

## **Sheep Husbandry Department Kargil Launches Integrated Wool Development Programme (IWDP) in Zanskar**

Zanskar, August 9, 2025: In a significant step toward promoting sustainable wool production and enhancing rural livelihoods, Sheep Husbandry Department, Kargil, officially launched the Integrated Wool Development Programme (IWDP) for the year 2025–26, under the aegis of the Central Wool Development Board, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, in the Zanskar Subdivision today. The event was organized in the form of a grand Sheep Show-cum-Seminar, which witnessed enthusiastic participation from breeders, officials, and public representatives.

The event was inaugurated by Er. Punchok Tashi, Hon'ble Executive Councilor, LAHDC Kargil, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Dr. Iftikhar Hussain, Director, Sheep Husbandry Department, UT Ladakh, graced as the Guest of Honour and Mohammad Hassan Sub Divisional Magistrate as special guest.

In the opening remarks, Dr Zakir Hussain, Officer Incharge Pashmina Goat Farm Khangral welcomed the guests. Dr Niyaz Ul Hasnain, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, LAHDC Kargil, highlighted the departmental activities like recent sanctioning of 05 community shelter sheds and 5 Rarzis under SDP in Zanskar.

More than 250 sheep breeders from various villages of Zanskar Subdivision took part in the event, highlighting the region's strong connection to traditional sheep farming and wool production. The programme focused on strengthening the wool value chain by integrating modern techniques, tools, and training into traditional practices.

Components of the IWDP Programme Launched were machine sheep shearing training, distribution of wool processing tools, and recognition of outstanding breeders.

As part of the initiative to motivate and encourage best practices in livestock rearing, awards were presented to outstanding breeders. Their dedication and efforts toward sheep rearing were publicly recognized, setting a positive example for other farmers.

Addressing the gathering, Er. Punchok Tashi appreciated the proactive approach of the Sheep Husbandry Department in reaching remote areas like Zanskar. He stressed the importance of integrating modern tools and scientific methods with local knowledge to enhance wool quality and market value. He also assured to provide full cooperation and support from LAHDC Kargil to develop the ancestral Tradition of Nambu/Frug on modern and scientific way.

Dr. Iftikhar Hussain, Director, Sheep Husbandry UT Ladakh, emphasized the department's commitment to supporting farmers through technical training, infrastructure support, and market linkages. He assured continued departmental efforts toward improving the livelihood of progressive breeders, by providing more community shelter sheds, and Rarzi under SDP.

At last Dr Zakir thanked all dignitaries, farmers, Goba/Lambardars of villages, Media, SHGs who supported to make the occasion successful.



