

KU hosts 3-day national conference on surfactants, emulsions and biocolloids

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The University of Kashmir (KU) hosted the 22nd National Conference on Surfactants, Emulsions and Biocolloids (NATCOSEB-XXII), bringing together leading scientists, researchers, and scholars from across the country for a three-day exchange of ideas and innovations.

Organized by KU's Department of Chemistry in collaboration with the Indian Society for Surface Science and Technology (ISSST), Jadavpur University, the event witnessed wide participation and engaging discussions on cutting-edge developments in the field.

The conference aimed to provide a platform for knowledge sharing, showcase the latest advancements in surfactants, emulsions, and biocolloids, and foster collaborations to tackle key scientific, industrial, environmental, and healthcare challenges.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, congratulated the Department for organizing the prestigious event, terming it an important milestone for the University.

"Research in surfactants and biocolloids is directly linked to innovations in healthcare, environment, and industry. By hosting NATCOSEB, the University is developing a culture of collaborative science that not only enhances academic excellence but also responds to pressing societal needs," she said.

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, noted that conferences of this scale not only advance scientific frontiers but also promote collaborations to address challenges specific to the region, including environmental sustainability and restoration of water bodies.

Prof. B.K. Mishra, President ISSST, lauded the varsity's strong academic engagement with surface science, observing that NATCOSEB-XXII had attracted participants from across the country, while Prof. Kallol Kumar Ghosh, Jadavpur University, highlighted the importance of such conferences in building stronger scientific linkages and nurturing young talent.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Prof. Aijaz Ahmad, Head, Department of Chemistry, KU, and convener of NATCOSEB-XXII, highlighted the Department's contributions in colloid and interface science, green chemistry, material science, and environmental chemistry.

The conference featured 11 themed scientific sessions, including plenary lectures, invited talks, oral presentations, and poster sessions by young researchers.

Special highlights included memorial lecture awards delivered by Prof. S. K. Mehta (former VC, University of Ladakh), Prof. Santanu Bhattacharya (Director, IISER Tirupati), and Dr. M. Nandi (ISERC West Bengal).

Prof. Sunil K. Bhagwat, Director, IISER Pune was also among the distinguished delegates.

A formal vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Syed Wajahat Amin

Shah, faculty at Department of Chemistry KU and organizing secretary of the event.

The event was sponsored by the University of Kashmir, J&K Bank,

51 Applications approved; stress laid on timely processing, rural industrialization & youth empowerment

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BUDGAM: A meeting of the District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) under the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Programme (JKREGP) and Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) was today convened at Budgam under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat.

The meeting was attended by the General Manager, DIC Budgam; Lead District Manager Budgam; Executive Officer J&K KVIB Budgam;

Principal ITI Budgam; Director RSETI Budgam; and representatives from State Bank of India and J&K State Co-operative Bank Budgam.

During the meeting, the committee held threadbare discussions and examined loan applications sponsored through the J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) for the establishment of micro and small enterprises in the district.

Out of a total of 57 applications placed before the committee, 51 projects were recommended and approved for bank financing.

The approved projects cover a variety of sectors, including manufacturing, services, and agro-based industries.

Once established, these ventures are expected to create direct employment opportunities for around 410 youth in rural and semi-urban areas of Budgam.

Speaking on the occasion, DC emphasized that the JKREGP and PMEGP schemes are crucial in providing vital financial assistance to aspiring entrepreneurs, enabling them to establish their own business units.

He said, "By approving these projects, we are pro-

moting self-reliance, rural industrialization, and sustainable employment generation in Budgam. Youth should take maximum advantage of such schemes to become job providers rather than job seekers."

DC issued directions to all concerned officers and bankers present to ensure time-bound processing of the approved cases, hassle-free loan sanctioning, and prompt subsidy disbursement to the beneficiaries.

He also directed the KVIB to handhold entrepreneurs at every stage from project formulation to execution so that ap-

proved units are established on ground without delay.

Representatives of banks were directed to ensure full cooperation in early sanction and disbursement of loan assistance to the beneficiaries.

DC directed the banks to adopt a proactive approach in financing rural entrepreneurs so that the employment generation potential of the schemes is fully realized.

Meanwhile, applicants whose projects have been approved are advised to approach their respective financing banks immediately for completion of the necessary formalities.

DLIC Ganderbal approves 83 Youth Entrepreneurship cases under Mission YUVA

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL: A meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under Mission YUVA was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, in the V.C Room of the DC office here.

During the meeting, the committee held a threadbare discussion on the applications received under the scheme, which had been verified by the Small Business Development Unit (SBDU).

Following a rigorous scrutiny, the DLIC approved 83 youth entrepreneurship cases for financial assistance and institutional support under the Mission YUVA

framework.

Speaking on the occasion, DC underscored the importance of quality and sustainability in ventures supported under Mission YUVA and emphasized to encourage youth to establish enterprises that are innovative, resilient, and capable of creating employment avenues for

others so that the true objectives of Mission YUVA are realized.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat; GM DIC, Assistant Director Employment, Nodal Officer, JKEDI and other concerned officials.

Forest department initiates development of Riverfront Ecopark in Baramulla

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA: Conservator of Forests (CoF), Kashmir North Circle, Irfan Ali Shah, today conducted a comprehensive inspection of key forest and greening initiatives in the Baramulla Forest Division, giving a significant boost to ongoing environmental conservation and public amenity projects.

CoF also inspected the riverfront area in Doabgah, which has been identified for the development of a new Ecopark. The proposed park is envisioned as a community asset that promotes eco-tourism and provides a recreational space for local residents.

He directed for expediting process of development and implementation of detailed plan for the Ecopark which includes construction of aesthetically pleasing gazebos and the installation of wooden benches for rest and relaxation, development of a dedicated walking trail to encourage physical activity, creation of vibrant flowering beds and planting of a diverse range of fruit trees and conifers, installing an eco-friendly entry gate, informative signages, and a dedicated play area for children.

During the visit to Forest Nursery Baramulla, CoF issued a series of directives aimed at enhancing the nursery's capacity and increase in production. He directed for expansion of the nursery area to accommodate greater sapling diversity and volume, installation of a new borewell for reliable water supply and establishment of a seed storage facility to preserve genetic diversity and improve germination.

Labour deptt organizes registration camp for Gig & Platform workers on e-Shram portal at Srinagar

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SRINAGAR: Labour Department, J&K today organized a dedicated registration camp for gig and platform workers on the e-Shram portal at Srinagar.

The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from workers representing various platforms including Radio Taxi, Novo Cabs, Jugnoo Cabs, ALA Cabs, Amigos, Zomato, Delhivery, Busy, Aramex, E-Com Express, Fast Beetle, DTDC, FedEx, and others.

The programme was chaired by S. Charandeep Singh, Labour Commissioner, J&K, as the chief guest.

Dedicated registration desks were set up to facilitate on-the-spot registration and updation of gig and platform workers on

the e-Shram portal. Additionally, enrolments under various welfare schemes, especially Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), were also carried out for the benefit of the workers.

This initiative is part of the nationwide e-Shram drive launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, for organizing special camps for gig and platform workers across the country from 25th August to 5th September 2025.

Representatives from different gig and platform-based companies shared their experiences and highlighted key issues concerning their livelihoods.

Addressing the participants, Labour Commissioner underscored the

Power Shutdown

SRINAGAR: According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCL, in order to complete the left over work of stabilization of 33 KV Mattan-Pahalgam line which got halted due to SANJY-2025, shutdown of 33KV Mattan Pahalgam line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Salia, Hutmurrah, Sallar, Aishmuqam, Batkoot, GIS/AIS Pahalgam shall remain off while power supply to Pahalgam, Batkoot, Aishmuqam, Seer, Saller, Akad, Hutmurrah, Salia and adjoining areas will be affected from 09:00 AM to 03:00 PM on 02 & 04 September, 2025.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao: Social Welfare deptt organizes session on dignity and personal wellbeing

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Department of Social Welfare, SANKALP-Hub for Empowerment of Women- Mission Shakti Srinagar organised a session on dignity and personal wellbeing on Saturday at Govt. College for Women M.A Road Srinagar under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign.

The programme aimed to make students familiar with self worth and the right to be treated with respect and overall sense of health and happiness. Dignity and personal wellbeing are interconnected in the way dignity serves as an essential foundation for promoting health and overall well being, while treating someone with dignity and respect increases

their sense of self worth and contributes positively to their well being.

The programme witnessed the presence of Dr Nighat Majeed, Dy CMO Srinagar as the resource person. She shared her views and delivered a session on dignity and personal well being with the students, staff of Govt. College for Women M.A Road Srinagar and the staff of SANKALP-Hub for Empowerment of Women.

While interacting with the audience, Dr Nighat emphasized the need for upholding dignity that involves recognizing the inherent value of each person and creating an environment where they feel respected, safe, and empowered to exercise choice and control over their lives.

Ashok Koul chairs BJP organizational meeting in Srinagar

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, under the leadership of General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, convened an organizational meeting at Church Lane, Srinagar.

The primary focus of the meeting was to further strengthen the party's organizational structure, streamline coordination, and chalk out future strategies to deepen the BJP's presence and influence across the Kashmir region.

Ashok Koul, while chairing the meeting, emphasized the need for a robust and disciplined organizational framework, which

he said forms the backbone of the party's expanding outreach. He underlined that the BJP's growth in Jammu & Kashmir depends on grassroots empowerment, consistent interaction with the people, and an unwavering commitment to the principles of the party.

The meeting witnessed the participation of several senior leaders including BJP State General Secretary Anwar Khan, BJP Secretaries Mudasir Wani and Arif Raja, and All Cells Co-Incharge Bilal Parray. Detailed discussions revolved around expanding the party's base, mobilizing cadre strength, and ensuring a united and coordinated approach in implementing upcoming initiatives.

Div Com Kashmir flags-off annual Gangbal Yatra from Naranag

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL: The annual Gangbal Yatra commenced today with great religious fervor after being ceremoniously flagged-off by the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg, from Naranag Temple, Ganderbal.

Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore; SSP Ganderbal, Khalil Poswal, besides other civil and police officials were present on the occasion.

A group of pilgrims from the Kashmiri Pandit community began their spiritual journey from the historic Naranag temple following the revered Charri Puja.

The devotees, escorted by SDRF teams, police personnel, officials from health and other departments set out on the 15-km trek to the sacred Gangbal Lake, nestled at an altitude of around 14,500 feet in the Harmukh mountain range.

Speaking on the occasion, Div Com commended all stakeholders for their coordinated efforts in ensuring seamless arrangements for the Yatra. He extended his

best wishes to the pilgrims and the supporting teams accompanying them.

The sacred rituals will be performed on the banks of Gangbal Lake, after which the pilgrims will return the next day.

On the occasion, the organizers and devotees expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the district administration, police authorities, and the local community of Naranag for their invaluable cooperation and support, which have been instrumental in the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

Dr Bilal also sensitized stakeholders about the

DC Budgam visits Craft Village Kanihama, reviews developmental works

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat today paid an extensive visit to the Craft Village Kanihama, renowned for its centuries-old tradition of Kani shawl weaving, where he reviewed the implementation of various developmental works and interacted with artisans to assess welfare measures and scheme implementation.

During the visit, DC held detailed deliberations with artisans and officials from various departments on the activities being carried out under multiple schemes aimed at supporting and promoting handicrafts.

He emphasized the importance of extending maximum benefits of welfare and promotional schemes to artisans in order to safeguard, revive and promote the traditional craft heritage of the district.

Dr Bilal also sensitized

health issues faced by artisans due to prolonged working hours and underscored the need for creating awareness and facilitating access to health services for the artisan community.

On the occasion, DC witnessed live demonstrations of Kani shawl

weaving and traditional spinning on the charka, lauding the extraordinary skill and dedication of the artisans.

He reiterated the administration's commitment to preserving and promoting this age-old craft which holds immense cultural and economic value.

ue. DC was also briefed about the wide range of developmental works undertaken at Kanihama Craft Village including installation of advertising boards for shops, improvement of the public park near Jamia Masjid Kanihama, upgradation of inner link roads at Hajam Mohalla and New Colony Road, construction of a Chowkidar quarter, drainage works with steel grill fencing around the park near the CFC building, and overall beautification of the site.

Further interventions include face-lifting of the Common Facility Centre (CFC) building, construction of dedicated weavers' sheds, and development of public amenities worth over Rs. 3 crore, aimed at providing better infrastructure and facilities for artisans and visitors.

"Kanihama Craft Village is not merely an infrastructure initiative, but a holistic mission to safeguard our centuries-old heritage, empower artisans with dignity of work, and position Kashmiri handicrafts on the global stage," DC said. He said that the vision of district administration is to transform Kanihama into a vibrant hub of handicrafts, culture, and tourism, where tradition meets opportunity.

DC said, this model village will not only preserve the legacy of crafts like Kani Shawl weaving but also provide artisans with sustainable livelihoods, enhanced market linkages, and global outreach.

He said that this craft village will stand as a living testimony to Kashmir's rich cultural identity while opening new income avenues and branding Budgam as a centre of craft excellence.

Dr Bilal assured artisans of continued institutional support, urging them to actively avail government schemes designed for their welfare and upliftment. During the visit, the DC was accompanied by CPO, SDM Beerwah, ACD, representatives from handicraft/handloom, BDO and other concerned officials.