

J&K Bank signs Corporate Salary Package MoU with GK Communications

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 20

J&K Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with GK Communication Private Limited under its Corporate Salary Package, extending customised banking benefits to 119 employees of the media group.

The agreement was signed by Zonal Head (Srinagar) Sheikh Mohammad Muzaffar on behalf of J&K Bank and Fayaz Ahmad Kaloo on behalf of GK Communication Private Limited in the presence of Cluster Head Syed Tasaduq Madni, Branch Head, SSI Srinagar, Ubaid Ashraf, and other senior officials from both organisations. Speaking after the



signing of the agreement, Sheikh Mohammad Muzaffar said that the MoU reflects the Bank's continued endeavour to strengthen its longstanding institutional relationship with GK Communication while providing its employees convenient

access to a range of customised banking benefits under the Corporate Salary Package. On the occasion, Cluster Head Syed Tasaduq Madni gave a detailed overview of the various features and benefits covered under

the Corporate Salary Package. The MoU marks another step in J&K Bank's efforts to expand its institutional partnerships and offer tailored banking solutions to employees of leading organisations across the region.

Training of Enumerators, Supervisors for Census-2027 Phase II begins across district Kishtwar

KISHTWAR, AUGUST 20: On the directions of the Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner), Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, the training programme for Enumerators and Supervisors for the second phase of Census-2027 commenced across district Kishtwar.

The training is being conducted simultaneously at three major locations in the district, including DIET Kishtwar and the Sub-Divisional Headquarters of Chatroo and Dachhan to ensure effective capacity building and timely completion of the training programme.

At DIET Kishtwar, the training programme was formally inaugurated by Additional District Development Commissioner Vinod Kumar Behal in the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Pawan Kotwal, DSEO Suresh Sharma, Principal DIET Tirath Lal and other concerned officers and trainees.

The district administration has made elaborate arrangements for imparting training to more than 700 Enumerators and Supervisors in different batches.

The training focuses on familiarizing the field functionaries with the concepts,



procedures, field methodology, digital tools and protocols to be followed during the Population Enumeration exercise of Census-2027.

Addressing the trainees, the ADDC emphasized that Enumerators and Supervisors constitute the backbone of the Census operation and that their role is crucial in ensuring the accuracy, completeness and credibility of the Census data. He urged them to un-

dergo the training with utmost seriousness, actively participate in practical sessions and thoroughly understand the prescribed procedures before undertaking field duties.

The ADDC further stressed the importance of accurate data collection, proper verification, adherence to the prescribed schedule, confidentiality of information and courteous interaction with the public. The trainees were also en-

couraged to promptly clarify any doubts during the training so that they are fully equipped to discharge their responsibilities effectively in the field.

The district administration has put in place a comprehensive training mechanism under which the field functionaries are being trained in batches at different locations, keeping in view the vast geographical spread and challenging terrain of District Kishtwar.

Agriculture Department Promotes Direct Marketing of Exotic Mushrooms

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 20

In a significant step towards strengthening direct farmer-to-consumer marketing, Director Agriculture Kashmir Sartaj Ahmad Shah today flagged off a consignment of exotic King Oyster mushrooms produced by Shally Farm, Zakura, Srinagar.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director underscored the importance of promoting innovative and value-added mushroom cultivation in Kashmir. He said such initiatives would provide mushroom growers with better marketing opportunities, encourage entrepreneurship and strengthen direct linkages between producers and consumers.

He appreciated the efforts of the Agriculture Department in supporting mushroom entrepreneurs and said direct marketing would help growers secure better returns while encouraging consumers to opt for locally produced exotic



mushrooms. The event was organised by Joint Director Mushrooms Madan Gopal Singh, who briefed the Director on various initiatives being undertaken for the promotion and development of mushroom cultivation in Kashmir. Singh said the department was taking all possible measures to promote

the cultivation and marketing of different varieties of mushrooms. He added that technical guidance and necessary support were being extended to existing entrepreneurs as well as new mushroom growers. He urged aspiring entrepreneurs and farmers interested in mushroom cultivation to approach the Office of the

Joint Director Mushrooms for expert technical guidance and assistance. The initiative is expected to provide further impetus to commercial mushroom cultivation in Kashmir and encourage more farmers and youth to take up mushroom farming as a viable and remunerative enterprise.

Oneeness Van – A Movement to Restore Harmony with Nature

DELHI, AUGUST 20: Baba Hardev Singh Ji's divine message, "Pollution within or outside, both are harmful," continues to inspire Sant Nirankari Mission's commitment towards environmental protection and harmony with nature.

Launched in August 2021 with the blessings of Her Holiness Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj and Nirankari Rajpita Ramit Ji, Oneeness Van – Harmony with Nature has grown into a nationwide movement dedicated not only to tree plantation but also to the long-term protection and nurturing of nature.



According to Respected Shri Joginder Sukheja Ji, Secretary, Sant Nirankari Mandal, around 350 tree clusters have been established across India, while more than 600 Oneeness Van sites are being cared

for by devotees and volunteers.

The sixth phase of this campaign will be launched on Sunday, August 23, at 630 locations across the country. Lakhs of volunteers will participate in planting approximately 10 lakh saplings.

The Mission's commitment extends beyond plantation, with each sapling being nurtured and protected for three to five years, helping create sustainable green spaces, strengthen biodiversity and provide a healthier environment for future generations.

Through Oneeness Van, Sant Nirankari Mission continues to inspire society to live in harmony with nature and take collective responsibility for protecting our planet. Let us plant, nurture and protect today—for a greener tomorrow.

SKUAST-K, Mission YUVA, IIM Jammu sign tripartite MoU to accelerate youth-led Neo-Innovative Startups in J&K

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JAMMU, AUG 20

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) on Wednesday signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Jammu & Kashmir government's Mission YUVA and the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, formalising a joint framework to mentor, incubate, and scale youth-led neo-innovative enterprises.

The agreement was signed in the presence of SKUAST-K Vice Chancellor Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, the Registrar of SKUAST-K, Joint Director of Mission YUVA Waseem Raja, Chief Executive Officer of SKUAST-K Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship (SKIIE) Centre Naveed Hamid, alongside representatives from IIM Jammu's Mission YUVA vertical.

Marking an immediate translation of the pact into action, the SKIIE Centre signed two separate incubation agreements with M/s Noorsa Innovations Pvt. Ltd. and M/s FarmHealth Innovations Private Limited. The two ventures, selected under the Mission YUVA Neo-Innovative Enterprises Scheme, will receive dedicated incubation space, advanced laboratory access, and comprehensive



infrastructure support at SKUAST-K.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai said the partnership strengthens SKUAST-K's role as a launchpad for youth innovation in Jammu & Kashmir and will pave the way to connect dynamic young minds with the university's vast incubation ecosystem. He assured the Mission YUVA team of continued institutional backing, noting that SKUAST-K has actively supported the initiative since its inception in identifying and mobilizing high-potential ideas.

Joint Director of Mission YUVA, Sh. Waseem Raja, highlighted that the collaboration with SKUAST-K will make world-class technical infrastructure, specialized lab facilities, and domain-specific mentorship directly accessible to grassroots innovators, ensuring that

young entrepreneurs receive the critical handholding required to convert disruptive ideas into sustainable, job-creating commercial enterprises.

Naveed Hamid, Chief Executive Officer of SKIIE, noted that the tripartite MoU strategically aligns Mission YUVA's grant support, IIM Jammu's rigorous selection mechanism, and SKIIE's technical incubation infrastructure to provide aspiring entrepreneurs with a complete, end-to-end runway from idea to enterprise.

Mission YUVA, launched by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, aims to establish Jammu & Kashmir as a premier hub of enterprise and employment, targeting the creation of over 1.4 lakh enterprises and 4.25 lakh jobs across categories ranging from nano-enterprises and MSMEs to 500 high-poten-

tial "Neo-Innovative" ventures in sectors such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, healthcare, agri-tech, and sustainability. Under the new arrangement, startups selected through Mission YUVA's rigorous screening process will be routed to the SKIIE Centre for hands-on technical incubation, validation, and market linkage support, particularly benefiting innovators in the agri-tech and biotech domains.

The collaboration further reinforces SKIIE's expanding footprint across the regional innovation landscape. Recently named "Incubator of the Year" at the JK Startup Mela, the centre currently hosts over 130 registered startups and is backed by prominent national and global funding partners, including DST, BIRAC, MeitY, RBIC, HADP, E-YUVA, and IFAD.

DC Anantnag reviews implementation of TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, directs 100% screening

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 20: Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, today chaired a district-level meeting to review the implementation of the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and assess measures for strengthening block-level monitoring and service delivery across the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Vikas Ahlawat; SDM Dooru/Kokernag Parvaiz Rahim; SDM Pahalgam Amit Gupta; SDM Bijbehara Tanveer Ahmad Tanveer; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Tariq Ahmad Malik; Assistant Commissioner Development Shafiq Ahmad Wani; District Social Welfare Officer; Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs; Chief Medical Officer; District Tuberculosis Officer; all Block Medical Officers and Block Development Officers of the seven medical blocks—Achabal, Bijbehara, Sallar, Shangus, Mattan, Larnoo and Verinag—besides representatives from Higher Education/Degree Colleges, School Education, NCC and MY Bharat.

During the meeting, sanction was accorded for the formal constitution and



operationalization of Block-Level Monitoring Committees across all seven medical blocks. The committees will function under designated Sub-Divisional and District Sectoral Officers to strengthen monitoring, inter-departmental coordination and timely resolution of implementation gaps.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned officers and field functionaries to ensure strict adherence to the key performance indicators under the campaign. He stressed the need to

achieve 100 per cent population screening through chest X-rays in identified high-risk pockets, vulnerable villages, congested urban wards and congregate settings through TB Shivirs and outreach camps.

Dr. Bilal also directed officials to ensure 100 per cent digital onboarding and registration of eligible beneficiaries on the TB Mukht Bharat Portal/App and Khushi Chatbot. He emphasized upfront molecular testing through CB-NAAT/Truenat for all presumptive TB cases and advised against relying

solely on conventional microscopy.

The meeting further stressed comprehensive coverage of Differentiated TB Care for diagnosed patients as per national guidelines, along with TB Preventive Treatment (TPT) for all eligible household and close contacts after clinical exclusion of active TB.

Block-specific micro-plans were also directed to be prepared, focusing on identification of service-delivery gaps and prompt corrective action at village and ward levels.