

ICAR sponsored 10-day Short Course on "Entrepreneurship and Startup Opportunities in Entomology" inaugurated at SKUAST-J

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Division of Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), on Wednesday inaugurated a 10-day short course on "Entrepreneurship and Startup Opportunities in Entomology."

Sponsored by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the event marks a significant step in fostering entrepreneurial ventures within the specialized field of entomology.

The course has drawn participants from across the country, eager to explore emerging opportunities in this vital sector of agricultural sciences.

The day commenced with the registration of participants, who displayed great enthusiasm about delving



VC SKUAST-J, Prof B. N. Tripathi and others at a programme.

into the intersection of entrepreneurship and entomology.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by several esteemed dignitaries, including the Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-J, Professor B. N. Tripathi; Director of Research, Dr. S. K. Gupta;

Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Dr. Anil Sharma; and Head of the Department, Division of Entomology, Dr. R.K. Gupta.

In his keynote address, Prof B.N Tripathi praised the initiative and commended both the Division of Entomology and ICAR for organizing such a timely and impactful program.

He emphasized the importance of leveraging the knowledge acquired during the course to create scalable, innovative ventures in the field of entomology. He also stressed that such

initiatives play a crucial role in fostering a culture of innovation, self-reliance, and entrepreneurship among young researchers and professionals.

Dr. S. K. Gupta, Director of Research, highlighted the significance of bridging the gap between research and practical application, urging participants to explore entrepreneurial avenues that could contribute to sustainable agricultural development.

Dr. Anil Sharma, the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, further emphasized the growing need for innovation and entrepreneurship in the agricultural sciences, particularly through startups that address challenges in pest management and other entomological concerns.

The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. R.K. Gupta, who

expressed gratitude to ICAR for its support and acknowledged the efforts of the participants and dignitaries.

Running until February 28, 2025, this 10-day short course aims to equip participants with the skills to identify and capitalize on entrepreneurial opportunities within entomology. The course will feature lectures, interactive sessions, and hands-on training from renowned experts. Topics covered include biological pest control, apiculture, sericulture, and insect-based products.

This program, organized by SKUAST-J in collaboration with ICAR, is a crucial step in promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in agricultural sciences, encouraging participants to contribute to the sustainable development of agriculture and allied sectors.

Workshop on three New Criminal Laws held at SIA Hqrs J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The State Investigation Agency, J&K, organized a special workshop for the officers of SIA Jammu and SIA Kashmir on the new apps as well as portals developed by the government for the smooth and hassle-free implementation of three New Criminal Laws viz. Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA).

The key speakers at the session included DIG SIA, J&K Rajeshwar Singh, DDP SIA J&K, Kamal Sharma, SP SIA Hqrs, Pardeep Kumar, Senior Prosecuting Officer, SIA Hqrs., Sashi Koul, SI Abhinandan Singh of Crime Headquarters J&K, Jammu.

The DIG SIA Rajeshwar Singh, highlighted the key features of new criminal laws besides importance of legal reforms for strengthening the



SIA J&K officials at a workshop.

police Department's operational capabilities and ensuring the efficient administration of the criminal justice system. He emphasized that it is important to stay updated with these changes to effectively carry out their duties while maintaining public trust and upholding the rule of law.

S.I Abhinandan Singh of Crime branch dealt with the tactical aspect of mandated for the implementation of New criminal Laws. He also sensitized the officers about the use of apps and their

importance in the investigation.

Sr. PO Shashi Koul as a legal expert delved into the details of the new criminal laws, examining their background, provisions, and opportunities they present for India's legal system and provide his introductory thought about how the new laws were an attempt to decolonize laws made during the British Era.

The workshop was organized under the aegis and guidance of the Director, SIA, J&K.

Asarwan Village achieves 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' Certification



MLA Sham Lal Sharma, and DDC Chairman Bharat Bushan handing over a certificate.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In significant milestone towards ensuring safe and adequate drinking water for every household, the village Asserwan has been officially certified as Har Ghar Jal village under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

The certification ceremony took place at Assarwan Tubewell in a Gram Sabha held today, jointly chaired by MLA Sham Lal Sharma, and DDC Chairman Bharat Bushan.

The event was attended by all Pani Samiti members and large gathering of local residents.

During Gram Sabha besides the certification of the Har Ghar Jal village, several issues concerning the development of the area were discussed.

The MLA and DDC Chairman engaged with the local community and Pani Samiti members to address concern and plan future development initiatives to further improve infrastructure and public service in the area.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Sham Lal Sharma congratulated the villagers and emphasized the gov-

ernment's commitment to sustainable water management and rural development.

He acknowledged the efforts of the Pani Samiti and the cooperation of the local residents in making this project a success. MLA also appreciated the efforts of Executive Engineer Jal shakti Phe Akhnoor Division Jammu and his team.

DDC Chairman, Bharat Bushan also lauded the achievement and assured continued support for development initiatives to uplift the living standards of the people of Asserwan.

The successful implementation of WSS Asserwan under Jal Jeevan Mission showcases the commitment of the administration towards fulfilling the vision of Har Ghar Jal ensuring safe and sufficient drinking water supply to every rural household in India.

3-day orientation sessions on new Criminal Laws organised by Traffic Police conclude

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Traffic Police City Jammu on Wednesday organized a series of orientation sessions on the three new criminal laws, acquainting the officials about the core provisions.

The orientation was imparted to 5 batches which started on Feb 17, and concluded today with a simple but impressive valedictory function held in Conference Hall of District Police Lines Gandhi Nagar.

Lectures regarding implementation of the three new criminal laws were delivered by Additional SP Traffic City Jammu Arvinder Singh Kotwal; Dy. SP Traffic City South Jammu Faisal Arif Rishu and other officers.

Deputy Inspector General of Police Traffic Range Jammu Dr. Mohammad Haseeb Mughal, was the Chief Guest at the valedictory function, while District & Sessions Judge (Retd.) Subash C. Gupta and Joint Director Prosecution, (Retd.) Pawan Kumar Khajuria were the guests of honour.



Additional SP Traffic City Jammu Arvinder Singh Kotwal and others at an orientation session.

SSP Traffic City Jammu Faisal Qureshi; Addl. SP Traffic City Jammu Arvinder Singh Kotwal; Dy. SP Traffic City South/ North / Rural Jammu and other officers/officials of Traffic City Jammu also attended the valedictory event. In his address, DIG

Traffic Range Jammu - the Chief Guest briefed the participants about the new criminal laws including Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CTNS), National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS), Inter-operable

Recovery of excess payments made to employee due to wrong interpretation of rules not permissible post retirement: CAT

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Single Bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Jammu Bench, comprising of Rajinder Singh Dogra, Member (Judicial), held that after an employee retires, it is not permissible to recover excess payments made to them due to a mistaken interpretation of rules.

The Bench relied on the case of "Thomas Daniel Vs. State of Kerala & Ors.", 2022 AIR (SC) 2153, wherein, the Supreme Court held that correctness of an Order of pay fixation can be looked into for a maximum period of 24 months preceding the date of retirement and cannot be gone into when the employee retired on superannuation.

The Bench reinforced that disputes raised long after emoluments are drawn cannot justify recalculating retiral benefits.

The Applicant's case, the CAT observed, mirrored this precedent, as the alleged irregularities had gone unaddressed for decades, demonstrating systemic administrative failures.

According to the CAT Bench, if an employee's pay was incorrectly fixed, the Government cannot recover any excess amount paid to him if the error occurred more than 24 months before his retirement date; essentially, the final two years of service are considered conclusive for calculating pensionary benefits, and any discrepancies beyond that period cannot be questioned after retirement. These observations came in response to Original Application highlighting employer's negligence and its impact on post-retirement entitlements.

The Applicant - Sunil Kumar Sharma, came to be appointed as Junior Engineer in 1992 and rose through the ranks, retiring as In Charge Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti, Hydraulic Division, Ramban, having retired on superannuation on March 31, 2022.

In 1992, Vide SRO 75 of 1992 the pay of the Applicant in the then existing pay-scale of Rs. 1400 - 2300 was re-fixed in the revised pay-scale of Rs. 1760-3200 in terms of Finance Department's Order No 37 of 1992 dated September 15, 1992, after allowing 8 increments, being a Degree Holder.

However, Sr. Accounts Officer, AG (A&E) Vide dated 16th March, 2022 intimated that "the retired officer has been appointed on May 1, 1992 in the pay scale of Rs. 1400-2300 and his pay fixed at Rs. 1720 (with advance 8 increments being Degree Holder). Later on his pay was fixed

at Rs. 2240 in the pay scale of Rs. 1760-3200 w.e.f May 1, 1992 instead of Rs. 2000.

As the advance eight increments were to be allowed on initial stage only, as such, withheld gratuity amounting to Rs. 9, 51, 710 but the pension and commutation was authorized on due last pay. The Applicant, through Dinesh Singh Chauhan, Advocate had sought quashment of Communication dated 16th March, 2022 withholding gratuity amount and working out pensionary benefits on due last pay instead of actual Last Pay Drawn by the Applicant.

The Union Territory represented by Dewakar Sharma, DAG was directed to restore the pay/pension of the applicant which he was getting prior to issuance of impugned order and release the reduced/withheld gratuity.

All JKPSC +2 Lecturers' Association delegation calls on LG

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A delegation from the All JKPSC +2 Lecturers' Association, led by President Jammu Province Manjit Chib, met with the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, here on Wednesday.

The delegation highlighted the severe stagnation faced by 10+2 Lecturers in the School Education Department, pointing out that directly recruited lecturers are promoted only after 20-22 years of service.

"This stagnation is so significant that many lecturers will retire without receiving any financial upgradation, as there is no provision for Non-



All JKPSC +2 Lecturers' Association meeting with Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha.

Functional Upgradation (NFU) or Assured Career Progression (ACP) for these individuals," Manjit Chib said.

The delegation also presented precedents from other States and UTs, where provi-

sions for pay structure and ACP benefits for Lecturers exist.

They specifically mentioned the recent extension of the MACP Scheme to the Lecturers of the School Education Department in

Ladakh, which had acted on the same proposal submitted to the erstwhile State of J&K.

The LG acknowledged the issue and recognized the lack of career prospects and financial upgradation for these lecturers.

He assured the delegation that their concerns would be given due consideration and that a timely and positive response would be forthcoming.

The delegation included Sandeepan Gupta (Sr. Lecturer), Vijay Sharma (Sr. Lecturer), Sanjeev Gupta (Sr. Lecturer) and Anjali Janwal (Lecturer).

MLA Yudhvir, Priya inaugurate newly renovated Krishna Ashram at Pratapgarh Mohalla

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and MLA East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi on Wednesday inaugurated the newly renovated Krishna Ashram at Ward 15, Pratapgarh Mohalla. The ashram, a significant spiritual and social hub for the local community, has been refurbished to enhance its facilities for devotees and residents.

Yudhvir Sethi was joined by senior BJP leader and former Minister, Priya Sethi, along with Mahant Raghav Sidkar, Pawan Arora, Sanjay Mahei ex



MLA East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi inaugurating newly renovated Krishna Ashram.

corporator, Arun Sethi, Vageesh Gupta Bharti, Bhushan Grover, Anita Gupta, Ritika Mahajan, Anuradha Sharma, Preeti Sharma, Kamal Kishore

Jain, Kiran Agarwal, Shiv Kumar, Sat Pal Chouhan, Shashi Bai, Pawan Gupta, Ajay Kumar, Madan Mohan, Happy Chouhan, Atul Gupta and Rakesh

Gupta. Addressing the gathering, Yudhvir highlighted the importance of preserving religious and cultural institutions, emphasizing that Krishna Ashram has been a center for faith and community service for decades. He commended the efforts of local residents and volunteers and assured continued support from the government for maintaining such institutions.

"The Bharatiya Janata Party is committed to promoting and preserving our rich cultural and religious heritage. The renovation of Krishna Ashram is not just

about infrastructure but about fostering an environment where our traditions thrive. As we are living in the City of temples, and I will continue to working towards the development of spiritual centers that contribute to the moral and social upliftment of society," he said.

Priya Sethi lauded the efforts of the Ashram's management and local community members for their dedication in reviving the spiritual hub. She reiterated BJP's commitment to preserving religious sites and ensuring that they serve the people effectively.

IIIM Jammu, NISR Leh strengthen collaboration to modernize Traditional Medicine



Director Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu meeting with Dr. Padma Gurmet, Director NISR, Leh.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu and the National Institute of Sowa-Rigpa (NISR), Leh have reaffirmed their commitment to advancing traditional medicine through a collaborative partnership. A review meeting was held at the institute where Director Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, CSIR-IIIM, Jammu and Dr. Padma Gurmet, Director NISR, Leh, discussed the progress of their ongoing collaboration and outlined a roadmap for future initiatives.

Heads of both institutes reviewed the work accomplished since the signing of the MoU. Discussions cov-

ered key areas such as expanding research efforts, ensuring the quality and efficacy of Sowa-Rigpa medicines, and strengthening collaboration between scientists from both institutions.

The meeting also emphasized the importance of developing a structured approach to bring traditional medicines into mainstream healthcare through scientific validation and modern research methodologies.

Notably, both the institutions have Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which focuses on the scientific validation, standardization, and quality control of traditional medicines, particularly those used in

the Sowa-Rigpa system. This partnership aims to integrate traditional knowledge with modern scientific research to develop new therapeutic applications and promote the global recognition of Indian traditional medicine.

It is also important to note that both the institutions recognize the importance of merging traditional medicine with modern research to enhance its credibility and global acceptance. The discussions at the meeting concluded with a commitment to deep research collaboration, explore new medicinal formulations, and enhance the application of Sowa-Rigpa in healthcare.

The partnership between CSIR-IIIM and NISR represents a significant step towards the scientific validation and modernization of Indian traditional medicine systems. Er. Abdul Rahim, Head RMBT & IST and IIIM Branch Lab. Srinagar who is overseeing the implementation of CSIR Initiatives for Ladakh UT is also present in the review meeting.

BLK-Max SSH launches Ortho Spine Surgery OPD Services in Jammu

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: BLK-Max Super Speciality Hospital, today announced the launch of its dedicated Ortho Spine Surgery Services OPD services, in partnership with the city-based Ujala Cygnus JK Medcity Hospital. The OPD Services were launched in the presence of Dr Puneet Girdhar, Principal Director & Head, Ortho Spine Surgery, at BLK-Max Hospital along with Dr Harmeet Singh Kapoor - Managing and Medical Director, Group Director - Emergency & Trauma, Ujala Cygnus JK Medcity Hospital, Jammu. Dr Puneet Girdhar will be available for OPD at Ujala Cygnus JK Medcity Hospital, Jammu on 2nd Wednesday of every month from 11 am to 1 pm for primary consultations.

During the OPD launch Dr Puneet Girdhar, Principal Director & Head, Ortho Spine Surgery, at BLK-Max Hospital said "The launch of this OPD reflects our mission to improve healthcare access and outcomes for residents in Jammu and surrounding areas. From non-surgical management to minimally invasive surgical techniques, the OPD will offer a full spectrum of treatments to address various ortho and spinal disorders. By bringing specialized orthopaedic and spinal care to the local community, we aim to enhance the quality of life for our patients and reduce the need for long-distance travel to receive top-tier medical attention." The new Orthopaedic Spine Surgery OPD is part of BLK-Max Hospital ongoing

commitment to providing exceptional medical services and addressing the growing needs of the community. It will offer a comprehensive range of services, including advanced diagnostic tools, personalized treatment plans, and innovative surgical procedures. Dr Harmeet Singh Kapoor - Managing Director, Group Director - Emergency & Trauma, Ujala Cygnus JK Medcity Hospital, Jammu said "This OPD is going to be a valuable addition to the healthcare infrastructure of Jammu by providing world-class treatment solutions to patients in the city right at their doorsteps.

Our services will include all consultations and investigations and provide end to end services for the treatment."