

Research crucial in knowledge generation, policymaking for societal progress: Expert

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SRINAGAR: To empower researchers and scholars with the skills to draft successful grant proposals and secure fellowships for impactful research, the University of Kashmir (KU), organised a week-long interdisciplinary programme on 'Project Grant Writing and Fellowships' that concluded here Wednesday.

The programme was organised by the varsity's Malviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC). Speaking at the valedictory, Vice-Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Prof Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, underscored the crucial role research plays in generating knowledge "that informs policymaking and contributes to societal progress".



reduces the chances of rejection and opens doors to greater opportunities," he said, highlighting the importance of networking in securing research grants. Stressing on the importance of technological knowledge, Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Jammu and

Kashmir, Saurabh Bhagat, highlighted the critical role of research in transforming the higher education sector. "India's vision of a \$5 trillion economy can be realised if we bring innovation and multidisciplinary approaches into our education and research systems," he said. Registrar, Central Univer-

sity of Kashmir CUK), Prof Mohammad Afzal Zargar, underlined the importance of grants in advancing research. "The more proposals you write, the better you understand the nuances of grant writing," he said, reiterating that research is pivotal for faculty growth and institutional development.

Thanking the participants for their active involvement, Director, MMTTC, KU, Prof Fayaz Ahmad, assured the centre's continued efforts in hosting similar faculty development initiatives. "The programme was designed to provide practical knowledge and equip faculty with essential skills for successful grant writing," he said. Course coordinator, Dr Ghulam Nabi Dar, provided an overview of the programme. The session also witnessed feedback from participants who expressed their satisfaction on the conduct of the programme. The programme concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony. Coordinators MMTTC, Dr Faheem Syeed Masoodi and Dr Kartar Chand Sharma, respectively conducted the proceedings and proposed the formal vote of thanks.

MLA Kangan inaugurates mega Kissan Mela at Manigam



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GANDERBAL: The Department of Agriculture, Ganderbal, today organized a grand Kissan Mela cum Exhibition at Manigam under the Centrally-Sponsored Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) scheme. The event was inaugurated by Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Kangan, Mian Mehar Ali, who was the chief guest on the occasion. The Mela aimed to provide a platform for farmers to learn about innovative agricultural practices and showcase advancements in the field. Various stalls were set up by the Agriculture and allied sectors, including Fisheries, Horticulture, Apiculture,

J&K Agro Industries, and Sheep and Animal Husbandry departments. These stalls displayed a variety of items and technologies related to agriculture and its allied sectors, offering valuable insights to the farming community. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Kangan appreciated the Department of Agriculture for organizing the event and emphasized its importance for the farming community. He urged farmers to take full advantage of the schemes introduced by the department and encouraged them to adopt modern agricultural technologies to enhance productivity and achieve higher yields. The event witnessed an overwhelming participation of hundreds of farmers from

the district, reflecting the enthusiasm and commitment of the local agricultural community to adopt modern techniques and improve productivity. The Kissan Mela served as an interactive platform for farmers to engage with experts, gain knowledge about innovative technologies, and explore solutions to enhance agricultural output. The initiative underscores the government's commitment to empowering farmers and promoting sustainable agriculture practices in the district. Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal; Chief Agriculture Officer Ganderbal, Shahnawaz Ahmad Shah; and heads of allied departments from Ganderbal were also present on the occasion.

DC Bandipora emphasizes timely completion of Tasks with High-Quality Standards



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BANDIPORA: The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Thursday, reviewed the functioning of the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department in a meeting held at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora. The meeting focused on evaluating the progress and impact of ongoing schemes and projects in rural areas under the jurisdiction of the RDD, ensuring the effective execution of rural development initiatives. During the review, the DC took a comprehensive assessment of various aspects of the RDD sector, including the implementation of MGNREGA, PMAY-G (SECC and NON-SECC), PMAY-G Land Allotment, UT CAPEX (CD&PYTS), and the status of various works under ABDP. Assistant Commissioner Development Bandipora briefed the chair, informing that District Bandipora comprises 12 blocks. Under MGNREGA, 11,424 households have been provided employment, with a wage expenditure of Rs.1162.46 lakhs. He also reported that under UT CAPEX (CD&PYTS) Phase I, 9 works were authorized, of which 7 have been tendered, with a financial outlay of Rs.42 lakhs.

For Phase II, 14 works were authorized, with a financial outlay of Rs.47.37 lakhs. Highlighting the importance of MGNREGA in the upliftment of rural areas, the DC remarked that the scheme embodies the socialist spirit of the country and the Constitution. "We, being at the grassroots, should strive hard to uphold this spirit as a testament to our resolve to serve the country and honor the Constitution," the DC said. The DC emphasized the primary objective of the RDD, which is the socio-economic upliftment of rural communities. He urged officials to move beyond traditional works such as bunds, paths, and lanes, directing their focus towards employment generation and skill development—core aspects of RDD's mission. "It is important to utilize local skills to achieve desired objectives. With high public expectations, the RDD must strive to meet and exceed these aspirations," he added. He also stressed adhering to guidelines and addressing bottlenecks to ensure the timely completion of all projects. Among others the meeting was attended by CPO Bandipora, DIO Bandipora, DPM NRLM Bandipora, BDOs of Bandipora, Aloosa, Ganasthan, Sumbal and Nowgam besides other concerned officers.

DC Anantnag highlights potential impact of Abhiyan on lives of tribal population

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ANANTNAG: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Syeed Fakhruddin Hamid Thursday inaugurated the block level event of Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA) at Panchayat Rakhi Brah of Block Chitertgul, here. The DAJGUA is a comprehensive initiative comprising 25 interventions to be implemented by 17 line departments, and aims to significantly improve the socio-economic conditions of Tribal Communities in a time-bound manner. During his address, the DC highlighted the importance of the Abhiyan and its potential impact on the lives of the tribal population of Rakhi Brah. He also paid tribute to the



significant contributions of Tribal leader Birsa Munda. To address the various issues and grievances of the tribal community, the DC issued strict directions to the concerned departments for timely redressal and submission of Action Taken Reports (ATRs). Several issues were resolved on the spot during the event.

The program concluded with the distribution of entitlements to beneficiaries under schemes such as Mumkin and PMAY (G). On-spot facility for beneficiary registration was also provided by the line departments. The event was attended by the Nodal Officer of the DAJGUA along with other district and sectoral level officers.

Awareness program on NPSS App organized for farmers

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ANANTNAG: An NPSS training-cum-awareness program was successfully organized at the Agriculture Office, Mattan, Anantnag by the Central Integrated Pest Management Centre (CIPMC), Srinagar, in collaboration with the State Agriculture Department, Anantnag. The event aimed to empower progressive farmers with innovative pest management solutions. Assistant Plant Protection Officer (PP) from CIPMC Srinagar, under the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, led the session. He provided a detailed overview of the NPSS (National Pest Surveillance System) app, emphasizing its functionalities and benefits for farmers. A practical demonstration of pest identification and image uploading through the app was also conducted, offering hands-on learning to participants. MDO Agriculture Anantnag, lauded the initiative, emphasizing the app's potential to revolutionize pest management practices. ADO (Veg.) Anantnag further highlighted the app's significance in ensuring timely pest identification and effective crop protection. The event marked a significant step toward leveraging digital technology for enhancing agricultural productivity in the region.

DDC Shopian inaugurates Mega Kisan Mela

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SHOPIAN: The Department of Agriculture, Shopian and allied departments today organised a Kisan Mela at Old Fruit Mandi Shopian in order to give a platform to aspiring, progressive agri-pruners and successful farmers to showcase their farm activities, products and services besides generating awareness on different government schemes for livelihood and employment. The Mela, participated by thousands of people and students, was inaugurated by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar. At the outset, the DDC inspected stalls set up by different agri-allied departments, KVK, NRLM, For-

ests, Agri companies, local progressive farmers and self-employment departments. He interacted with staff, farmers and agri-pruners on their employment ventures and sought their feedback on schemes and their benefits. People were seen visiting the counters and stalls

for getting themselves acquainted with new agricultural practices, technologies and interventions and were also taking part in business transactions. The Mela provided a platform to farmers to sell their produce and products including honey, mushroom, poultry, fancy birds, seed,



farm machinery, organic fertilizers, etc. Employment based departments were also seen providing scheme awareness and facilitating attendants for on spot registrations. Progressive Farmers who spoke on the occasion briefed about their successful businesses besides

flagging-off some vital issues requiring resolution including high cost inputs in the poultry sector, spurious pesticides, etc which were noted for appropriate action. The DDC, besides highlighting the objective of organising the camp, called upon people especially youth seeking employment to take maximum benefit of such events. He asked them to register for various self employment schemes and ventures into agriculture and related business for their livelihood generation. He also dealt with various other issues including drugs, illegal mining, sanitation and other issues and sought cooperation and support of the general public of the district in tackling the social evils and improving the governance system.

Special mention was made of Kisan Khidmat Ghars established across the district for handholding, training and facilitating farmers for the development of farming. District heads of Agriculture, Horticulture, KVK, Fisheries, Cooperatives, Animal & Sheep Husbandry and Area Marketing sensitized gathering on schemes, new interventions in their respective sectors. Farmers who have done exceptionally well in popularizing the use of best farming systems and practices & have inspired many people to take farming as a profession were felicitated. ADC Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, ACR, Dy.DEO, Heads of all departments were present on the occasion besides a smooth gathering of people and students.

District Level Yuva Utsav India @2047 held in Ganderbal



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SHOPIAN: The District Level Yuva Utsav 'India @2047' was held today at Boys Higher Secondary School, Ganderbal, in collaboration with My Bharat Nehru Yuva Kendra Srinagar and the District Youth Services and Sports Department, Ganderbal. The event was attended by students from various schools across the district, showcasing their talents in music, Roud dance, painting,

poetry, and photography competitions. The event provided a vibrant platform for youth to express their creativity and celebrate India's rich cultural heritage. Participants competed enthusiastically, with many highlighting the importance of such initiatives in fostering a sense of national pride and unity. Prizes were awarded to outstanding participants in each category, recognizing their efforts and achievements. The festival was

graced by Vice Chairperson DDC, Bilal Ahmad, ADDC Mushtaq Ahmad Simmani, Chief Education Officer and other district officers. The ADDC visited various stalls set up by participants, appreciating their creative displays. The event concluded with a call to continue fostering such platforms for youth engagement and development in the district, reinforcing the vision of India @2047, focusing on youth leadership and nation-building.

DC Budgam reviews progress of work at Sheikh-ul-Alam Centre for Skill Development

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BUDGAM: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Akshay Labroo Thursday conducted an on-site review of the ongoing work at Sheikh-ul-Alam Hall Centre for Skill Development. The project being executed by the PW(R&B) Department is aimed to provide Budgam with an integrated Skill Development Centre that can be used for hosting multiple training/ skilling sessions for the youth, venue for Job fairs, awareness programs and capacity building programs for citizens of Budgam. During the visit, the DC emphasized the timely completion of the project and asked the officials to maintain quality standards in construction and ensure accessibility features to promote inclusivity. The Deputy Commissioner (DC) was accompanied by ADDC Budgam, ADC Budgam, CPO Budgam, officials from the R&B division Budgam, JE concerned and other stakeholders.

World Fisheries Day celebrated at KVK Kupwara



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KUPWARA: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Kupwara in collaboration with Fisheries Department today organized an impressive function at KVK Office here to mark the celebration of World Fisheries Day. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan was chief guest at the ceremony. KVK Head Kupwara, Kaiser Ahmad Malik, Assistant Director Fisheries, Salmaan Chalkoo, besides, stakeholders and students in large numbers took part in the function.

World Fisheries Day, observed every November 21st, is a global event that underscores the critical importance of sustainable fisheries and the need to protect aquatic ecosystems and the livelihoods of fishing communities. On the occasion, the DC said that a good pace of progress is seen under the ambitious Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) in district Kupwara which will boost the rural economy. She said that the Fisheries sector has a lot of employment generation potential and appealed to the unemployed educated youth to exploit

this sector to earn their livelihood. She urged the farmers to get well connected with the Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) established in their areas where they can get specialized services from Krishi Udyamis and can broaden their know-how about scientific agricultural practices. KVK Head and AD Fisheries also spoke and highlighted the significance of the World Fisheries Day. Meanwhile, Certificates of appreciation and mementos were awarded among the employees and other stakeholders for contribution towards the Fisheries sector.