



## Eurasian Otters in Kashmir Valley

**Source:** [BL](#)

**Eurasian otters** have been spotted in [Gurez Valley](#) (Kashmir) with the **first live documentation in 25 years.**

- It was spotted feasting on fish in the [Kishanganga River](#) (Originating from **Krishansar lake**, Ganderbal district (J&K)).
  - The river flows northwards through the **Tulail and Gurez Valleys** of Kashmir before entering PoK.
- **About Eurasian Otters:**
  - **About:** Otters are members of the **mammalian family** called ***Mustelidae*** and inhabit both **marine and freshwater**.
    - In J&K, they are locally known as **Vodur** and help **maintain aquatic ecosystem health**.
    - Otters are mainly **active around dawn and dusk** (crepuscular).
  - **Habitat:** Found in the **Himalayas, northeast India, and [Western Ghats](#)**.
  - **Carnivorous Diet:** Feeds on **fish, crustaceans, amphibians**, and sometimes **reptiles, birds, eggs, insects, and worms**.
  - **Conservation Status:** Near threatened ([IUCN](#)), Schedule I ([Wildlife Protection Act, 1972](#)), Appendix I ([CITES](#)).
  - **Other Otter Species in India:** Smooth-coated Otter (throughout India), and Small-clawed Otter (Himalayas and southern India).

**Read More:** [Fishing Cat and Otters](#)

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