

SKUAST-K hosts 37 IFS Officers from 18 States for National Ecotourism Capacity-Building Programme

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 02

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today called upon engineers, scientists and academic institutions to harness Jammu and Kashmir's abundant biomass resources to develop locally suited, economically viable and environmentally sustainable solutions for reducing dependence on fossil fuels and decarbonizing the economy.

The Chief Minister was addressing the inaugural session of the 41st National Convention of Chemical Engineers and National Seminar on "Biomass: A Sustainable Resource for Decarbonizing the Economy", organized under the aegis of the Chemical Engineering Division Board of The Institution of Engineers (India) (IEI) in association with the Department of Chemical Engineering, NIT Srinagar, at the IEI J&K State Centre here.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Vice Chancellor University of Kashmir Prof. Nelofer Khan, Director NIT Srinagar Anurag Mishra, Chairman IEI J&K State Centre Ferdous Ahad Bhat, Chairman Chemical Engineering Division Board, FIE, Prof. G. Madhu, besides engineers, academicians and other experts attended the two-day national convention and seminar.

Highlighting the significance of the convention being held in Jammu & Kashmir after a gap of several decades, the Chief Minister said the last National Convention of the IEI held in J&K had taken place in early 1989.

"For us, to have all of you present for the 41st National Convention, organized by our own NIT Srinagar and the Chemical Engineering Division Board, is a significant moment," he said, while expressing appreciation to the organizers for choosing biomass and decarbonization as the central theme of the convention.

The Chief Minister said the need to reduce dependence on carbon-based fuels had become increasingly urgent, both from the perspective of energy security and the growing environmental consequences of using fossil-fuel.



He said recent pressures on fuel supplies had underlined the vulnerabilities associated with excessive dependence on carbon-based energy sources, while the consequences of unchecked fossil-fuel use were becoming increasingly visible in the form of global warming and climate-related disasters.

"Those of us who are roughly around my age or maybe a little older have seen with our own eyes the way in which our glaciers are retreating and shrinking," Omar Abdullah said, highlighting the particular vulnerability of the Himalayan region to climate change.

Referring to the Thajiwass glacier near Sonamarg, the Chief Minister said the extent of glacier retreat could be understood from personal experience.

"We have only to travel two hours out of Srinagar to go to Sonamarg to see the Thajiwass glacier there," he said, recalling that it was once possible to reach the foot of the glacier after a short walk, whereas today it requires a considerably longer trek. He said such changes offered a stark reminder of the environmental consequences of the continued and unchecked use of fossil fuels.

However, the Chief Minister cautioned that moving away from a carbon-based economy could not be achieved simply by switching from one energy source to another overnight.

"Economically viable, sustainable, environmentally friendly solutions are the need of the hour," he said, stressing that alternative energy solutions must be capable of competing economically with established sources of power.

Omar Abdullah pointed out that Jammu & Kashmir possessed significant

biomass resources generated through agriculture, horticulture, forests, municipal waste and increasing consumption.

"We are sitting on a wealth of biomass whether we like it or not," he said, adding that the challenge was to develop effective mechanisms for converting this resource into useful energy.

The Chief Minister said Jammu and Kashmir had so far struggled to develop a workable and sustainable model for waste-to-energy, despite generating sufficient waste to support such initiatives.

He observed that the economic viability of waste-to-energy projects remained a major challenge, particularly when compared with relatively cheaper sources such as solar and hydropower.

At the same time, he stressed that economic considerations could not be the only factor determining the future of waste management and energy policy.

"We will have to do it," he said, underlining the need to address not only the problem of legacy waste but also the continuously increasing generation of organic waste that could potentially be converted into energy.

The Chief Minister also recalled his efforts during his previous tenure to explore the possibility of converting plant material harvested from Dal Lake into biofuel, in collaboration with higher education institutions, particularly the agricultural university.

He said that while the idea had so far remained largely at the discussion stage, such initiatives needed to be pursued with greater determination and through practical experimentation.

Drawing from a personal experience at a boarding school in Himachal Pradesh, the

Chief Minister illustrated how seemingly unconventional ideas could eventually become successful and practical solutions.

He recalled how one of his teachers had proposed establishing a poultry farm at the school to ensure an in-house supply of eggs. The teacher then went a step further by exploring the possibility of converting poultry waste into biogas.

"What initially may seem to others as a pipe dream or may even for people evoke mockery, actually, in the long term, if you keep going at it, people will realize that the mockery was wrong and the vision was actually the correct thing," Omar Abdullah said.

He said the school ultimately developed a workable system in which poultry waste was converted into biogas, which was then transported almost a kilometre to the central dining hall and used to reduce dependence on fossil fuels for cooking.

The Chief Minister urged scientists, engineers and academic institutions not to be discouraged by unsuccessful experiments while working on new technologies and solutions.

"Let us not be afraid of failure," he said, stressing that experimentation and learning from unsuccessful attempts were essential for technological progress.

He cited the example of Thomas Edison and his approach to experimentation while developing the electric light bulb, as well as contemporary technological ventures where failed experiments provide valuable data for subsequent innovations.

Omar Abdullah called for the collective intellectual capacity of the engineers, scientists and institutions participating in the convention to be

3,100+ Youth Entrepreneurs get J&K Bank Credit in 'Big Week' Push

Srinagar, September 2: In a major boost to youth entrepreneurship and self-employment in Jammu and Kashmir, J&K Bank has disbursed credit to more than 3,100 aspiring entrepreneurs during the 'Big Week Campaign', taking the overall Mission YUVA disbursement to around ?1,750 crore in just over a year.

The milestone was celebrated at the Bank's Corporate Headquarters here, where J&K Bank MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee and Secretary to Government, Labour & Employment and Revenue Department, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan (IAS), jointly presided over the closing ceremony. Director Employment and Mission Director, Mission YUVA, Harvinder Singh (IAS), along with senior Bank officials, attended the event.

The achievement comes as Mission YUVA gathers momentum as a major Government-Bank initiative aimed at creating sustain-



able employment opportunities and fostering an entrepreneurial ecosystem among the youth of J&K. Around 36,000 cases have been sanctioned under the programme so far, with nearly 32,000 young entrepreneurs already receiving disbursements.

Calling Government-Bank collaboration a key driver of Mission YUVA's success, Amitava Chatterjee said the sustained ownership demonstrated by the J&K Government through regular reviews and follow-up had helped translate extensive groundwork into tangible outcomes.

"Setting up enterprises

alone should not be our objective. Their sustainability and expansion, supported through the second phase of Bank finance, will ensure their meaningful contribution to J&K's GDP," the MD & CEO said, stressing the need for continued hand-holding and guidance of young entrepreneurs.

Kumar Rajeev Ranjan appreciated J&K Bank's role as an integral partner of Mission YUVA since its conceptualisation. He said every loan disbursed represented more than a financial transaction, as it helped guide a young person towards enterprise, self-reliance and a dignified liveli-

hood. He described Mission YUVA as an extraordinary journey with the potential to emerge as a major success story, noting that entrepreneurship and self-employment were increasingly important in addressing the challenge of unemployment.

Harvinder Singh congratulated the J&K Bank team for crossing 3,100 disbursements during the Big Week Campaign alone. He said the programme had ushered in an entrepreneurial transformation across J&K and expressed confidence that the Government and Bank would continue to work together to take the initiative to greater heights.

Earlier, General Manager (RAM) Sanjay Gupta said Mission YUVA was not merely a government scheme but a mission being pursued by the Bank with determination to generate employment, promote entrepreneurship and give wings to the aspirations of J&K's youth.

JMC, Urban Forestry organise Miyawaki Plantation Drive at Bhagwati Nagar

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Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and Urban Forestry Division Jammu (Forest Department) today organised a Miyawaki Plantation Drive here at Botanical Garden, Bhagwati Nagar as part of efforts to promote urban forestry, enhance green spaces and create a healthier and more sustainable environment in the city.

The event was presided over by Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation Dr Devansh Yadav.

As many as 2,200 saplings of a diverse range of native trees, avenue trees and flowering shrubs were planted during the drive with the objective of developing a dense urban forest at the site. The plantation initiative marks a significant step towards transforming the area, which was previously used as an urban garbage dump, into a green, environmentally sustainable and public-friendly space. On the occasion, JMC Commissioner, Devansh Yadav said, "This entire area will be trans-



formed into a wonderful space for all urban residents, providing opportunities for morning and evening walks, recreation and relaxation. Developing this site has been a long-standing demand of the people of Jammu and it is our endeavour to make it ready by the end of this year."

The Miyawaki plantation technique promotes the

rapid growth of diverse native vegetation in compact urban spaces.

It helps increase green cover, improve air quality, support biodiversity, reduce the impact of urban heat and contribute to ecological restoration.

The plantation drive also aimed to encourage greater public participation in environmental conservation and

generate awareness about the importance of developing and protecting green spaces in urban areas. Under the slogans "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" and "Ek Ped Shahidoon Ke Naam," the initiative paid tribute to mothers and the brave martyrs of the nation, while inspiring citizens to plant and nurture trees in their honour.

CMO reviews RBSK progress in Doda district



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Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr. Vinod Sharma today convened a review meeting to assess the progress and implementation of the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) in the District.

The meeting was attended by RBSK Teams from Blocks Assar, Bhaderwah, Gandoh, Ghat and Thathri, besides DM&EO NHM Chander K. Shan.

The meeting focused on reviewing the performance of RBSK teams and

strengthening the implementation of the programme, which aims at early identification, screening, treatment and timely intervention for children from birth to 18 years of age.

During the meeting, the CMO reviewed the component wise progress of the programme, including child health screening, identification of health conditions, referrals, follow-up and treatment of identified cases. The participants also deliberated upon the achievements, challenges and gaps affecting effective implementa-

tion of the programme across the district.

The CMO also reviewed the implementation of the Anemia Mukta Bharat (AMB) Programme and stressed upon the RBSK teams to conduct Hemoglobin (Hb) screening among all eligible children during school and Anganwadi visits. He directed the teams to ensure timely identification of children with anemia, proper recording of screening results, counselling, appropriate management and follow-up of identified cases as per the prescribed guidelines.

INFLUENZA A (H1N1)

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY FROM INFLUENZA A (H1N1)!

H1N1 is a contagious respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. Early care and simple precautions can help keep you and your loved ones safe.

WHAT IS H1N1?
H1N1 is a type of influenza (flu) virus that can cause mild to severe illness.

COMMON SYMPTOMS

Lethargy & Lack of Appetite

Cough & Sore Throat

Nausea & Vomiting

Joints & Muscles Pain

Runny Nose

Fever

Headache

Diarrhea

DO's

Cover your mouth and nose

Wash your hands often with soap

Stay away from crowds and close contacts

Drink plenty of water and eat healthy food

Wear a mask in crowded places

Keep rooms well-ventilated and clean

DON'Ts

Avoid close contact with sick people

Do not spit in public

Do not take medicines without doctor's advice

Avoid crowded places and mass gatherings

Do not touch your face, eyes, nose and mouth

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IMMEDIATELY IF YOU EXPERIENCE:

- Difficulty in breathing
- Persistent high fever
- Chest pain
- Confusion or drowsiness
- Bluish lips or face

STAY ALERT, STAY SAFE, STAY HEALTHY.

Your awareness and actions can protect you and your community.

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