

## SKUAST-K launches mushroom farming, digital soil mapping training at KV Srinagar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 05

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KV) Srinagar, SKUAST-Kashmir in collaboration with 41 Battalion BSF, launched two Skill Development Certificate Course on Hi-Tech Mushroom Farming and Digital Soil Mapping for precision Agriculture at KV Srinagar Campus today.

The Training Course was inaugurated by Prof Nazir A Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-Kashmir in presence of Prof. R.H. Kanth (Director Extension), Rifat Aftab Qureshi (Additional District Development Commissioner Srinagar) and Sanjai K. Singh (Commandant 41 Bn BSF Humama) who presided as the Guests of honour.

The certificate course is being co-hosted by 41Bn BSF and with technical support by MRTC, FOH SKUAST-K and IMDC Directorate of Agriculture Production, Lal Mandi.

In his inaugural address, the Vice Chancellor, exhorted the organisers and the participating youth to make said skill course purposeful and impact oriented to establish their commercial mushroom enterprises for cultivation of



high value medicinal mushroom strains to ensure their livelihood and economic security.

Prof. Ganai advised the PI. MRTC to submit a proposal for MoU with other Countries on Supply and Value Chain system on mushroom cultivation.

The Director Extension in her remarks stress on the value addition of the mushroom products and their subsequent linkage with IBPR, SKUAST-K for branding and marketing of the products for higher market prices.

The Vice Chancellor had a word of appraisal for the KV Team led by Dr. Simnani in bolstering the efforts to collaborate and

strengthening the proactive linkage with all stakeholders and defence forces in particular besides up-scaling the KV activities.

Prof. Shamim A. Simnani, Head KV Srinagar, outlined the program's objective to nurture and foster entrepreneurial skills among the youth in line with the PM's Slogan of Skilling of Next Gen. is a national need and foundation of Atmanirbhar Bharat to bridge the gap between industry demand and skill requirement so as to reduce dependence on govt. jobs and to make youth self-reliant and self-empowered. On the occasion, Custom Hiring Farm Machinery Centre of the

Kendra established under HADP Project-09 was also inaugurated by Vice Chancellor along with the other dignitaries.

Release of a booklet titled "Media Led Agriculture Extension Outreach Journey of the KV Srinagar by Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K was the highlight of the event.

The event was attended by Rajesh K. Panday (Dy. CO 41 Bn), Dr. I.A. Mir, Dr. Hasseb ur Rehman, Dr. Showket, Dr. Owais, the coordinators of the programme, officers from Deptt. of Agriculture Production besides expert resource persons from IMDC & MRTC, representatives from HADP P. No: 09.

## Budget Session 2026: J&K Assembly passes Motion of Thanks on LG's address

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 05: Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on Thursday adopted the Motion of Thanks on the Lieutenant Governor's address, delivered on February 2 in the Legislative Assembly.

The Motion of Thanks was moved by MLA Showkat Hussain Ganie and seconded by MLA Dr. Rameshwar Singh.

Leader of Opposition in the House, Sunil Kumar Sharma, while participating in the discussion on the Motion of Thanks, said that it is the collective duty of all members to work for the progress and development of people of Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized that people have high expectations from the government and these aspirations must be respected and addressed sincerely.

Participating in the discussion, Legislator Engineer Khurshed Ahmed appreciated the government's

development works across various sectors. He also urged the government to allocate five marlas of land to flood victims.

Legislator, Mir Saifullah, while speaking on Motion, highlighted various achievements of the Government.

Legislator, Rajiv Jasrotia in his speech raised various issues of public importance. He also raised issue of daily wagers and compensation to the families of flood victims, besides fund allocation to the Legislators.

Participating in the debate, Legislator, Sajjad Gani Lone raised issues concerning the youth. He spoke about wide range of issues including reservation and unemployment, saying that youth of J&K are suffering due to unemployment and reservation.

Speaking on the Motion of Thanks, Legislator, Nazir Ahmad Khan (

Gurezi) highlighted various initiatives of government which led to development of Jammu and Kashmir. He remarked that people of Jammu and Kashmir have given lot of sacrifices for the sake and sovereignty of the country.

Legislator, Shabir Ahmad Kullay in his address, urged the government to allocate more funds to horticulture sector in budget. He also asked for snow clearance from the roads in higher region of his constituency.

While participating in the debate, Legislator, Pawan Kumar Gupta raised the issues of unemployment and timely filling up of vacant post in government departments. He urged the government to set up two skill development centres besides revising the minimum wages of the daily wagers and contractual employees.

Speaking in support of

Motion, Legislator Tanvir Sadiq said that the present government has amplified the developmental activities across Jammu and Kashmir, including in his constituency. He also appreciated the government for restoration of Darbar Move, adding that this step has boosted economic activities in Jammu city. He asserted that no discrimination was made in allocation of funds provided to the Legislators.

Participating in the debate, Legislator, Tariq Hamed Karra urged the government for rationalization of reservation for the benefit of youth.

Legislator, Khurshed Ahmed Sheikh raised the issue of cabinet expansion. He also highlighted the long pending demand for compassionate appointments, urging the government to take concrete steps to provide relief to the deserving families.

## Disposal of PMEGP, JKREGP cases reviewed at Bankers meeting convened by KVIB

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 05

Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (JK-KVIB) today convened Bankers meet here at Jawahar Lal Nehru, Udhayog Bhawan.

The meeting was presided over by Secretary Dr. Basharat Hussain and attended by RSETI Directors, Lead District Managers, Senior Officers from SBI, J&K Bank, JK Grameen Bank and J&K KVIB, among others.

The meeting was informed that 2889 units were sanctioned under PMEGP with the Margin Money outlay of Rs. 5987.55 lakh, creating employment opportunities for 23112 individuals. Similarly, as many as 428 units were sanctioned under JKREGP with the Margin Money outlay of Rs. 1162.01 lakh, creating employment opportunities for 2568 persons.



Speaking at the meeting, the Secretary laid emphasis on adopting humane approach while dealing with the processing of the cases to ease the avenues of employment for youth.

While deliberating on the participation of the Banks in advancing the loans, the Secretary/CEO called for equal sharing of sanctioned cases. The Banks assured to clear all pending cases by 15th February 2026.



## SC, ST, OBC Groups demand NSA action against threat-mongers, back UGC Equity Regulations 2026

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 05

In a heavily attended Press conference of Joint Action Committee of Reserved Categories of Jammu & Kashmir, wherein; more than three dozen associations of SC, ST, OBCs & Religious Minorities participated, unanimously supported the provisions of UGC Equity Regulations 2026 and with loud voice condemned self-styled leaders of few so called upper caste associations for openly issuing and encouraging murdering SC, ST, OBCs and preferring to be booked under 302 of IPC instead of getting arrested after violation of provisions of University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026. It clearly indicates that these gundas elements are provoking the masses for civil war.

The event was attended by Rajesh K. Panday (Dy. CO 41 Bn), Dr. I.A. Mir, Dr. Hasseb ur Rehman, Dr. Showket, Dr. Owais, the coordinators of the programme, officers from Deptt. of Agriculture Production besides expert resource persons from IMDC & MRTC, representatives from HADP P. No: 09.



casteist forces.

Prof. G.L Thapa (Working President JKRCCEA), said that every time there is some law made for safeguarding interests of SC, ST, OBCs, few amongst upper caste without going into basic intent of such law start agitating to show their social, political and financial hegemony. It was seen during implementation of SCST Prevention of Atrocities Act and now again they have started drum beating without understanding the provisions of the Act. The University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026, commonly referred to as the UGC Equity Regulations, 2026 or the Anti-Discrimination Rules, 2026, in India is aimed at addressing discrimination within higher education institutions (HEIs). The Act is already in place since 2012 for SC, ST, OBCs and modifications now covers

EWS, Physically handicapped, and linguistic minorities also. The UGC Regulation 2026 is notified in alignment with the National Education Policy ('NEP') 2020, which identifies full equity and inclusion as a foundational pillar of education reforms.

The provisions prioritize protection of SC, ST, OBC, EWS and Persons with Disabilities ('PwD'), and aim to promote full equity and inclusion among all stakeholders in higher education institutions.

Mohinder Bhagat (President Bhagat Mahasabha), while further elaborating, said that the way there are atrocities on SCSTs throughout the country, it looks as if country is heading towards civil war. If SCST Prevention of Atrocities Act and now the UGC Equity Regulations 2026 are implemented in letter and spirit, the incidence of Rohith Vemula, Payal Tadvi, senior IPS Officer V. Puran

Kumar and even the incidence of institutional murder of Professor Chander Shekhar in Jammu University can be prevented in future. But unfortunately people from the upper caste who cannot even spell the full form of UGC Equity Act started criticizing it by given caste angle to such laws that can bring equality in Hindu Samaj. Such elements are not only anti-national but are propagators of casteism which is the biggest curse. We warn all these elements and tell them that we are ready for everything; these elements can choose their preferred method of fight. We are for equality and they are for inequality, we are 85% in number and they are only 15%; let us see who wins.

Sham Basson (President, Dalit Chetna Manch), while binding up said that the Equal Opportunity Centre ('EOC') in institutions of higher education, the campus body shall ensure fairness, inclusion, and equal opportunities for all students and staff while addressing discrimination issues. The members of Equity committee shall be senior faculty, Non-teaching staff, Civil society experts, Student representatives, Members of disadvantaged groups, including women and PwD. This is beyond imagination how it is going to be discriminatory for upper castes.

## 2-day Dogri Poetry Festival concludes at Jammu

**Sahitya Akademi, JKAACL reaffirm commitment to promotion**

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 05

The two-day Dogri Poetry Festival, organised by the Sahitya Akademi under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), concluded today at the Writers' Club- Sehgal Hall on a highly enriching literary note.

The concluding day featured a series of literary sessions reflecting the depth, diversity and vibrancy of Dogri literature. The third session was chaired by eminent writer Shivdev Singh Sushil, during which poets Nitish Devseeman, Rakesh Verma, Sarita Khajuria and Sushma Rani Rajput presented their poetic compositions. Their recitations were warmly appreciated by the audience and added



to the literary fervour of the festival.

A special session titled "Through My Window" followed, wherein noted Dogri writer Krishan Sharma delivered an insightful talk on the life and literary contributions of legendary Dogri writer Chhatrapal. He highlighted Chhatrapal's enduring influence and invaluable contribution to the enrichment of Dogri literature.

The concluding day witnessed enthusiastic participation from writers, scholars, students and literature lovers representing various languages, thereby reinforcing the festival's objective of promoting Dogri language and literature.

The successful conclusion of the Dogri Poetry Festival reaffirmed the commitment of Sahitya Akademi and JKAACL towards nurturing and preserving the rich literary heritage of the region.

The proceedings were conducted by Padamshree Mohan Singh, while the vote of thanks was presented by Additional Secretary JKAACL, Lal Chand.

## DDC reviews progress of District Capex Budget, Development Schemes in Poonch

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 05

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the physical and financial progress under the District Capex Budget 2025-26, along with Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and UT Sector Schemes.

At the outset, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Shakeel Ahmed Malik presented a detailed overview of the district and UT Capex schemes through a PowerPoint presentation.

The DDC conducted a sector-wise review of ongoing and upcoming developmental works across the district. He inquired about



the status of development works under District Capex plan and central schemes.

Special emphasis was laid on expediting the tendering and allotment process, with the DDC directing officers to avoid delays. The Executive Engineers informed the chair about executed, ongoing and completed works in their respective departments.

Emphasizing timely execution, the DDC instructed all departments and executing agencies to accelerate the pace of work and ensure completion of projects within stipulated timelines. The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Shama Un Ahmed, ACD, Shakeel Ahmed Malik, ACP, Rakesh Sharma, PO-IWMP, Executive Engineer REW, BDOs and other concerned officers and executive engineers.