

Ministry of MSME holds first-ever Capacity Building Programmes at Tangdar, Keran

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 28

In a significant initiative aimed at extending the reach of entrepreneurship development and MSME schemes to the remotest areas of Jammu & Kashmir, the Branch MSME Development & Facilitation Office (DFO), Srinagar, Ministry of MSME, organized entrepreneurship awareness and capacity-building programmes at Tangdar and Keran, two border areas of Kupwara district.

The programmes, organized with the active support and coordination of the District Administration, Kupwara, mark the first-ever such capacity-building and entrepreneurship awareness initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of MSME in these remote border areas. The initiative was conceived with the objective of taking information about Government schemes and programmes directly to the people residing in areas where access to formal entrepreneurship-support mechanisms and institutional guidance remains limited.

The programmes focused on creating awareness regarding various schemes and initiatives of the Ministry of MSME and other Government departments aimed at promoting self-employment, entrepreneurship, skill development and enterprise creation. Particular emphasis was laid on schemes such as the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), PM Vishwakarma, and other entrepreneurship and livelihood-oriented initiatives of the Union Government and the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

The sessions provided



participants with information regarding the eligibility criteria, application procedures, financial assistance, credit-linked support, skill development opportunities and other benefits available under various schemes. Officials also interacted directly with participants and addressed their queries regarding starting and expanding small enterprises.

The response from both locations was encouraging. At Keran, a large number of students participated enthusiastically and showed keen interest in understanding various avenues available for entrepreneurship, self-employment and enterprise development. The interaction highlighted the aspirations of the younger generation in remote border areas and their willingness to explore opportunities beyond traditional employment avenues. At Tangdar, the programme witnessed particularly encouraging participation from women, who expressed considerable interest in entrepreneurial activities and in understanding Government

support available for starting small businesses and income-generating activities. The interaction underlined the considerable potential for promoting women-led enterprises and strengthening household livelihoods through entrepreneurship in remote areas. The programmes were graced by A.K. Tamaria, Joint Director and Head of Office, MSME DFO Jammu, who interacted with the participants and highlighted the importance of developing an entrepreneurial ecosystem that reaches every section of society, irrespective of geographical location. He further motivated participants to avail benefits of the scheme implemented by the Centre and UT government.

Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Director, Branch MSME DFO Srinagar, Saheel Alagband, emphasized the importance of taking Government schemes to the last mile.

“The objective of such programmes is not merely to conduct awareness activities, but to ensure that information about Govern-

ment schemes reaches those who need it the most. People living in remote and border areas often have limited opportunities and limited access to institutional guidance. It may be challenging to organize programmes in such locations, but that is precisely why such initiatives are important. If opportunities cannot reach these communities through conventional means, we must take the opportunities to their doorstep,” he said. The initiative reflects the Ministry of MSME's continued commitment towards inclusive enterprise development and last-mile delivery of Government schemes.

Officials from various departments and institutions also participated in the programmes, including representatives from Agriculture, Lead Bank and other concerned Government agencies. Their participation provided the beneficiaries with an opportunity to understand the convergence of various schemes and the support available from different institutions for establishing and sustaining enterprises.

DC Poonch reviews progress on Ownership Rights to eligible beneficiaries

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 28

The Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today convened a meeting to review the progress of cases pertaining to the conferment of ownership rights under Government Order No. 105-JK(Rev) of 2024 dated 16.8.2024.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Tahir Mustafa Malik, SDM, Farooq Khan, SDM, Imran Kataria, besides Tehsildars along with patwaris attended the meeting.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of cases and assessed the progress made by the concerned Tehsildars. He emphasized the need for timely processing and dis-



posal of all eligible cases in accordance with the prescribed rules, guidelines and provisions of the Government Order.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Tehsildars to submit the pending cases, along with all requisite documents and completed formalities, in a time-bound manner, so

that further necessary action is taken expeditiously.

He stressed upon the concerned officers to ensure proper scrutiny and verification of the cases and adhere strictly to the prescribed procedure and timelines.

Further, the Deputy Commissioner also directed the ACR/SDMs to

process the cases for approval of competent authority in a time bound manner. The meeting concluded with directions for expeditious processing and time-bound submission of all cases pertaining to conferment of ownership rights under Government Order No. 105-JK(Rev) of 2024 dated 16.8.2024.

Javid Dar inaugurated Seed Separation, Processing unit at Chinor farm

JAMMU, AUGUST 28: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today chaired a review meeting of the Agriculture Department at Talab Tillo, Jammu.

He reviewed the physical and financial progress of various schemes and programmes being implemented across Jammu division.

The meeting held detailed and threadbare deliberations on implementation of Capex, Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), NABARD works and Jammu and Kashmir Comprehensive Investment Plan (JKCIP) besides other UT funded initiatives.

Director Agriculture, Jammu, Anil Gupta, gave a detailed presentation on district-wise progress of ongoing projects, fund releases and expenditure under different schemes.

The Minister also took stock of the current year's financial performance and reviewed the crop-wise area, production and productivity achieved during 2025-26. He directed the officers to maintain strict focus on timely utilisation of funds and ensure that all ongoing projects are executed within the stipulated timelines. He emphasised that implementation of government schemes must be closely monitored at every level so that their intended benefits reach farmers without delay.

Giving special emphasis to the quality and regulation of agricultural inputs, the Minister directed the concerned officers to establish a dedicated enforcement toll post at Lakhanpur to ensure strict adherence to the rules governing fertilizers, pesticides and seeds. He called for intensified enforcement and regular field inspections to prevent the movement and sale of substandard, spurious or unauthorised agricul-

tural inputs. He also directed the senior officers to undertake frequent field visits and personally monitor the agricultural activities and enforcement measures.

The Minister stressed that protecting the farmers from poor-quality inputs must remain a priority. He called for effective coordination among the concerned agencies to ensure strict implementation of the prescribed regulations.

Describing agriculture as the “backbone of our economy,” Javid Ahmad Dar said that strengthening the agriculture sector is crucial for improving farmers' incomes, generating rural employment, ensuring food security and giving a further boost to the rural economy. He called upon the officers to adopt a result-oriented and farmer-centric approach, with greater emphasis on modern technology, scientific interventions, field-level monitoring and efficient delivery of government schemes.

NITI Aayog Member Dr M Srinivas visits CSIR-IIIM Srinagar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 28

Hon'ble Member, NITI Aayog, Dr. M. Srinivas visited the CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Srinagar, on Friday and reviewed the institute's work in scientific research, innovation, entrepreneurship and societal initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir.

Accompanying Dr. Srinivas were Shri Subhash Chandra Meena, Economic Adviser, NITI Aayog; Dr. Muniraju S.B., Deputy Adviser, NITI Aayog; and Sumaya Yousuf, Program Lead, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).

The dignitaries interacted with scientists, scholars, officials and startups and reviewed various science-led initiatives being undertaken by CSIR-IIIM and its innovation ecosystem.

During the visit, Dr. Srinivas also visited the AIC-IIIM Bioinnovation Foundation, the Atal Incubation Centre at CSIR-IIIM's Srinagar Branch, and reviewed its incubation and entrepreneurship activities.

The AIC-IIIM ecosystem is aimed at supporting innovators and startups by providing incubation, mentorship, institutional support and opportunities for technology development and enterprise creation.

The Centre has been supporting initiatives in areas including value addition of essential oils, medicinal mushrooms, fermentation-based products and other natural-resource-based enterprises, with a focus on encouraging local entrepreneurship and generating livelihood opportunities.

Speaking about CSIR-IIIM, Dr. Srinivas said he was impressed by the work being carried out by the institute and the wide range of research areas being pursued by its scientists and young researchers. He noted that the institute was not only working in its core areas of phytochemicals, floriculture, medi-



cinal and aromatic plants, but was also pursuing research with potential applications in areas such as pancreatic cancer, breast cancer, Alzheimer's disease and other neurological disorders, tuberculosis and healthcare.

Dr. Srinivas also highlighted the critical challenges involved in translating research on phytochemicals and medicinal plants into safe, effective and commercially viable products. He emphasised the need for stronger scientific validation, collaboration with clinicians and other stakeholders, and a clear pathway from basic research and toxicity studies to clinical applications and eventual commercialisation.

Dr. Srinivas said CSIR-IIIM was playing an important role in bridging the gap between basic science and its application for patient care, longevity and wider societal benefit.

He said the institute had significant potential and called for greater efforts to connect its research programmes with leading scientific and research institutions across the country and internationally.

Emphasising the importance of translating scientific research into practical outcomes, Dr. Srinivas said basic research must ultimately move towards technology development, commercialisation and wider societal application.

Dr. Srinivas also interacted with startups incubated at AIC-IIIM and reviewed their work in areas including wellness, medicines, healthcare and other emerging applications. He appreciated the efforts of young entrepreneurs in translating scientific ideas into innovative products and solutions and encouraged them to further strengthen their research, technology and market linkages.

During his interaction with scholars and young researchers, Dr. Srinivas encouraged them to make the best use of the scientific ecosystem and opportunities available at CSIR-IIIM. He said researchers working in areas such as agriculture, phytochemicals, nutraceuticals, medicinal and aromatic plants had access to a unique range of opportunities and should recognise the importance of their work.

Highlighting CSIR-IIIM's work in biodiversity and plant sciences, he said the institute's activities in areas such as gene banking, conservation of endangered plants, phytochemicals and nutraceuticals were of immense importance.

Welcoming Dr. Srinivas, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, Director, CSIR-NBRI Lucknow and Chairman, AIC-IIIM, outlined the institute's work in research, technology development and societal outreach. He highlighted CSIR-IIIM's efforts to translate scientific research into technologies and applications, while strengthening the link between research and entrepreneurship.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed also apprised Dr. Srinivas of some of the critical challenges being faced by the institute in advancing research on cannabis and other phytochemical-based interventions. He highlighted the need for timely research permissions as well as the availability of adequate scheduled facilities in India for phytopharmaceutical drug manufacturing, which can pose challenges in taking promising research

outcomes towards clinical translation and commercialisation.

Responding to the issues raised, Dr. Srinivas assured that the challenges related to science, technology and innovation would be examined and addressed at the appropriate level.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed said addressing these challenges would be important for strengthening the science, technology and innovation ecosystem and facilitating the translation of research into practical applications.

He said the institute has been working to ensure that scientific knowledge generated through its research programmes reaches the field and contributes to addressing local needs and creating opportunities for communities. He also underlined the importance of developing an integrated ecosystem in which research, innovation, incubation and entrepreneurship work together, enabling promising scientific ideas to progress towards practical applications and commercial opportunities.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed high-

lighted the entrepreneurship ecosystem developed around CSIR-IIIM, including TBI-IIIM, AIC-IIIM and the Industrial Biotechnology Parks (IBTPs), aimed at providing a pathway for scientific ideas to move towards incubation, technology development and commercialisation. He said these platforms provide an important interface between scientists, innovators, entrepreneurs and industry, helping strengthen the process of taking research outcomes from the laboratory to the market.

He further highlighted the institute's focus on societal initiatives, particularly those that connect scientific interventions with agriculture and livelihood opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir. He said programmes in areas such as floriculture and aromatic crops demonstrate the institute's approach of combining scientific expertise with field-level requirements and value-addition opportunities.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed also emphasised the need for continued collaboration among scientific institutions, government agencies, industry and entrepre-

neurs to build a stronger innovation ecosystem and ensure that the benefits of scientific research reach society.

Dr. Saurabh Saran, Scientist-F, Fermentation and Microbial Biotechnology Division and Principal Investigator, IIIM-Technology Business Incubator, gave a presentation on the Technology Business Incubator (TBI-IIIM) and highlighted its role in supporting innovators, startups and entrepreneurs in translating scientific ideas and technologies into viable enterprises.

Giving an overview of the Floriculture Mission, Dr. Shahid Rasool, Scientist-E, CSIR-IIIM, highlighted the institute's efforts to promote floriculture through scientific interventions and support. He said the initiative was aimed at encouraging farmers to explore commercially viable opportunities while improving cultivation practices, productivity and the scope for value addition. He also highlighted the importance of taking scientific knowledge and research-based interventions to the field to support farming communities.

The institute's work under the Aroma Mission was subsequently highlighted by Dr. Suphla Gupta, Scientist-F, CSIR-IIIM. She said the initiative was focused on promoting aromatic crops and supporting farmers with technologies related to cultivation, processing and value addition. She highlighted the potential of the sector to create opportunities beyond cultivation, including essential-oil production and other value-added activities. She also stressed the importance of stronger linkages between farmers, scientists, technology providers and entrepreneurs for developing a sustainable aromatic-crop value chain.

The formal programme concluded with the felicitation of guests, followed by a vote of thanks presented by Dr. Shahid Jibrán, CEO, AIC-IIIM.