

# Transforming agriculture to business enterprise: DDG Dr Gautam

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu conducted an interaction meeting under the patronage of Dr. B. N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu with Deputy Director General (DDG), Agricultural Extension, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Dr. U. S. Gautam, who visited SKUAST-Jammu on Monday.

Dr. Gautam, in his address, assured farmers of ICAR's continuous support towards their development.

He emphasized the importance of raising awareness about Centrally Sponsored Schemes among farmers to ensure they derive maximum benefits.

Dr. Gautam advocated for the transition of agriculture into a business enterprise to



DDG, Agricultural Extension ICAR, Dr. U. S. Gautam at SKUAST-J faculty releasing a brochure.

optimize returns, while also highlighting the crucial role of women in agriculture.

Dr. Puranjan Das, Former Deputy Director General (Agricultural Extension) at ICAR, emphasized the significance of group formation, adopting a cluster approach, and certifying organic produce at the FPO level to enhance farmer welfare.

Director Atari Zone I, Dr. Parvinder Sheoran emphasized the necessity of focusing on profitability enhance-

ment, promoting agribusiness enterprises, and implementing traceability concepts within KVKs.

Director Extension, SKUAST-Jammu, Dr. Amrisha Vaid commended KVK Jammu for its efforts in uplifting farmers in the region and congratulated them on receiving the Best KVK award in the North Zone.

Earlier, Dr. Punit Choudhary, Chief Scientist and Head, KVK, Jammu

and team welcomed Chief Guest and other dignitaries and gave a brief overview about KVK activities. Balraj Singh, Dy. Secy, ICAR, DARE was also present on the occasion. Balbir Kour, Kisan Board Member and Progressive Farm women from border village of Treva also put her views during the meeting.

District Development Committee Members, members of Kisan Advisory Board, J&K, Ex-Sarpanchs

and Panchs, awardees and progressive farmers of Jammu district, Board of Directors of FPO and scientists from the Directorate of Extension participated in the interaction.

Dr. Ravneet Kour, Dr. Sheetal Badyal, Dr. Prem Kumar, Dr. Muneeshwar Sharma, Dr. Amitesh, Dr. Raju Gupta, Satbir Singh and Sahil Talgotra helped in the smooth conduct of the programme.

An exhibition by FPO Basmati, FPO Mushroom, Organic Vegetable production by vegetable growers and IFFCO, Jammu was also organized on the occasion.

Fish fingerlings and a calendar depicting various activities of KVK, Jammu were also released on the occasion. The programme concluded with appreciation remarks by DDG, Agricultural extension.

# LG Manoj Sinha visits residence of Gaurav Gupta, mourns demise of his grandmother Vidya Devi



Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha visits residence of Gaurav Gupta, Secretary of Jammu Club for conveying heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of his grandmother.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Monday visited the residence of Gaurav Gupta, Secretary of Jammu Club and former General Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Jammu, to convey heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of his grandmother, Vidya Devi, wife of Late

Krishan Dutt Gupta, who left for the heavenly abode on January 25, 2024.

Divisional Commissioner, Ramesh Sharma and other senior administrative officers accompanied the Lt Governor.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha offered his condolences and conveyed sympathies to the grieving family during this challenging time. He also

prayed to the God to grant eternal peace to the departed soul.

Gaurav Gupta expressed gratitude for the thoughtful gesture extended by Lt Governor Sinha during this difficult period. He shared his appreciation for the personal visit, highlighting the Lieutenant Governor's compassion and concern for the well-being of the citizens.

# Dr Rohit Gupta meets CE PDD to address power sector issues



JKAP Provincial Secretary Jammu Dr. Rohit Gupta calling on Chief Engineer PDD.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: J&K Apni Pary Provincial Secretary Jammu and In-charge Membership Dr. Rohit Gupta on Monday held a crucial meeting with the Chief Engineer of the Power

Development Department (PDD) in his office to discuss pressing issues within the power sector.

The primary focus of the meeting was on addressing the challenges related to the power supply in the Jammu

region.

Dr. Gupta expressed concern over the severe difficulties faced by the residents due to interrupted power supply, adversely impacting their daily lives.

During the meeting, Dr. Rohit Gupta appealed to the Chief Engineer for urgent and effective measures to ensure uninterrupted power supply to Jammu.

He highlighted the significant hardships faced by the people and emphasized the need for swift action to alleviate their suffering.

In response to the concerns raised, the Chief Engineer of PDD assured Dr. Gupta that the matter would be resolved promptly.

Dr. Gupta expressed confidence in the Chief Engineer's commitment to addressing these issues promptly.

# B R Sharma elected as Chairman, IIPA J&K Regional Branch

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: B.R.Sharma, IAS (Retd) was re-elected as Chairman of the IIPA, JK Regional Branch for the period 2024-2026 during the 45th Annual General Meeting of the Branch which was held on Monday.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, IPS (Retd), Former DGP, J&K Police shall be mentoring the branch as Patron.

During the AGM, the new office bearers for the period 2024 - 2026 were also elected and the Executive Committee was also nominated.

The office bearers elected for the period 2024 - 2026 are Er. J.B.S.Johar- Vice Chairman (Jammu), Dr. G.N.Qasba- Vice Chairman (Kashmir); K.B.Jandial, IAS(Retd) - Vice Chairman (Central); Prof. Alka Sharma- Hony Secretary; Shri Vikrant Kuthiala- Hony Treasurer; Dr. Anil



Newly elected office bearers of IIPA, JK Regional Branch at AGM on Monday.

Gupta- Joint Secretary (Jammu); G.M.Andrabi- Joint Secretary (Kashmir); Er. M M Gupta, Director Seminars; Manoj Kumar Pandith Joint Director Seminar (Jammu) Prof NasirIqbal- Joint Director Seminars (Kashmir).

The 15 member Executive Committee nominated include Kuldeep Khoda IPS (Retd), A.M.Watali IPS (Retd); Dr.C.M.Seth IPS (Retd), Prof. Rekha Choudhary, Col (Retd)

Karan Singh, Prof.Mehraj-ud-din, Prem Gupta IPS (Retd), Narinder Khajuria, JKAS; Dr.Komal Nagar, Smt Ansuya Jamwal, JKAS, Suresh Kumar Gupta, IPS, Bashir Ahmad Shah, Dr Bharat Bhushan, JKAS, Mohammad Yassen Kichloo, IPS, Mubashir Amin Khan, JKAS.

B R Sharma in his address complimented the outgoing team said that effort s shall be undertaken to strengthen the branch by

undertaking programs across the region.

He reiterated that the existence of IIPA is because of the mandate so we should undertake such activities which will benefit the society and government together.

Dr. Ashok Bhan in his address while congratulating the branch for achieving the distinction of being adjudged the 1stbest branch in the country said that the branch is in the phase of

consolidation, where the experience and energy are in synergy.

He stressed that the Vision of IIPA should be the guiding spirit for the branch and excel in Training programs and research initiatives and build its credibility among various agencies, as we celebrate our golden jubilee in next 5 years.

Prof Alka Sharma, Hony Secretary presented the annual report and Sh. Vikrant Kuthiala, Hony Treasurer presented the statement of accounts for the last financial year.

Prof Alka Sharma formally welcomed the gathering and Dr Anil Gupta, Joint Secretary conducted the proceedings of the function and presented the formal vote of thanks.

Prem Gupta, IPS (Retd) was the returning officer during the conduct of the elections.

# IIM Jammu, SIDBI inaugurate STEM Programme for future leaders

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, in collaboration with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), celebrated the commencement of the Skill to Enterprise Module (STEM) programme at IIM Jammu.

The event witnessed the presence of Dr. Subhansu S. Acharya, CGM, SIDBI, as the Chief Guest, and Rishi Pandey, DGM, SIDBI, as the Guest of Honor. Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, presided over the ceremony.

The inaugural ceremony commenced with the address by, Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Chairperson of The Centre for Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Skill Development (CEISD), IIM Jammu who provided a brief overview of STEM.

He said, "The program unfolds in three meticulously planned phases, commencing



Director IIM Jammu, Prof. B.S. Sahay speaking at a programme.

with a 14-day comprehensive training initiative encompassing 216 hours of both physical and virtual training. This includes invaluable mentorship from industrial and academic experts. The emphasis lies not merely on discussing solutions but collaboratively discovering them. We eagerly anticipate the emergence of 30 distinguished enterprises as a testament to the program's efficacy."

Dr. Subhansu shared: "The STEM programme is a

crucial intervention to bridge the gap between skill development and enterprise creation. After hearing all the diverse ideas and witnessing the passion for success in this room of participants, I am confident that this program will be a triumph. Focusing on development in less developed areas is vital, and the contribution of MSMEs is immense as they provide employment to a large number of people. Each of you plays a role in shaping our nation's development by

2047. From once being called 'fragile,' we now stand as one of the world's top five economies - a significant feat thanks to MSMEs."

Prof. Sahay shared his views as, "From childhood, we were groomed to seek jobs, not create them. Today, the shift is clear as we're fostering job providers, not just job seekers. The Skill to Enterprise Programme is a much-needed initiative that will enable our youth to become successful entrepreneurs. It will help them realize their full potential, create job opportunities for themselves and others, and contribute to the economic growth of our nation. The program aims to foster innovation and entrepreneurship in J&K by providing practical training, mentorship, and access to networks of business professionals. With great ideas and the determination to work hard in the execution of those ideas, suc-

cess is inevitable."

He encouraged the youth of J&K to leverage this opportunity and create success stories for other youth to follow."

Rishi Pandey, DGM, SIDBI, mentioned "SIDBI is delighted to partner with IIM Jammu in launching the STEM programme, an initiative that aligns with our mission to support and promote small-scale industries."

R.C. Raina, Former employee, SIDBI and a resident of Jammu and Kashmir, stated, "I hope each one of you gives full concentration, devotion and utilizes your time well at this program so that when you come out of this program, you will be well equipped to handle your own enterprises and drive them towards profitable ventures."

The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Vivek Sharma, Chief Innovation Officer, IIM Jammu.

# PMG Jammu Region briefs welfare schemes to DGP J&K

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Col Vinod Kumar, Postmaster General Jammu on Monday met R.R Swain, Director General of Police (DGP) J&K UT at Police Headquarter and explained various welfare schemes which are beneficial for the Jawans and their families. Col Vinod Kumar explained in detailed of Postal Life Insurance and Rural Postal Life Insurance which requires Low Premium and provide High Bonus & Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana etc which are very important for Jawans as they can invest and receive good financial benefit over a period of time. Under Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna, he said, any person can have insurance cover with a nominal cost of Rs. 20/- per annum which can be deducted directly from their POSB Accounts. PMG Jammu also discussed about Sukanya Samridhhi Yojana was launched as a part of the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' campaign. It is a government-supported initiative that currently provides an interest rate of 8.2% at present, which is calculated, compounded annually, he said adding that the scheme endeavours to foster the education and well-being of the girl child in India. Under SSA scheme an account can be opened for any girl who is below 10 years and will be get huge benefit in the time of her higher education or coaching for professional field etc, he said.

On the occasion, PMG Jammu presented DGP J&K a few PLI calendar.

DGP J&K UT assured that instructions will be issued on time slot to postal representatives so that J&K Police Jawan can get better chances to invest their money.

Detailed discussions was held with officers looking after welfare J&K Police.

Col Vinod Kumar intimated that officers from Postal Department will be nominated for conducting awareness camp in police establishment of each district across J&K UT.



Col Vinod Kumar, PMG Jammu presenting PLI calendars to DGP J&K, R.R Swain.

# JKMEF delegation meets Director Health Services Jammu, discusses employees issues



JKMEF delegation calling on DHSJ Dr. Rakesh Magotra.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A meeting of all Jammu Kashmir Medical Employees Federation (JKMEF) held Monday at federation office DHS Complex Jammu under the Chairmanship of Sushil Sudan President JKMEF Jammu.

In the meeting various demands were discussed in detail which requires immediate redressal.

The demand include settlement of long pending salary issue of 2211 Head as the employees of 2211 Head are suffering badly and are with-

out salary since six months, re-designation of Pharmacist as Pharmacy officer on the Pattern of other state and UTs, cover all employees and retirees under CGHS on the pattern of Central Govt employees, release payment of GP Funds of employees and retirees which are pending in the Treasuries without further delay, Re-Designation of electricians Posts as Jr Senior Supervisor and Head Electrician, creation of posts of Technical Officer for all technical trades i.e O.T. Tech Ophthalmic Technician,

X-rays Technicians on the pattern of Lab Technician.

Its permanent solution must be settled without further delay, JKMEF president Sushil Sudan said.

The delegation under the leadership of Sushil Sudan President met new Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Rakesh Magotra and greeted him for prestigious assignment.

In the deputation other leaders of JKMEF were present including Bharat Bhushan Bhagat President Pharmacist, Parfulat Singh, General Secretary, Onkar Singh, Vice President JKMEF, Jasvinder Singh President OT Tech, Aslam Bhai, Pawan Singh Jamwal, Anita Bhagat, Tejinder Singh, Sapna Gupta, Suria Begum, Arti, R.P Singh, Surjeet Kumar, Dalip Choudhary, Sanjay Choudhary, Subash Choudhary, Kulwant Singh and Bahadur Singh.

# CSIR-IIIM to organise an International Conference on Plant-Based Medicines from Feb 16

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine would be organizing "International Conference on Traditional Medicine and Phytopharmaceuticals" and the "11th International Congress of Society of Ethnopharmacology (SFEC2024), from 16th to 18th February, 2024, under the theme "Ethnopharmacology in Development of Phytopharmaceutical Drugs", in collaboration with the Society of Ethnopharmacology (SFE), Kolkata, India.

The event will likely be inaugurated by Chief Guest, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space and Vice President CSIR. The inaugural session, to be held from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on 16th February, 2024 and will likely be graced with the presence of



Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM Jammu addressing a press conference at Jammu on Monday.

Vd. Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, GoI, Shekhar Dutt, Former Governor Chhattisgarh & Advisor; SFE, Dr. CP Thakur, Chairman, Former Governor Chhattisgarh, and Advisor SFE and Dr. Pulok K. Mukherjee, Chairman, Scientific Services, SFEC-2024. Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director; CSIR-IIIM informed that the Conference will have more than 20 scientific sessions, including and IConnect program: Business Meet, on the theme "Development of Phytopharmaceutical Drugs:

"Tradition to Translational", "Young Ethnopharmacologist Award Function", "American Chemical Society (ACS) Best Oral Presentation Award Session", "SFE Best Poster Presentation Session", Panel Discussion on "Opportunities and Challenges in Cannabis Research" and Traditional Healers Meet. Other scientific sessions would include talks on the themes "Phytopharmaceuticals: Drug Development from Traditional Medicine", "Evidence-Based Validation of Traditional Medicine", "Traditional

Ethnopharmacology Inspired Drug Discovery and Development", "Development of Botanical/Herbal Drugs: Global Perspective", "Global Positioning of AYUSH Products: Standardization and Validation", "Natural Products Inspired Modern Drug Discovery", "Network/Reverse Pharmacology in Herbal Drug Discovery", "New Approaches for Phytopharmaceutical Drugs Development", "Ethnomedicine: an Invaluable Source of Novel Drug", "Regulatory Aspects of Phytopharmaceutical Drugs (US FDA/EMA)", "Opportunities and Challenges in Cannabis Research", "Bioprospecting Plants and Microbes for Development of Therapeutics", "New Approaches in Natural Product Drug Discovery", etc. More than 100 distinguished invited speakers, from nearly 20 different countries, including the United States of America,

United Kingdom, Australia, Italy, Malaysia, Thailand, Bangladesh, Ghana and India would be delivering their talks. Nearly 700 participants from all over India have registered for this mega event. The international conference will be organized under the overall supervision of Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR-IIIM and the organizing Chairman for this International Conference with assistance from Dr. Prasson K. Gupta and Dr. Naveed Qazi as organizing secretaries for the conference.

Other members of the functional committee for this event are: Dr. Pulok K. Mukherjee, Chairman, Scientific Services SFEC-2024, Dr. Subhash C Mandal, Secretary SFE, Birendra Kumar Sarkar, President SFE, Dr. CK Katiyar, Vice President SFE, Indraneel Das, Vice President, SFE, Dr. Anit Kar, Treasurer SFE, Dr. Vikash Babu, Treasurer.