Singh (1846-1857) for hunting purposes.

## WSS Magam Town Project to strengthen water supply: Govt

JAMMU, MARCH 28: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology, Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana, today informed the Legislative Assembly that the government has undertaken WSS Magam Town project under AMRUT 2.0 to augment portable water in Magam and other adjoining areas.

The Minister was replying to a Calling Attention Motion moved by legislator Dr Shafi Ahmad Wani.

In his reply, the Minister said that the project has been taken up for extension and strengthening of the existing intake headworks at an approved cost of ₹4.66 crore.

He informed that ₹2.17 crore has been released so far, of which, an expenditure of ₹0.77 crore has been incurred. The project is presently under execution and is expected to ensure sustainable discharge during low-flow periods.

The Minister further stated that an extension of the off-take point by 1.40 km in the nallah was initially proposed. However, in view of concerns raised by the residents of the Tangmarg area, the matter was referred to the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, for resolution.

He added that it was unanimously decided to allow an extension of 500 metres to safeguard the interests of both the regions. This decision has significantly improved the discharge availability for the water supply scheme.