

SKUAST Jammu is all set to launch Agri Thon 2.0: VC

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) of Jammu is set to launch AgriThon 2.0, a prestigious national-level innovation challenge under the Jammu and Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP). Supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), this initiative is designed to empower rural youth from Jammu Division and students from Higher Education Institutions across Northern India. The challenge is themed around promoting entrepreneurship and innovation in agriculture and allied sectors and aligns with the national vision of "Viksit Krishi for Atmanirbhar Bharat."

In a press conference, Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-Jammu and Chairman of AgriThon 2.0, emphasized the alignment of this program with the Prime Minister's vision of positioning India as a global hub of startups and innovation. He highlighted that the initiative will focus on harnessing out-of-the-box ideas in domains such as



VC of SKUAST-Jammu, Prof. B.N. Tripathi releasing poster during a press conference.

Digital Agriculture, Climate Resilient Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Food Processing, and Urban Farming. The competition aims to identify and nurture agri-tech innovations that can be practically applied to benefit rural communities and the agriculture sector at large.

Participants of AgriThon 2.0 will compete for total prize money worth Rs 5.60 lakh. In addition to cash prizes, selected innovative business plans will be eligible to receive financial support of up to Rs 5.00 lakh for implementation. A dedicated online portal has been launched to facilitate transparent and smooth submission of concept notes. Registration is free of cost, and entries will be accepted from 25th July to 25th August 2025.

This initiative offers rural youth an opportunity to transform traditional knowledge into profitable enterprises. Meanwhile, students from institutions like IITs, IIMs, NITs, and various universities offering agricultural, veterinary, horticulture, forestry, and general science education can leverage this platform to develop and present impactful innovations.

AgriThon 2.0 will be conducted in three phases-initial submission of a 500-word concept note, expert evaluation of entries, and live presentations by shortlisted candidates before a jury of domain experts. All finalists will receive certificates of participation, promoting recogni-

tion and encouragement for their ideas. The competition builds on the success of past programs like AgriThon 2024 and the Her-Harvest Ideathon for female students, which previously showcased remarkable breakthroughs in areas such as precision agriculture, biotechnology, pest management, and digital farming solutions.

The launch of AgriThon 2.0 comes at a time when India's startup ecosystem is flourishing, with over 1.59 lakh officially recognized startups, making the country the third-largest startup hub globally after the US and China. National missions like Startup India, Stand-up India, and Digital India continue to promote innovation, especially at the grassroots level. Through AgriThon 2.0,

SKUAST-Jammu reiterates its commitment to building a robust ecosystem of student technocrats, rural entrepreneurs, and future-ready agri-leaders.

The event launch was attended by all statutory officers of SKUAST-Jammu, including Dr. Amrish Vaid (Director Extension & Co-Chairman), Dr. S.K. Gupta (Director Research), Dr. Sanjay Khar (Director Education & DPM), Dr. Anil Kumar (Registrar & Dean FoA), Dr. Sudhakar Dwivedi (Dean Student Welfare), Dr. Rajesh Katoch (Dean FVSc. & AH), Dr. Vikas Tandon (Dean Faculty of Horticulture & Forestry), Dr. Jaswinder Soodan (Dean Faculty of Dairy Technology), Dr. R.K. Salgotra (Director IBT), and Dr. R.K. Samotra (Librarian). The organising team included Dr. Hema Tripathi (Associate Director Extension & Convenor), Dr. Manish Sharma, Dr. Vikas Sharma, Dr. Pawan K. Sharma, Dr. Anil Bhat, and Dr. Vijay Sharma.

Interested participants can register and get more information through the official portal: <https://skuast.org/AgriThon2.0>.

Anterior skull base repair surgery performed at ASCOMS & Hospital

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences (ASCOMS) and Hospital Jammu has achieved a milestone in ENT and head and neck surgeries by performing first skull base repair in ENT Department. The Department conducted first skull base repair surgery in a patient complaining for CSF Rhinorrhea.

The surgical team led by Dr. Padam Singh Jamwal Prof. and HOD ENT, Dr. Chandpreet Kour, Dr. Mohit Goel and Dr. Iaichika Sethi with senior residents Dr. Priyanka Mahajan, Dr. Pallavi Saroch and Dr. Tanisha Arora achieved this exceptional parameter with speciality support from Department of Anaesthesia lead by Dr. Shikha Sharma, Dr. Pallavi and Dr. Nisha.

This highly complex and demanding procedure requires immense precision, advanced surgical expertise, experience, and meticulous team work and dedication. They demonstrated all of these qualities, showcasing their commitment to pushing the boundaries of medical



ASCOMS doctors with team after performing first skull base repair surgery.

excellence and providing cutting-edge care to our patients. This procedure was demonstrated to post graduates in the department as a step forwards to surgical teaching.

This achievement not only highlights the remarkable capabilities of our ENT department but also reinforces ASCOMS Hospital's position as a leading healthcare institution committed to delivering advance and specialized medical services. We are incredibly proud of this accomplishment and the positive impact it will have on patient outcomes. By demonstrating this surgery to the postgraduates and senior resi-

dents they are incorporating new and advanced surgical skills in the team and preparing them for surgical excellence.

Dr. Pavan Malhotra, Director Principle ASCOMS Hospital hailed this surgery as landmarks in hospitals achievements.

The efforts of the dynamic Team ENT are setting example of unwavering commitment and high standard of medical care, he said adding that this achievement truly embodies the spirit of ASCOMS Hospital in the field of medical healthcare for people of UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

Balbir extends congratulations to BJP's new General Secretaries, Secretaries

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Balbir Ram Rattan, spokesperson of Jammu and Kashmir Bharatiya Janata Party, has extended heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the recently appointed General Secretaries and Secretaries of the party.

He congratulated the three newly appointed General Secretaries - Sanjita Dogra, Baldev Singh Billavaria, and Gopal Mahajan - on being entrusted with their new responsibilities and wished them a bright and successful tenure.

Balbir also congratulated the two newly appointed Secretaries - Pawan Sharma and Manjeet Razdan - and expressed confidence that their organizational experience and working style will further strengthen the party. BJP



BJP J&K spokesperson, Balbir Ram Rattan congratulating recently appointed General Secretaries and Secretaries.

activist Sanjay Bakshi was also present on the occasion.

In his message of congratulations, Balbir said that the BJP has always entrusted such organizational responsibilities to dedicated workers who have

maintained grassroots-level contact with the people and have strongly advanced the party's ideology. He expressed hope that the new General Secretaries and Secretaries will effectively communicate

the party's policies not only within the organization but also among the general public, through their experience, efficiency, and leadership skills.

He stated that the backbone of the party is the dedication and organized working style of its workers, and the appointment of this new team will bring fresh energy and direction to the organization.

Balbir expressed confidence that all the newly appointed office bearers will play a crucial role in further strengthening the party's public support in the coming times.

He also extended his best wishes for success in their new responsibilities and emphasized that the BJP's ultimate goal has always been national service, which should continue to be the guiding light for all its leaders and workers.

Rekha Mahajan meets Tarun Chugh in New Delhi

Vows to work tirelessly to ensure BJP's continued growth across J&K

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Rekha Mahajan, newly appointed Vice President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu and Kashmir, on Tuesday called on BJP National General Secretary and J&K Incharge, Tarun Chugh, at New Delhi.

During the meeting, Rekha Mahajan conveyed her heartfelt gratitude to the party high command for reposing faith in her leadership by entrusting her with the significant responsibility of Vice President in the J&K BJP unit. She also thanked Tarun Chugh for his continued support and encouragement.

Rekha Mahajan assured the senior party leadership that she would work with utmost dedication, commitment, and loyalty to strengthen the BJP's presence at the grass-



Rekha Mahajan, newly appointed Vice President BJP J&K calling on BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh.

roots level and to further the party's vision of inclusive development in the Union Territory.

She reaffirmed her resolve to work for the

empowerment of women, youth, and marginalized sections of society, echoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas.

Rekha Mahajan also reiterated her commitment to uphold the values and principles of the party and to work tirelessly to ensure the BJP's continued growth and success across the region.

Tarun Chugh congratulated Rekha Mahajan on her appointment and expressed confidence in her ability to carry forward the party's organizational and political goals in Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized the importance of expanding the party's reach among women and youth and encouraged Mahajan to take proactive steps in this direction.

Vivanta Jammu earns national recognition at IHCL ABC 2025 Goa

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Vivanta Jammu, a proud part of the Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL), has earned national recognition as one of the top three Vivanta hotels in India at the IHCL Annual Business Conference 2025, held at Goa.

The recognition was announced during a glittering awards ceremony, as part of IHCL's marquee leadership event themed "Aspiration to Acceleration." The annual conference brings together IHCL's top leadership, hotel owners, and general managers from across India to celebrate performance and chart future growth. Vivanta Jammu was shortlisted alongside Vivanta Aurangabad and Vivanta Ernakulam for consistent excellence in guest experience, operational efficiency, and brand standard adherence.



Representing Vivanta Jammu at the event were Raju Chowdhary, Chairman; Siddhant Chowdhary, Managing Director; and Ujjawal Bhimwal, General Manager.

"This honour is a proud moment for our team and the region," said Raju Chowdhary. "It reflects our resilience, unwavering commitment to excellence, and our belief in the potential of Jammu as a hospitality destination."

IHCL - parent company of Taj, Vivanta, SeleQtions, and Ginger was recently ranked the strongest hotel brand in the world. This recognition places Vivanta Jammu in elite company within India's leading hospitality ecosystem.

IMA Jammu holds executive committee meeting

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Medical Association (IMA)-Jammu Branch has been formally constituted by IMA Headquarters, New Delhi. As per the official communication, the newly appointed members include Dr. D. K. Manyal (Patron), Dr. T. R. Raina (Chief Advisor), Dr. R. Madaan and Dr. R.P. Kudrya (Advisors), Dr. Pavan Malhotra (President), Dr. Sanjeev Narang (Honorary Secretary), Dr. Arun Arora (Vice President), Dr. Neerupama Dogra (Joint Secretary), and Dr. Sandeep Dogra (Treasurer).

The Executive Council Members are Dr. B.B. Gupta, Dr. Gurjeet Singh, Dr. Vijay Kundra, Dr. Ravinder Gupta, Dr. Ratnakar Sharma, and Dr. Rakesh Kakkar. The first Executive Committee meeting was held on Tuesday at Jammu Club and was initiated by Dr. Sanjeev Narang, who introduced the members and briefed them on the IMA's objectives, which include promoting medical science, public health, and the dignity of the medical profession. Plans for CMEs and membership drives were discussed. Dr. Pavan Malhotra informed that the Jammu Branch has applied to AMIS-IMA Hyderabad to start fellowship programs.

Dr. Arun Arora shared plans for rural health camps under the "Aao Gaon Chale" initiative. Dr. D. K. Manyal suggested regular meetings and academic engagement and assured full support.



Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM (Chairman, TBI), felicitating meritorious student during valedictory session of Yuva Kaushal Karyashala 2.0.

pared themselves to do the science for society. He underscored the significant role of the IIIM Technology Business incubator in creating awareness among the local community in Jammu & Kashmir by roadshows, hackathons, city camps, workshops and similar initiatives. During the Karyashala, 50 participants drawn from Govt. Degree College, Udhampur; Govt. Degree College, Kathua, GGM Science College, Jammu University, SKUAST University; Govt. College for Women, Parade and Thapar University, underwent these 10 days trainings organised by BioNEST Bioincubation Centre under the aegis of CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu.

Earlier, Dr. Saurabh Saran, Principal Investigator; IIIM-

TBI, provided an overview of the workshop. The 10 days program included a technical session where domain experts, Dr. Love Sharma, Scientist, delivered a talk on CSIR-IIIM, Dr. Asha Chaubey, Sr. Principal Scientist, gave a detailed presentation on Industrial Biotechnology, Dr. Sumit G Gandhi gave a detailed presentation on various aspect of medical microbiology, Dr. Saurabh Saran, Principal Investigator; IIIM-TBI delivered a talk on Entrepreneurship, Startup Ecosystem, and discussed about the various road shows and Startup expo organized by IIIM-Technology Business Incubator. One of the important activity conducted during YKK was Hackathon 5.0, which was organized at CSIR-IIIM, Jammu. During the Hackathon 5.0 pitching ses-

sion, 18 groups comprising of 38 participants pitched their business ideas related to herbal drugs, herbal cosmetics, medicinal plants, aroma products and Nutraceutical supplements. Top three business ideas were recognized and awarded as winners of Hackathon 5.0. The Meritorious students trained under Medical Microbiology and Industrial Microbiology were separately recognized for their enthusiasm and since participation. Prominent present were Dr. Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist, & Vice Chairman, IIIM-TBI, Asha Chaubey, HoD, FMB Division, Sumit Gandhi, HoD, ID Division, and other Scientists of the both the divisions.

Proceeding of the valedictory session was conducted by Dr. Vidushi Abrol and also delivered the formal vote of thanks.

LG Ladakh Kavinder Gupta pays obeisance at Gurdwara Sri Bangla Sahib Lauds Sikh Community's selfless service towards humanity



LG Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta paying obeisance at Gurdwara Sri Bangla Sahib in New Delhi.

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Kavinder Gupta, on Tuesday paid obeisance at the revered Gurdwara Sri Bangla Sahib in New Delhi, seeking the blessings of Sri Guru Harkrishan Sahib Ji.

During his visit, S. Harmeet Singh Kalka, President of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC), and Jagdip Singh Kahlon, General Secretary DSGMC, honoured the Lt. Governor by presenting a Shropa. They extended their best wishes to Kavinder Gupta for his new and impor-

tant role as Lt. Governor of Ladakh.

The Lt. Governor lauded the significant role played by the Sikh community in serving society selflessly. From operating community kitchens (langars) that feed millions, to providing humanitarian aid during disasters, and establishing educational and healthcare institutions, the Sikh community consistently exemplifies the values of compassion and community spirit.

This dedication, he emphasized, is a testament to their deep-rooted principles of equality and service to humanity.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

JAMMU AND KASHMIR SERVICES SELECTION BOARD

CPO Chowk Panjtirthi, Jammu/ZamZam Complex Rambagh, Srinagar

(www.jkssb.nic.in)

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Final Selection List for 306 posts of Junior Assistant, Advertisement Notification No's 04 & 05 of 2021 and 02 & 04 of 2022-Cancellation of withheld recommendations thereof.

Whereas, the J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB), vide Notification No. JKSSB-Scry/2/2025-06 (E-7628025) dated 21.04.2025, notified the Final Selection List for the posts of Junior Assistant, UT/ Divisional/District Cadres, Jammu/Kashmir, under various Item No.s, advertised vide Advertisement Notification Nos. 04 & 05 of 2021 and 02 & 04 of 2022 and forwarded the recommendation of the selected candidates to the Indenting Departments; and

Whereas, among the selectees, the recommendation of candidates namely **Mr. Pankaj Sharma**, S/o Ramesh Chander R/o Ramloo Brahmana, Ramgarh Samba-181141, **figuring at Sr. No. 1/ALC/IB category**, under **Item No. 031**, Advertisement Notification No. 02 of 2022 dated 09.02.2022 was kept withheld subject to production of valid within date category certificate, as per format and candidate namely **Ms. Ankita Choudhary**, D/o Goutam Singh, R/o Marheen Kathua-184148 **figuring at Sr. No. 01/EWS category** under **Item No. 028**, Advertisement Notification No. 02 of 2022 dated 09.02.2022 was kept withheld subject to production of valid within date EWS certificate, as per format; and

Whereas, the aforementioned candidates failed to produce the requisite valid within date category certificates and accordingly the withheld recommendation cases were placed in the **306th** Board Meeting, in which the Board took note of the fact that despite sufficient time/opportunities afforded to two candidates namely **Mr. Pankaj Sharma**, S/o Ramesh Chander and **Ms. Ankita Choudhary**, D/o Goutam Singh, the candidates have failed to produce the requisite document(s) and, accordingly decided to cancel their withheld recommendation.

Now, therefore the withheld recommendation(s) of two candidates namely **Mr. Pankaj Sharma**, S/o Ramesh Chander R/o Ramloo Brahmana, Ramgarh Samba-181141, **figuring at Sr. No. 1/ALC/IB category**, under **Item No. 031**, Advertisement Notification No. 02 of 2022 dated 09.02.2022 and **Ms. Ankita Choudhary**, D/o Goutam Singh, R/o Marheen Kathua-184148 **figuring at Sr. No. 01/EWS category** under **Item No. 028**, Advertisement Notification No. 02 of 2022 dated 09.02.2022 **are hereby cancelled.**

No:- JKSSB-Scry/2/2025-06(E-7628025)

Dated:- 15-07-2025

DIP/J-3749/25

Dated:- 22/07/2025

Sd/-
(**Farrukh Qazi**) JKAS,
Secretary,
J&K Services Selection Board