

CSIR-IIIM celebrates National Science Day

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 28

CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM) Jammu, celebrated National Science Day with great enthusiasm and a spirit of discovery and innovation on its campus, bringing together scientists, research scholars, students and innovators.

The day is observed to commemorate the discovery of Nobel Laureate C. V. Raman.

The daylong event was organised under the theme "Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat," reflecting the institute's commitment to strengthening scientific temper and advancing innovation in alignment with the vision of Viksit Bharat-2047.

The event was graced by Dr. Madhu Dikshit, JC Bose National Fellow, Distinguished Scientist Chair (Ministry of AYUSH), National Science Chair of ANRF and former Director of CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow as the chief guest. Delivering the National Science Day Lecture entitled "Harnessing Women's Potential



for Scientific Growth", Dr. Dikshit expressed her gratitude for being part of the celebration and congratulated CSIR-IIIM for its contributions to national development, including its leadership in the Aroma Mission and integrative healthcare research.

Speaking on the theme of Women in Science, she highlighted that women constitute nearly 43 percent of India's STEM students, one of the highest proportions globally. However, she noted that representation declines at advanced research and leadership levels due to social and structural barriers.

She emphasized the need for mentorship, institu-

tional support, exposure to conferences and leadership opportunities to bridge this gap. Diversity in science, she said, leads to broader perspectives and innovative solutions. Citing examples from the COVID-19 pandemic, she underlined how collaborative and inclusive scientific efforts can effectively address national challenges.

Dr. Dikshit encouraged students to pursue science with passion and resilience, reminding them that determination and confidence are essential for success. She concluded with a call to unlock the full potential of women in STEM to accelerate innovation, economic growth and India's global

scientific competitiveness.

Earlier, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM in his welcome address, described the occasion as a moment to honour the discovery of a brilliant Indian Physicist Sir C.V. Raman for the ground breaking discovery of the "Raman Effect."

A total of 230 students attended laboratory visits, witnessing ongoing research in natural products, medicinal chemistry, biotechnology and drug discovery.

The programme included a Science Model Exhibition Competition, Quiz Competition, Poster Presentation and Extempore Competition.

HPV vaccination drive launched in Kathua

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A district-wide Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination drive was launched today from Government Medical College Kathua to protect adolescent girls against cervical cancer caused by HPV.

The campaign is being implemented by the District Health Department in coordination with the School Education and other allied departments.

Member Legislative Assembly Kathua, Dr. Bharat Bhushan and Deputy Commissioner, Rajesh Sharma inaugurated the drive and flagged off the phased immunization campaign across the district.

The MLA highlighted the importance of preventive healthcare and awareness in reducing the incidence of life-threatening diseases. He said that cervical cancer remains a major health concern among women and emphasized that timely vaccination is a safe

and effective preventive measure.

The DC reiterated the district administration's commitment towards strengthening public health initiatives and informed that the vaccination drive will be conducted in a phased manner across 27 designated centres in the district. He directed the concerned officers to ensure strict adherence to cold chain protocols, effective awareness generation and close inter-departmental coordination for achiev-

ing cent percent target coverage. He called upon parents, teachers and community leaders to actively support the campaign to ensure maximum coverage.

The Chief Medical Officer Dr Vijay Raina informed that the vaccination drive would target girls in the eligible age group as per Government of India guidelines and assured that adequate arrangements have been put in place for smooth implementation of the programme.

Dir Agri reviews progress of Digital Crop Survey

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Director Agriculture Jammu, Anil Gupta today reviewed the progress of the ongoing Digital Crop Survey during a field visit to Village Ladori, Panchayat Nagbani Flora, Sub Division Marh.

A live demonstration of the survey process was conducted. He assessed the on-ground implementation of the survey and interacted with field functionaries to ensure that data collection is being carried out in accordance with the prescribed guidelines and within the stipulated timeline.

The Director was accompanied by Sanjay Anand, Joint Director Agriculture (Extension); Manohar Lal



Sharma, Chief Agriculture Officer Jammu; Krishan Kant, Regional Level SMS; Rajeev Katoch, District Level SMS; Manu Mehta, AEO; along with JAEOS and AEAs of the concerned Panchayat.

The Digital Crop Survey is a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at collecting real-time and accurate data on crop sown area and crop conditions through digital

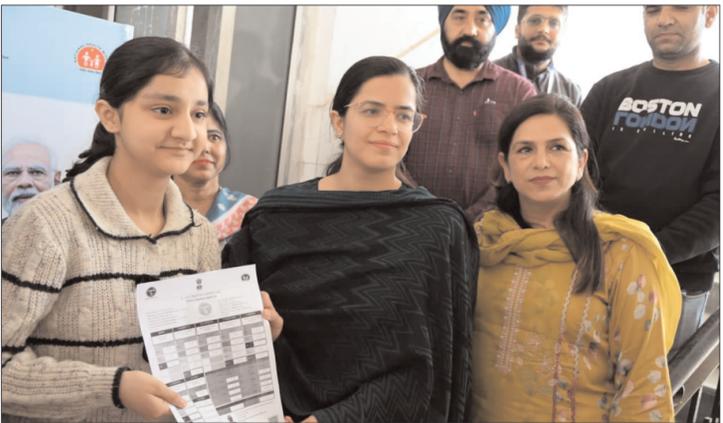
technology. The initiative seeks to enhance transparency, enable evidence-based agricultural planning, ensure timely settlement of crop insurance claims and facilitate efficient delivery of farmer benefits such as PM-Kisan, subsidies, relief assistance and income support schemes. By replacing manual estimation with geo-tagged and field-verified data, the survey

strengthens decision-making, minimizes discrepancies and supports improved policy formulation in the agricultural sector.

Addressing the officers and field functionaries on the occasion, the Director Agriculture Jammu highlighted the operational aspects of the Digital Crop Survey and underscored the pivotal role of field staff in ensuring accuracy and timeliness of data. He directed adherence to prescribed protocols for reliable and standardized data collection.

The Director further directed that a dedicated grievance cell be established at the Directorate level to address queries and field-level issues promptly so that the survey is completed within the stipulated time frame.

HPV Vaccination Campaign launched in Samba



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The National HPV Vaccination Campaign was successfully launched today at District Hospital Samba under the aegis of

the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India. The programme was formally inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner, Ayushi Sudan.

While addressing the gathering, the Deputy

Commissioner highlighted the critical importance of preventive healthcare and adolescent immunization in reducing the burden of cervical cancer.

She emphasized that timely vaccination is a vital step toward ensuring a

healthier future for young girls and strengthening public health outcomes in the district.

The event was organized under the guidance of the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Vidh Bhatial and the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Mohinder Kumar.

During the launch event, awareness was generated among beneficiaries and their attendants regarding the importance, safety and long-term benefits of HPV vaccination in preventing cervical cancer.

Adhering strictly to prescribed vaccination protocols and safety guidelines, approximately 22 eligible girls were administered a single dose of Gardasil-4 vaccine. Vaccination certificates were issued to all beneficiaries.

3-month HPV Vaccination Campaign launched at District Hospital Poonch

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A three-month Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign was formally launched today at District Hospital Poonch to protect adolescent girls from cervical cancer and strengthen preventive healthcare services in the district.

The campaign was inaugurated by Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik for girls in the age group of 14 to 15 years.

The launch ceremony was attended by Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan, Medical Superintendent District Hospital, Dr. Mohammad Shafeeq Chowdhury, Deputy CMO, Dr. Ruby Naz Bhatti, District Immunization Officer, Dr. Zoohra Parveen, along with other senior health officials and staff.

The campaign will run for three months across the



district to ensure maximum coverage and awareness among eligible benefi-

ciaries. Health officials urged parents and guardians to actively par-

ticipate and support the initiative for a healthier future generation.

DC inaugurates HPV Vaccination Campaign in Kishtwar

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The National HPV Vaccination Campaign, aimed at preventing cervical cancer was formally inaugurated at District Hospital Kishtwar by Deputy Commissioner, Pankaj Kumar Sharma.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized that HPV is a cancer-causing virus that affects females and can lead to cancer of the cervix, the lower part of the uterus. He highlighted that timely vaccination can significantly reduce the risk of cervical cancer and urged parents, teachers and community members to actively support the campaign to ensure a healthier future for young girls.

The DC said that with the campaign launch, the vaccination has been made available at District Hospital from today onwards and it will run for a period of three months. The block-wise roll-out of the campaign shall begin



on March 2, 2026 (Monday).

"The vaccination drive will be carried out at all designated health institutions of SDH Paddar, CHC Marwah, PHC Dachan, PHC Kiru, PHC Nali, PHC Chatroo and PHC Afti as per the protocol including the cold storage facility," the DC informed.

On the inaugural day, four eligible girls were administered the vaccine in the presence of the Deputy Commissioner. Necessary forms were completed and vaccination certificates were issued to the beneficiaries on the spot.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Yudhvir Singh informed that school au-

thorities have been directed to bring eligible girls to the nearest vaccination centres. The drive will be conducted on a daily basis to ensure timely completion of the target.

The event was attended by ADC Pawan Kotwal and other senior officers and concerned staff members.

HPV Vaccination drive launched in Ramban to protect girls

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District administration Ramban led by Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, today launched the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination drive in the district to safeguard adolescent girls against cervical cancer.

The vaccination drive was formally inaugurated by ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak at District Hospital Ramban. A total of 11 health centres have been identified across the district to facilitate vaccination of the targeted population.

The ADC said that all necessary arrangements have been put in place by the administration, including availability of trained manpower, proper cold chain management and logistics support to ensure smooth implementation of the programme. He stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to ensure smooth and timely vaccination, proper awareness generation and



100 percent coverage of all eligible beneficiaries within the prescribed timeline. He directed the concerned officers to maintain close monitoring so that no eligible beneficiary is left out.

Chief Medical Officer Kamal Je Zadu informed that an estimated 3,304 girls aged around 14 years have been identified as the target group in the district. Out of these, 2,789 girls have already been verified through head-count surveys conducted by ASHAs, Anganwadi Workers and other field

functionaries. He further

FORM IV

(See Rule 8)

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