

SKUAST-K, Bio-Enzyme Academy join Hands to turn Waste into Wealth in J&K

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-Kashmir) has joined hands with the Bio-Enzyme Entrepreneurs Academy of India, Bengaluru, to promote bio-enzyme entrepreneurship as a waste-to-wealth opportunity and create avenues for self-employment among students, farmers and rural entrepreneurs in Jammu and Kashmir.

A one-week Certificate Course on “Bio-Enzyme Entrepreneurship” was inaugurated today at the Vice Chancellor’s Secretariat, Shalimar Main Campus. Organised by the SKUAST-K Innovation and Incubation Entrepreneurship Centre (SKIIE) in collaboration with the Academy, the programme focuses on hands-on training in bio-enzyme production, value addition and marketing, with an emphasis on developing sustainable micro-enterprises.

The inaugural function was attended by senior officers and faculty members of the University, along with academicians, scientists, entrepreneurs and trainee participants. Guests of Honour included Priti Rao,



President, Bio-Enzyme Entrepreneurs Academy of India; Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension; Prof. M. Altaf Bhat, Director Education; Prof. Azmat Alam Khan, Registrar; Er. Ab Rashid Bhat; Mahendra Pyati, and B.C. Kiran.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice Chancellor appreciated SKIIE for introducing the innovative programme and stressed the potential of converting agricultural and kitchen waste into value-added, eco-friendly products. He said such initiatives align with the University’s mandate of translating research and knowledge into entrepreneurship and self-reliance, and encouraged participants to use the training to establish enterprises and

contribute to the green economy.

Priti Rao highlighted the national scope of bio-enzyme-based enterprises and apprised participants of the technical and market support available through the Academy.

During the event, the University and the Bio-Enzyme Entrepreneurs Academy of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen collaboration in the field. A booklet titled “A Genuine Startup Dosage: Hazrat Sheikh ul Alam (RA) Entrepreneurship Model,” authored by Naveed Hamid, CEO, SKIIE Centre, was also launched.

The event further witnessed the launch of startup products of M/s XYVA Nat-

urals Pvt. Ltd. and the SKUAST-K SAFART Passport, conceptualised by Naveed Hamid and developed by Muaoim, B.Tech Biotechnology student.

The week-long training will cover bio-enzyme preparation, quality control, packaging, branding, business planning and marketing, besides on-site visits to landfills, waste areas and fruit mandis. The programme combines classroom sessions, hands-on demonstrations and interactions with resource persons and industry experts.

The inaugural session concluded with a pledge ceremony led by the CEO, SKIIE Centre, with participants committing to responsible and sustainable entrepreneurial practices.

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A meeting of the District Nutrition Committee (DNC) and District Level Monitoring Committee of the Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) under POSHAN Abhiyaan was held today at Bandipora, under the chairpersonship of District Development Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib.

The meeting reviewed the implementation of nutrition interventions, beneficiary coverage, infrastructure at Anganwadi Centres (AWCs), quality of supplementary nutrition, health convergence and digital monitoring mechanisms. The DDC stressed the importance of effective inter-departmental convergence to address malnutrition, ensure timely delivery of benefits and maintain prescribed quality and safety standards.

On the Occasion, District Programme Officer, ICDS, Yaar Ali Khan, made a detailed presentation before the committee, highlighting the progress achieved under POSHAN Abhiyaan and the Supplementary Nutrition Programme in the district.

The presentation covered beneficiary coverage, digital verification, AWC infrastructure, food safety and quality control, procurement mechanisms, health convergence, Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), as well as initiatives aimed at strengthening transparency and community participation.

The meeting was in-



formed that over 32,250 beneficiaries are enrolled on the Poshan Tracker across Bandipora, Hajin, Sumbal and Gurez projects, including around 28,450 children, 1,958 lactating mothers and 1,840 pregnant women. Near-universal Aadhaar and mobile verification of beneficiaries was also reported, strengthening transparency and digital monitoring of nutrition services.

It was further informed that all 819 Anganwadi Centres in the district have functional Poshan Vatikas, while most centres have functional toilets, access to clean drinking water and electricity. All AWCs have also been geo-tagged and integrated with the Gati Shakti Portal through QR-based verification. As part of the mentorship initiative, each AWC has been adopted by a Gazetted Officer for guidance and quality monitoring.

On food safety and quality control, the meeting was informed that 818 of 819

AWCs have FSSAI registration/licensing, with regular sampling through accredited laboratories. The meeting also noted an 87.05 per cent FRS-based distribution rate for Take Home Ration, aimed at enhancing transparency in beneficiary delivery.

The meeting highlighted significant progress under the Kuposhan Mukh Bharat initiative, with 96.65 per cent of panchayats in the district eligible for ‘Kuposhan Mukh’ status. Health convergence includes screening of children for the 4 Ds, along with haemoglobin testing, while AYUSH interventions, yoga sessions and medicinal plant cultivation in Poshan Vatikas are also being promoted.

The meeting was also informed that 50 Anganwadi Workers have been trained as Master Trainers in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and 304 Vid-yarambh Certificates have been issued to children transitioning from AWCs to

Class-I.

A notable milestone was the conduct of the first-ever Social Audit of ICDS in District Bandipora, covering various Halqa Panchayats. Using a 135-item questionnaire, the process gathered direct community feedback and strengthened transparency, accountability and grassroots participation in nutrition service delivery.

The DDC directed the concerned departments to maintain regular field-level monitoring, close coordination and timely corrective action, with particular focus on ensuring quality nutrition services to children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. She stressed that sustained convergence and community participation are essential to achieving the goal of a malnutrition-free Bandipora.

Among others, the meeting was attended by ADDC Bandopora Nazir Ahmad Mir, CDPs, Heath Officials and other concerned.

Telecom Services scenario reviewed in Ramban

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Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a meeting of the District Level Telecom Committee to review the overall telecom services and signal coverage scenario in the district.

The meeting focused on strengthening reliable and uninterrupted telecom connectivity, particularly in remote and uncovered areas, along the National Highway-44 and at other strategically important locations.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, Dy. SP Police Telecom Mushtaq, Tehsildars, Executive Engineers of PWD (R&B) and JPDCL, senior Army officers, engineers of BSNL and other concerned officers. Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Tehsildars, departmental officers and representatives of private telecom service providers participated virtually.

While reviewing the status of ongoing telecom infrastructure projects, the Deputy Commissioner directed BSNL and private service providers, including Reliance Jio and Bharti Air-



tel to expedite measures for providing reliable signal coverage in all identified shadow areas. Special emphasis was laid on improving connectivity inside tunnels along NH-44 and at other important locations identified by the district administration in coordination with Police, Army and other departments.

The DC stressed the need to strengthen telecom connectivity along the entire NH-44 stretch from Nashri to Banihal, besides vulnerable and strategically im-

portant locations across the district. He also directed telecom operators to re-assess the coverage range of existing towers and explore measures to maximize their service outreach and improve network availability.

Army officers apprised the meeting of issues related to poor mobile signal coverage in certain areas. Taking note of the concerns, the Deputy Commissioner directed telecom operators to take immediate corrective measures to address the identified gaps and ensure

better network connectivity.

The Deputy Commissioner further instructed telecom operators to ensure adequate power backup and fuel arrangements at all telecom tower sites to maintain uninterrupted services during adverse weather conditions and natural calamities. He emphasized that robust telecom infrastructure and uninterrupted communication services are essential for effective coordination and timely response during emergencies.

5-Day NABL Assessor Training Prog commences in Srinagar

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A “Five-Day NABL Assessor Training Programme on ISO 15189:2022-Strengthening Medical Laboratory Quality Assurance in J&K,” has commenced at the Srinagar as a capacity-development initiative being conducted in collaboration with the Department of Clinical Biochemistry, University of Kashmir; State Allied and Healthcare Council, J&K (SAHC-JK); and the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories, a constituent Board of the Quality Council of India (NABL-QCI) under DPIIT, Government of India.

The programme forms part of the structured quality and capacity-building initiatives under the ‘Gunvatta Chakra’ framework of the Quality Council of India, facilitated in the Union Territory by the State Allied and Healthcare Council,



J&K. The progression from ‘Gunvatta Yatra’ and ‘Gunvatta Pathshala’ to Assessor Training represents a structured continuum from awareness and capacity building to assessor development, aimed at strengthening the medical laboratory quality assurance and accreditation ecosystem in the UT.

The programme was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.)

Sabhiya Majid, Chairperson, State Allied and Healthcare Council, J&K, and Prof. (Dr.) Tanveer Ali Dar, Head, Department of Clinical Biochemistry, University of Kashmir. Prof. (DE) Fouzia Rashid, Professor, Department of Clinical Biochemistry, University of Kashmir, is the Organising Secretary of the programme.

The training programme

is being attended by senior and distinguished medical faculty and professionals from the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir as well as other parts of the country.

This initiative is being attended by clinical doctors from prestigious institutions including AIIMS, Government Medical Colleges, and other state government organizations.

The programme aims to develop a strong pool of trained assessors and resource faculty for assessment of government and private medical laboratories in accordance with applicable NABL standards.

By enhancing local assessment capability, the initiative is expected to strengthen laboratory quality, support accreditation preparedness and promote consistent standards in diagnostic services across J&K, while also contributing to the national assessor pool.

DC Bandipora inaugurates 6-Day Psychology-Driven STEM Training Programme

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 07: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Monday inaugurated a 6-day Psychology-Driven STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Training Workshop for government school teachers and students at Nadim Memorial Boys Higher Secondary School (NMBHSS), Kaloosa.

The workshop is organized under the Jammu & Kashmir Science Technology & Innovation Council (JKST&IC) sponsored project titled “Psychology Driven STEM Learning to build scientific temper in the border villages of Kashmir.”

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the pivotal role of experiential, student-centric pedagogy in demystifying science and technology education. She highlighted that integrating psychology-driven interventions into STEM disciplines will ignite curiosity, enhance problem-solving



capabilities, and nurture enduring scientific temperament among students, particularly in border districts.

She stressed that children from all age groups, including those outside the formal school system, should be encouraged to visit and utilize these labs to explore, experiment and develop scientific curiosity.

On the occasion, the Chief Education Officer Bandipora, Rafeeq Ahmad Mir, delivered the presidential address, commending the

collaborative effort and underscoring the department’s commitment to transforming classrooms into centers of innovation, creativity, and practical learning through active utilization of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs).

During the programme, Dr. Eshrat Ara, Principal Investigator (Assistant Professor, GCW M.A. Road, Srinagar), outlined the scope and objectives of the 6-day training model.

Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran, Co-Principal Investi-

gator (Assistant Professor, NIT Srinagar), briefed the gathering on the project’s technical framework and experiential learning modules.

Speaking on the occasion, Nodal Officer, ATL Lab Kashmir, Muneer Wani, spoke on maximizing the potential of tinkering laboratories across schools.

The event witnessed active participation from resource persons, educators, and students from various institutions across the district.

DLSA Jammu convenes review meeting ahead of 3rd National Lok Adalat-2026

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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District Legal Services Authority Jammu under the guidance of I/C Principal District & Sessions Judge / Chairperson, Sonia Gupta and under the supervision of Civil Judge (Sr. Division) / Secretary, Maleeka Sharma today convened a meeting regarding the upcoming 3rd National Lok Adalat scheduled to be held on 12th September, 2026.

The meeting was chaired by Sonia Gupta (I/C Principal District & Sessions Judge / Chairperson, DLSA Jammu) along with Khem



Raj (Presiding Officer MACT Jammu), Aarti Mohan (District Judge Bank Cases Jammu) and Maleeka Sharma (Civil Judge (Sr. Division) / Secretary, DLSA Jammu).

The meeting was held in hybrid mode, wherein some participants joined virtually while others attended physically at the of-

fice of the Chairperson, DLSA Jammu.

Participants included representatives from various Banks and Insurance Companies along with their counsels.

During the meeting, the Chairperson emphasized disposal of maximum cases in the upcoming National Lok Adalat. She stressed

upon pre-Lok Adalat sittings and settlement through negotiations. She also directed all the participating advocates to ensure their presence and active participation in the National Lok Adalat on 12th September 2026 and to cooperate for amicable settlement of cases to make the Lok Adalat a grand success.