

# SKUAST-K to set up J&K's first 50-kw Agrivoltaics Research Pilot at Shalimar Campus

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, AUG 01

In a major step towards integrating clean energy with agriculture, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) has announced the establishment of a 50-kW agrivoltaics (AgriPV) research pilot at its Shalimar Campus in collaboration with the Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP).

The project aims to evaluate crop performance, energy efficiency, economic viability and farmer adoption of agrivoltaics under Kashmir's unique agro-climatic conditions.

The announcement was made by Vice Chancellor, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai during the workshop "Building the Agrivoltaics Ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir", jointly organised by CSTEP and SKUAST-K. The workshop, aligned with the upcoming PM-KUSUM 2.0 scheme, brought together policy-makers, scientists, industry representatives, financial institutions and farmers to explore pathways for scaling agrivoltaics across the Union Territory.

"This workshop is only the beginning of a long-term collaborative journey towards a resilient, climate-smart and energy-secure future for our farming communities," Prof. Ganai said.

The proposed research facility will serve as a demonstration and innova-



tion platform to generate scientific evidence on dual land use, where crops and solar energy are produced simultaneously. Researchers will study suitable cropping systems, energy generation, farm economics and adoption models to support future policy and large-scale deployment in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking at the event, Saptak Ghosh, Sector Head, Renewables and Energy Conservation at CSTEP, said Kashmir has remained underserved in agricultural and energy innovation despite being a major contributor of hydropower. He said agrivoltaics provides an opportunity to combine the Valley's horticultural strengths with renewable energy generation without displacing farmers from their land.

"Unlike conventional solar leasing models, our approach keeps farmers at the centre by enabling electricity generation alongside near-farm value creation.

Through our pilot with SKUAST-K and the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), we hope to demonstrate this model directly to farmers and local communities," he said.

Highlighting policy challenges, Junaid Akhtar, Assistant Engineer (Solar), Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCL), said that while distribution companies generally procure solar power at competitive tariffs, the additional agricultural and rural development benefits of agrivoltaics should be recognised through viability gap funding to improve financial viability. Earlier, Prof. Javeed Ahmad Mughlo, Head, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, SKUAST-K, emphasised that integrating agrivoltaics with high-value crops and livestock rearing could strengthen market linkages and encourage value-added products, creating new rural enterprises across the Valley.

The partnership forms

part of CSTEP's work under the India Agrivoltaics Alliance (IAA), a multi-stakeholder platform promoting agrivoltaics in India.

Under the collaboration, CSTEP has been developing region-specific agrivoltaics models tailored to Jammu and Kashmir's agro-climatic conditions, including high-density apple orchards.

The workshop witnessed participation from experts representing the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), CSIR-NIIST, the National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI), government departments, financial institutions, industry stakeholders and the farming community.

The initiative reflects University's continued commitment to climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy research and farmer-centric innovation aimed at strengthening both food and energy security in Jammu and Kashmir.

# Medical Block Ghat organises Training Programme on NQAS

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, AUG 01

A one day Orientation cum Training Programme on the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) for the Incharges of PHCs and AAM Sub Centres of Medical Block Ghat was organised, here today.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of Block Medical Officer Ghat Dr. Abdul Gafoor with an objective of strengthening quality assurance practices and enhancing the preparedness of health facilities for NQAS certification.

The training was attended by the Incharges of PHC Bhagwah, PHC Bharath, and AAM Sub Centres Bagla, Bhagwah, Bhabore, Shiva, Dhar, Panjsoo, Hanch, Trown and Ganika.

The technical sessions were conducted by Dr. Tarif Younas (MLHP/ Int Assessor) and Mashhood Latif, BM&EO and Nodal Officer, Quality Pro-



gramme, Medical Block Ghat. The participants were oriented on the key components of NQAS, quality standards, documentation, infection prevention and control, pa-

tient safety, record maintenance and other quality improvement initiatives essential for achieving NQAS certification.

The resource persons emphasised the impor-

tant of teamwork, continuous quality improvement and strict adherence to NQAS standards to ensure the delivery of safe, effective and patient-centric healthcare services.

# Javid Dar reviews Rural Development initiatives in Jammu Division

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, AUG 01

Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of various rural development initiatives and flagship programmes being implemented across the Jammu Division.

The meeting reviewed the progress and implementation of major schemes and programmes, including G-RAM-G, PMAY-G, SBM-G, RGSA, IWMP, NRLM besides other centrally sponsored and departmental initiatives aimed at strengthening the rural infrastructure, improving livelihood opportunities and enhancing the delivery of basic services in rural areas.

During the review, the Minister stressed the need for proper transparency, accountability and timely execution of all developmental works. He directed the officers to ensure that the projects are completed within the stipulated timelines without compromising on quality.

Javid Dar emphasized that rural development must remain firmly focused on improving the quality of life of people in villages. He called for strengthening the grassroots institutions and ensuring that the benefits of government schemes reach the eligible beneficiaries in a transparent and time-bound manner.



The Minister identified the water conservation, livelihood enhancement, rural infrastructure, employment generation and effective implementation of welfare schemes as key priority areas. He called for close coordination among different departments and field functionaries to achieve the prescribed targets and address implementation-related challenges promptly.

He underscored the importance of active community participation in rural development programmes. He stated that greater involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions, local communities and beneficiaries is essential for ensuring sustainable outcomes, efficient utilisation of public resources and accountable service delivery.

The Minister directed the officers to undertake regu-

lar field inspections, closely monitor the progress of ongoing works and ensure that developmental initiatives are aligned with the actual needs and aspirations of rural communities.

Highlighting the commitment of the Omar Abdullah-led government towards inclusive rural development, Javid Ahmad Dar said that concerted efforts are being made to empower the rural communities by improving access to essential services, promoting local entrepreneurship, creating sustainable livelihood opportunities and strengthening rural infrastructure.

to ensure that development remains responsive, inclusive and people-centric.

Earlier, Director Rural Development Jammu, Shahnaz Akhter, gave a detailed PowerPoint Presentation highlighting the physical and financial progress of ongoing projects and works being executed under various schemes across the division.

She briefed the Minister about the achievements, targets, bottlenecks and implementation status of different programmes.

The meeting was attended by Director Rural Development Jammu, Assistant Commissioners Development (ACDs), Assistant Commissioners Panchayati Raj (ACPs) and other senior officers of the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department.

# Speaker holds public outreach camp at Kanidajan; assures accelerated development, protection of rights under Forest Rights Act

**BUDGAM, AUGUST 01:** Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today visited village Kanidajan in the Charar-i-Sharief Constituency, where he held a public outreach camp to listen to the grievances of the people, review the developmental needs of the area and assess the overall progress of various public welfare initiatives.

During the public interaction, the people apprised the Speaker of several issues concerning the area and projected their developmental aspirations while expressing appreciation for his continued outreach and accessibility.

A major concern raised by the villagers pertained to the alleged harassment caused by issuance of eviction notices by the Forest Department and the reported obstruction of agricultural activities on lands which, they said, have been under their possession and cultivation for generations.

The residents informed the Speaker that a large number of families are solely dependent on the produce from these lands for their livelihood and urged the government to safeguard their legitimate rights.

Addressing the gathering, the Speaker categorically stated that no one would be allowed to act in violation of the provisions of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006. He asserted that the rights of all eligible beneficiaries under the Act would be protected in letter and spirit adding that no undue harassment of villagers would be tolerated.

The Speaker said that officers and officials of the Forest Department are expected to be fully conversant with the provisions of the law and must discharge their responsibilities in strict conformity with the legal framework.



He said that the government has recently issued comprehensive guidelines clearly explaining implementation of the relevant provisions of the Forest Rights Act. He cautioned that no individual should attempt to misuse the Act as a pretext for fresh encroachments on forest land or government property, emphasizing that the law must be implemented fairly and transparently while safeguarding the rights of genuine beneficiaries.

The villagers also highlighted several long-pending developmental requirements, including improvement of road connectivity, augmentation of drinking water supply, strengthening of electricity infrastructure, upgradation of the local High School to Higher Secondary level, enhancement of healthcare facilities and establishment of veterinary centres in the area. Responding to the demands, the Speaker assured the gathering that the government remains fully committed to the welfare and inclusive development of the people. He said that all genuine issues projected by the residents would be

taken up with the concerned departments and addressed in a phased and time-bound manner.

The Speaker also gave a detailed account of the developmental initiatives undertaken by the present government during the last one-and-a-half years in the Charar-i-Sharief Constituency. He informed the gathering that macadamisation works on several important roads, including Dardpora-Kanidajan Road, Hayatpora-Wanpora via Kazipora Road, Tujan-Tilsara Road, Charaipora-Karpura-Tujan Road, Dardpora-Chrawani-Charar-i-Sharief Road besides other key road projects have been completed.

He announced that the macadamisation of the 9-kilometre Kanidajan-Nowgam road will soon be taken up at an estimated cost of around Rs. 2 crore. Similarly, works on the Nowgam-Nilnag road at an estimated cost of Rs. 1.40 crore, Leden-Dobha road at a cost of Ra 97 lakh, restoration of the Kanidajan-Darwan road and improvement of the Kanida-

jan-Pehlipora road at an estimated cost of Rs. 70 lakh and Rs. 40 lakh, respectively, will also be undertaken shortly.

# J&K Judicial Academy conducts day-44 of Induction Training for newly appointed Civil Judges

**SRINAGAR, AUGUST 1:** Under the patronage of Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Sanjeev Kumar and the guidance of Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Chairman, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, the Jammu and Kashmir Judicial Academy conducted the proceedings of Day-44 of the Pre-Appointment Induction Training Programme (Batch-2026) for the newly appointed Civil Judges (Junior Division) at its Mominabad, Srinagar campus.

The forenoon sessions were conducted by Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Member, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, on "Criminal Proceedings: From Registration of FIR to Cognizance" and "Commencement of Trial and Judicial Management of Criminal Cases."

Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani



highlighted the importance of induction training as a bridge between the academic learning and practical judicial functioning.

Emphasizing the crucial role of Judicial Magistrates in the criminal justice system, Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani sensitized the trainee officers to various stages of criminal proceedings, including investigation, cognizance, framing of charges, recording of evidence and judicial management of criminal trials.

He also emphasized the need for careful exercise of judicial discre-

tion, adherence to procedural safeguards and maintenance of judicial independence, integrity and ethical standards.

The afternoon session featured an inspiring address by Justice Rahul Bharti, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Member, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy.

Addressing the trainee Civil Judges, Justice Rahul Bharti said that the officers had now stepped from the world of academic aspirations into the realities of judicial service, where every decision carries lasting consequences.

Emphasizing that judicial office demands seriousness, dedication and maturity, Justice Rahul Bharti encouraged the trainees to embrace every challenge as an oppor-

tunity to learn and evolve. He impressed upon them that while promotions may come with length of service, true professional achievement lies in acquiring knowledge, developing competence and earning respect through integrity, hard work and excellence in judicial performance.

Justice Rahul Bharti also urged the officers to cultivate the habit of continuous learning, remain humble throughout their careers and discharge their judicial responsibilities with compassion, confidence and an unwavering commitment to justice.

Director, Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy, Naseer Ahmad Dar, highlighted the rich judicial experience and expertise of the Resource Persons and interacted with the trainee officers throughout the programme. He emphasized the importance of continuous learning, active participation and a practical understanding of criminal law for the effective discharge of judicial responsibilities.