

CM Omar meets MLAs to discuss developmental, public welfare issues

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 18

Several Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Civil Secretariat here and discussed key developmental matters and public welfare issues concerning their respective constituencies.

MLA Baramulla Javid Baigh, MLA Rajpora Ghulam Mohi Uddin Mir, MLA Poonch-Haveli Ajaz Ahmad Jan and MLA Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat met the Chief Minister and apprised him of various issues and developmental priorities of their respective constituencies.

The Chief Minister gave a



patient hearing to the visiting legislators and assured them that all genuine issues

raised by them concerning their constituencies would be addressed on priority, in

accordance with the applicable rules and available resources.

Javid Dar seeks greater ICAR focus on J&K specific agricultural research, innovation

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 18: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today participated in the 97th Annual General Meeting of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in New Delhi.

Speaking at the meeting, Javid Dar called for greater focus on J&K-specific agricultural research and innovation, keeping in view the Union Territory's unique agro-climatic conditions, fragile ecosystems and potential in agriculture, horticulture and allied sectors.

He proposed establishment of a State Council for Agricultural Research in J&K to coordinate research priorities and strengthen convergence among ICAR institutions, agricultural universities, government departments, scientists, industry and farmers.

Highlighting J&K's research capabilities, the Minister noted that SKUAST-Jammu and SKUAST-Kashmir have secured 143 patents over the past four years. He stressed the need to translate such scientific potential into



field-level solutions.

Javid Dar identified climate-resilient horticulture as a key research priority, with emphasis on disease-free and true-to-type planting material, corn multiplication, climate-resilient saffron, precision irrigation, mechanisation, quality testing, value addition, branding and export-oriented production. He also called for a dynamic, scientific and region-specific plant quar-

antine system, based on species- and host-specific Pest Risk Analysis, biological Post-Entry Quarantine, molecular indexing and process-based phytosanitary certification.

The Minister further sought stronger research and innovation in animal husbandry, dairy, fisheries, post-harvest management, processing and value addition. He stressed that agricultural research should ul-

timately deliver higher productivity, lower input costs, climate resilience, better market access and increased farmers' incomes.

He called for stronger collaboration between ICAR, J&K's agricultural universities, government departments, scientists, industry and farmers to ensure that research remains closely aligned with the specific needs of the Union Territory.

DC Anantnag reviews arrangements for Chhari Mubarak of SANJY-2026

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 18: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, (Yatra Officer Pahalgam Axis), Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, today chaired a comprehensive meeting at DC Office, to review the arrangements for Chhari Mubarak of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY)-2026.

The meeting was attended by SSP Anantnag, Amod Ashok Nagpure, Commandant 8th JKAP, Chief Executive Officer PDA, Camp Directors of Nunwan Base Camp, Chandanwari, Sheshnag and Panjarni Stations, SDM Pahalgam, besides representatives of the Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board (SASB) and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the arrangements for the smooth and safe passage of Chhari Mubarak which is



expected to leave Srinagar on 22nd August and reach the Holy Cave on August 28, after halting at various locations en route, were re-

viewed in detail.

It was informed that the Chhari Mubarak will participate in religious ceremonies at various temples,

including the Shiv Temple at Bijbehara, Martand-Tirth Mattan and Gourishankar Temple, Pahalgam.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned officers to ensure that all necessary arrangements and essential facilities including firewood, food, pooja samagri, drinking water, accommodation and sanitation remain available throughout the journey of Chhari Mubarak. He emphasized the need for close coordination among all concerned departments and directed the officers to remain vigilant and ensure that all arrangements are put in place well in advance up to the Holy Cave.

Notably, special orders have been issued to designated officers for the successful conduct of the journey.

ADDC Shopian chairs review meeting on JJM 2.0 compliance, Har Ghar Jal Certification

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 18: A meeting was held today at the Mini Secretariat, Shopian, under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone to review the mandatory compliance under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0.

The ADDC directed the concerned officers to expedite the certification process



for all eligible villages without delay.

He further instructed officials to strictly review on-

going works in areas where progress has been relatively slow to ensure timely completion.

The meeting was informed that all instructions pertaining to JJM 2.0 have been fully complied with. Giving a progress report on the 'Har Ghar Jal' certification, the chair was further informed that out of 87 reported Har Ghar Jal villages in the district, 55 villages have been successfully certified so far, while 5 villages are currently pending approval at the State Level.

Rather reviews Pakherpora Urs arrangements, calls for advance preparedness

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today chaired a meeting to review arrangements for the forthcoming Urs of Hazrat Sultan Ali Aali Balkhi (RA) at Pakherpora, with a focus on ensuring adequate civic amenities, uninterrupted essential services, effective crowd management and hassle-free facilities for devotees.

The Speaker took a detailed review of the arrangements being put in place by various departments. He issued a series of directions for ensuring coordinated and timely execution of all necessary measures during the Urs period. He stressed the need for advance preparedness and close inter-departmental coordination, particularly in view of the large number of devotees expected to visit the shrine during the Urs.

The Speaker directed the concerned authorities to ensure sufficient availability of potable water in and around the shrine and adjoining areas. He called for installation of temporary drinking water points, if required and directed that round-the-clock water availability be ensured in washrooms for the devotees.

He also directed that water tankers be kept readily available for deployment in case of any emergency or shortage.

Reviewing electricity and lighting arrangements, Rather directed the concerned authorities to ensure uninterrupted power supply



throughout the Urs celebrations. He also called for adequate lighting arrangements around the shrine and its surroundings.

On health and medical preparedness, the Speaker directed the Health Department to deploy medical teams and first-aid stations within the shrine premises to attend to any medical emergency. He called for ensuring the availability of ambulances and other emergency medical services on the spot besides maintaining adequate stocks of essential medicines and medical supplies.

With regard to Food and Civil Supplies, Rather directed the concerned department to ensure timely distribution of ration among the residents of Pakherpora. He also called for examining the requirement of an additional ration quota in view of the anticipated increase

in local requirements during the Urs period.

The Speaker gave specific directions regarding sanitation and cleanliness, calling for adequate deployment of toilets, waste bins and sanitation staff at appropriate locations. He stressed for regular cleaning, proper segregation and timely disposal of waste to maintain hygienic conditions in and around the shrine and congregation areas.

Reviewing market arrangements, Rather directed the concerned authorities to conduct regular inspections of shops and temporary stalls operating during the Urs. He emphasized strict checking of food hygiene, prices, weights and measures to ensure that devotees are provided quality food items and are protected against overcharging and other malpractices.

Regarding the transport

and traffic management, the Speaker directed the concerned agencies to ensure adequate availability of public transport and identify designated parking and drop-off/pick-up points for the convenience of devotees. He also called for effective traffic regulation, including diversions wherever necessary, while ensuring unhindered access for ambulances and other emergency vehicles.

The Speaker also emphasized that inter-departmental coordination would be crucial for successful conduct of the Urs and directed all concerned departments to clearly define department-wise responsibilities.

Rather stressed that all concerned departments must work in close coordination and maintain round-the-clock readiness throughout the Urs period to ensure that devotees, local residents and visitors are provided with safe, clean, convenient and hassle-free facilities.

Senior officers of the concerned departments were present in the meeting.

Earlier, Speaker kick-started the upgradation and blacktopping works of the inner link roads at Takiya Hayatpora, being executed at an estimated cost of ₹40 lakh.

Speaking on the occasion, the Speaker said that better road connectivity is a key priority of the government, as well-maintained roads play a vital role in improving the quality of life of people and facilitating access to education, healthcare, markets and other essential services.

DC Kulgam inaugurates Aadhaar Seva Kendra to streamline Aadhaar services delivery

KULGAM, AUGUST 18: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam today inaugurated a dedicated Aadhaar Seva Kendra (ASK) at the Kulgam, near Grid Station.

Seva Kendra has been established by UIDAI to provide hassle-free, reliable, and transparent Aadhaar-related services to residents of Kulgam.

The Kendra will function as a one-stop facility for all Aadhaar services including new aadhaar enrolment, mandatory biometric updates, demographic updates like name, address, date of birth, gender, mobile number, and email ID corrections, biometric updates like fingerprints, iris, and photograph updates, Aadhaar print / re-print, Aadhaar download and e-Aadhaar, lock / unlock biometrics and Aadhaar authentication Services and on-spot grievance redressal.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said the inauguration of the ASK is aimed at easing access to Aadhaar services and reducing the burden on Common Service Centres and banks in the



district while also ensuring service delivery at approved affordable rates.

The new Kendra shall be handy in improving accessibility, ensure faster service delivery, enhanced trans-

parency, support to welfare delivery and promoting digital empowerment, the DC added.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Shoaib Mohammad Khan,

Project Manager, UIDAI; Peer Mubashir Shah, Cluster Manager, J&K; and Danishwar Hamid, Operations Manager, Kulgam, besides other officials and concerned persons.

ADC Sopore reviews progress of Agri-Stack Work in several Tehsils

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Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, Dr. S.A. Raina, today took stock of the ongoing AgriStack work in Tehsils Dangi-wacha, Dangerpora and Dangi-wacha, reviewing the progress being made towards completing the exercise within the stipulated timeline.

During the visit, the ADC interacted with the concerned field staff and officials engaged in the exercise and took detailed feedback regarding the



ground-level progress, particularly the challenges being faced during the course of the work.

The ADC emphasized that AgriStack is an important

initiative aimed at strengthening the digital agricultural ecosystem and ensuring accurate and comprehensive agricultural data.

He directed the con-

cerned officials and field functionaries to work in close coordination and make all possible efforts to achieve the assigned targets within the given timeframe.

While acknowledging the various challenges being encountered at the field level, the ADC stressed the need for a proactive and coordinated approach, timely resolution of bottlenecks and regular monitoring of progress.

Later, the ADC visited Government Higher Secondary School Dangi-wacha and reviewed the facilities available for the students at the institute.