

Promoting Scientific Innovation: Lecture on Green Bio-Manufacturing of D-Allulose Held at SKUAST-Jammu

TT CORRESPONDENT
JAMMU, JULY 12 : Under the esteemed guidance of Prof. B. N. Tripathi, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu, the Faculty of Basic Sciences organized an expert lecture as part of its ongoing Expert Lecture Series. The lecture was delivered by Prof. Rajender Singh Sangwan, Vice-Chancellor, Raffles University, Rajasthan and Former Director/Vice-Chancellor, Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR), on the topic "Biochemistry and Bio-manufacturing of D-Allulose: The Table Sugar of the Future for a Healthy World." Prof. Sangwan, a renowned scientist in biochemical sciences and biotechnology, provided an in-depth analysis of the biochemistry of sugars, tracing the historical development of table sugar and artificial sweeteners, and examining their impact on human health. He introduced D-Allulose, a rare sugar with minimal caloric value and immense potential as a natural, safe, and diabetic-friendly sweetener, widely regarded as "the table sugar of the future." The lecture further explored the bio-manufacturing process of D-Allulose from fructose, emphasizing sustainable and cost-effective approaches that utilise agricultural waste. This aligns with global efforts toward circular bio-economy, waste valorisation, and environmental friendly production technologies.

Prof. Sanjay Guleria, Dean, Faculty of Basic Sciences, hosted the session and welcomed the distinguished speaker. He emphasized the increasing relevance of green bioprocessing, nutraceuticals, and functional foods in agriculture and health sciences. The lecture was coordinated by Dr. Vinod Kumar, Associate Professor, Division of Biochemistry.

The event witnessed vibrant participation from faculty members, research scholars, and students of SKUAST-Jammu, along with attendees from CCS HAU Hisar, Eternal University Baru Sahib, PAU Ludhiana, and Raffles University Rajasthan, reflecting a strong spirit of inter-institutional academic collaboration.

BJYM activists Gheraoed JKSSB Head Office

"Omar Abdullah has to decide either Urdu in Naib Tehsildar's recruitment or Government " : Arun Prabhat



TT CORRESPONDENT
JAMMU, JULY 12 : Arun Prabhat, state president Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, along with hundreds of youth held a massive protest march from Kachi chawni and gheraoed the JKSSB head office in Jammu. During his address he cautioned the current Omar Abdullah led state government of intense agitation if the discriminatory decision of imposing urdu in naib tehsildar's recruitment has not been taken back. It has been more than a month the youth is protesting on the roads but there is not a statement from the government or any competent authority. This adamant attitude of the government depicts their policy of intentional exclusivity to a particular region. Omar Abdullah or his cabinet ministers who represent Jammu in the government has to break the silence and clear their stance on this discriminatory policy otherwise next gherao will be of Civil Secretariat and chief minister's residence.

He described this recruitment as unconstitutional as it violates the very core of fundamental rights of getting equal opportunity in public employment. How can the government justify itself by barring 70% of subjects from this naib tehsildar's recruitment. Urdu in revenue matters and NT exam in particular is a well intended conspiracy to keep Jammu division in darkness.

In his concluding remarks he gave a call to all the aspirants and people of Jammu Kashmir to come forward against this discriminatory recruitment policy of the NC led government. Furthermore he urged the aspirants of non urdu background to apply for the post of Naib Tehsildar's recruitment as BJP will fight for their rights at any cost until justice is delivered.

EPG raises alarm over illegal garbage dumping near 252-million-year-old Fossil Park at Guryul Ravine

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, JULY 12 : The Environmental Policy Group (EPG) expresses serious concern and deep anguish over the establishment of a large illegal garbage dumping yard near the Guryul Ravine Fossil Park located at Khonmoh, on the outskirts of Srinagar. The act not only constitutes a grave ecological violation but also endangers a globally significant geo-heritage site that dates back 252 million years. Of critical scientific importance, the site is the only known geological formation that preserves definitive evidence of the world's first recorded tsunami, embedded within its ancient sedimentary layers.

The Guryul Ravine is globally acknowledged by geologists, palaeontologists, and climate scientists as one of the most important Permian-Triassic boundary sites in the

world. The fossil record at Guryul Ravine offers a rare glimpse into the ecological collapse and recovery phases that followed the extinction. It serves as a natural laboratory for studying Earth's climate history, mass extinctions, tectonic activity, and evolutionary processes.

What makes Guryul Ravine particularly unique is the presence of tsunami-generated sedimentary structures, identified and documented by geoscientists, that confirm the earliest evidence of a massive oceanic disturbance triggered during the Permian-Triassic transition. These findings have been cited in international scientific journals and attract global research interest, making the site not only a national but also a world heritage asset.

The establishment of a waste dumping ground in such close proximity to this ecologically and scien-

tifically sensitive area is a shocking act of environmental vandalism. It directly violates several key environmental protection laws, including the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, and the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. More significantly, it disregards the binding directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, which had earlier directed the conservation of such sensitive and heritage-rich zones. Significantly, strong disapproval of the mining activities in and around this site were made by Internationally renowned Geo-scientists following which the Central Government on the directions of the Prime Minister of India completely banned mining and other activities in and around Fossil Park. However, despite that officials have

chosen to vandalise the site by enclosing a huge area as a garbage dumping site and constructing a garbage shed.

The Environmental Policy Group is dismayed that despite repeated warnings and appeals over the years, this globally important site remains neglected, unprotected, and now under threat of irreversible damage. The illegal dumping poses an immediate risk to the fossil beds, fragile sedimentary layers, and the overall ecological balance of the region. If not stopped, this negligence could destroy one of the few remaining accessible records of Earth's most dramatic evolutionary moment.

EPG calls upon all concerned departments and authorities, including the Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee, the District Administration Srinagar, the Department of

Geology and Mining, the Department of Wildlife Protection, and the Department of Rural Development, to immediately take cognisance of this illegal act. The dumping site must be dismantled without any delay, and stringent legal action must be taken against those responsible for this gross violation of environmental and court mandates.

Conservationists, researchers, legal experts, and civil society has expressed collective outrage at the violation of laws and disregard for a site of such unparalleled natural heritage. The Environmental Policy Group confirms that it will be filing a petition before the High Court once again to seek urgent intervention, enforcement of existing orders, and enhanced legal safeguards to protect the site from further degradation.

The EPG makes an

earnest and urgent appeal to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, the Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, and the Chief Secretary to intervene at the highest level and issue immediate directions for corrective action. The Group further requests that the Guryul Ravine Fossil Park and its surrounding buffer zone be officially declared as a No-Dumping Zone and notified as an Eco-Sensitive Area under relevant provisions of environmental and heritage protection law.

Guryul Ravine is not merely a local landmark but a global geological monument of irreplaceable value. It is a living classroom for students, a research base for scientists, and a timeless reminder of the Earth's resilience. Protecting it is not only a legal obligation but a moral responsibility that we collectively owe to future generations.

Civil Society Demands Transparency, Cardiac Emergency, Audit of Medical Referral Practices" Balvinder

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, JULY 12 : S Balvinder Singh renowned RTI Activist of the state while addressing the media persons stated that in a major initiative to strengthen healthcare infrastructure in Jammu Province, the Government of India sanctioned the establishment of four new Government Medical Colleges (GMCs). GMC Rajouri was established in 2016, with its first batch of 100 MBBS students admitted in 2019. Singh recalled the promise made on 17th November 2013, when then Health & Family Welfare Minister Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad inaugurated the Super Speciality Hospital (SSH) to end patients' arduous journeys to PGI and AIIMS for specialized care. Yet, that vision remains unfulfilled-many departments at SSH never became fully functional, and sanctioned staff appointments were never made. Even today, Jammu lacks a dedicated Cardiac Emergency in SSH, forcing heart attack patients to first visit GMC's Emergency before being shifted to SSH, losing the critical 'golden hour' in transit. Tragically, some precious human lives lost in this delay.

The foundation stones of GMC Doda and GMC Kathua were laid on 11th



June 2017 by the then Union Health Minister, Sh. J.P. Nadda, and the then Chief Minister, Ms. Mehbooba Mufti. Both institutions became operational in 2020. GMC Doda was intended to serve nearly 10 lakh residents of the erstwhile Doda district-comprising Doda, Kishtwar, and Ramban-while GMC Kathua was envisioned to cater to remote and border areas such as Bani, Basholi, and Billawar. GMC Udhampur was established in 2023 to meet the growing demand for healthcare services and training.

Additionally, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi on 19th February 2024. It was projected as a transformative step to reduce dependency on Delhi for specialized treatment. However, as highlighted by Mr. Balvinder Singh, despite these developments, the healthcare delivery system remains inadequate. Citing an RTI

response from GMC Jammu, he pointed out that a significant number of patients continue to be referred to GMC Jammu not only from CHCs, PHCs, Sub District Hospital & District Hospital but also from the newly established GMCs of Rajouri, Kathua, Doda and Udhampur.

The referral data from January to May 2025 received under RTI raises serious concerns about the operational readiness of these institutions. Mr. Singh attributed this troubling trend to the persistent absence of senior doctors in peripheral Government Medical Colleges, alleging that many are preoccupied with private practice, thereby leaving junior doctors to handle critical cases without adequate supervision. Singh along with other civil society members S Manjeet Singh Bali, Anil Nargotra, Mahinder Sharma, Mahesh Kotwal, S Manmohan Singh, S.T.P. Singh, S Harmohinder Singh urged the Hon'ble Chief Minister of the JKUT, Omar Abdullah,

and the Health Minister, Ms. Sakina Itoo, to implement the following corrective measures: Enforce a comprehensive prohibition on private clinical practice by Doctors serving in all Government Medical Colleges, to ensure full-time commitment to institutional responsibilities; and the most important is To establish Cardiac Emergency at SSH Jammu. Introduce a policy for inter-district Medical Colleges transfers to ensure equitable deployment of medical professionals; Constitute a high-level review committee comprising senior medical professionals and health administrators to conduct clinical audits of patient referrals, evaluate the appropriateness and medical justification of such referrals, and establish accountability mechanisms-particularly in cases of unwarranted referrals originating not only from District and Sub-District Hospitals but also from newly established Government Medical Colleges.

Singh emphasized that unless these structural reforms are implemented with urgency, the mere establishment of new medical colleges will not fulfil the promise of accessible and quality healthcare for the people of Jammu Province.

DHSJ convenes comprehensive District-Level Review Meeting of Health Programmes in District Poonch



TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, JULY 12 : Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar, convened a comprehensive District-Level Review Meeting of Health Programmes at CMO Office District Poonch on 12.7.25. The meeting aimed at evaluating the performance and progress of various health schemes and services in the district. The meeting was attended by Chief Medical Officer Poonch Dr. Pervaiz Ahmed Khan, Dy. CMO Poonch, all BMOs of District Poonch.

At the outset, CMO Poonch formally welcomed the Director and all participants. He also presented a detailed Power Point presentation highlighting key health indicators, achievements, and the overall work done across the district under various health programmes. During the meeting, Dr. Hamid Zargar held an in-depth review of several critical health agenda points. These included Implementation and utilization of e Sahaj, Ambulance Services and timely referrals, Progress under the National TB Elimination Programme, Status of e Sanjeevani telemedicine services, Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) screening and management, C-section service availability at delivery points, Functionality and maintenance of Oxygen Generation Plants, Implementation of the National Programme for Control of Blindness, Activities under the ASHA programme, Progress of other flagship National Health Programmes besides Monitoring and reporting under Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) through the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP).

Dr. Zargar appreciated the efforts of the district health team and emphasized the importance of efficient service delivery, timely reporting, and collaborative efforts to meet the set health targets. He also gave on-spot directions to address gaps in service delivery and encouraged all stakeholders to work in synergy for the betterment of public health services in the district. He also stressed the need for capacity-building of field staff, regular monitoring, and strengthening grassroots-level health infrastructure to ensure last-mile delivery of essential services. DHS urged all programme officers to focus on community engagement, digital reporting, and cross-departmental coordination to achieve the desired outcomes under various health initiatives.

24-Hour Hackathon CodeDay Kashmir 2025 begins at NIT Srinagar to inspire future technologists

TT CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR, JULY 12 : The much-awaited CodeDay Kashmir 2025, a free 24-hour hackathon, has officially begun at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

This 24-hour hackathon is dedicated to school and first-year undergraduate students from across the Kashmir region, to provide them with a unique opportunity to dive into the world of technology, coding, and innovation.

The event is being organized by the Technology Club Students Gymkhana at NIT Srinagar in coordination with Team CodeDay, CodeDay Kashmir 2025 from July 12th to 13th. It has brought together enthusiastic young minds eager to explore technology through hands-on projects.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Institute's Registrar, Prof. Atikur Rehman said that NIT Srinagar is proud to provide a platform that nurtures the talent of students across Kashmir. Events like CodeDay not only foster technological skills but also inspire young innovators to think beyond boundaries and create impactful solu-



tions." "The success of CodeDay Kashmir 2025 is result of hard work and dedication of the organizers, including faculty members and the student team at NIT Srinagar. Their joint efforts ensure a smooth, inspiring experience for all participants," he said.

Prof. Rehman said that this small hackathon is being supported wholeheartedly by Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, whose vision and encouragement have been instrumental in hosting such prestigious events at the institute.

"Last year, NIT Srinagar hosted the Smart India Hackathon (SIH), which saw participation from students all over India, further establishing the institute as a hub for innovation and technical excellence in the region," he said.

The two-day hackathon features a series of workshops and sessions designed to build foundational skills and inspire creativity. It began with a Basics Workshop focused on Scratch programming, enabling beginners to grasp the fundamentals of coding. Following this, an Advanced Workshop on Large Language Models (LLMs) was conducted, providing students with insights into cutting-edge technology. Participants also engaged in a GitHub workshop to learn collaborative coding and version control, critical skills for any software developer.

The event includes a guest speaker session featuring renowned technologist Afaan Bilal, scheduled for Sunday evening. The closing ceremony will mark the culmination of the hackathon, celebrating the

hard work and creativity of all participants.

The core idea behind CodeDay Kashmir is to promote innovation by encouraging students to ideate and develop technology projects that solve real-world problems. By bringing together a diverse group of participants, the event aims to nurture a vibrant tech community in Kashmir.

On the occasion, Dr. Iqra Altaf, one of the key organizers, said that "CodeDay Kashmir 2025 is much more than just a competition. It is a vibrant celebration of learning, creativity, and teamwork."

"This event inspires the next generation of technologists and innovators to dream big and equips them with the tools to shape a better future. We believe that fostering such a culture of innovation and collaboration among youth will have a lasting impact on Kashmir's technological landscape," she added.

Hafsah Muzaffer, Regional Manager of CodeDay Kashmir, said that the core idea behind this event is to promote innovation by encouraging students to ideate and develop technology projects that

solve real-world problems. By bringing together a diverse group of participants, the event aims to nurture a vibrant tech community in Kashmir.

The CodeDay Kashmir 2025 team includes Hafsah Muzaffer and Mohammad Hammad as Regional Managers, with Daamin Ashai, Mohammad Saad, Mohsin Nasir, and Abdul Muizz serving as Organisers and Mentors.

Aqib Javid Bhat contributes as an Organiser and GitHub Campus Expert. Zainab Iqbal leads Marketing, while Abdullah Bin Zubair heads Social Media. Mentors Essa Reshi, Ayman Makroo, and Riza Khan provide key guidance to participants.

CodeDay, originally founded in the United States, now hosts events worldwide. CodeDay Kashmir is entirely student-led and volunteer-driven, supported by sponsors like GitHub, Yubico, J&K Bank, and New City Hospital.

The event saw participants ranging in age from just 10 to 20 years old. Day one featured three skill-based workshops conducted by volunteers with guidance from PhD students.

Several DPAP and APNI party leaders joined Congress party

TT CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, JULY 12 : A joining function organizing today on Saturday, 12th July, 2025, to welcome the new entrants under the dedicated leadership of District President Doda Sheikh Mujeeb into the party. In this connection an impressive function was held at PCC HQ. Shaheedi Chowk, Jammu in which PCC Chief Shri Tariq Hameed Karra and other Senior functionaries of the party welcomed the new entrants in to the Congress party.

Several DPAP, Apni party leaders from Thathri Block, Distt Doda, including Asgar Hussain Khanday- General Secretary DPAP, Mohammad Iqbal Tellic-Ex-Block President DPAP, Mushtaq Ahmed District General Secretary Apni Party, Intiaz Ali-Secretary Block DPAP Thathri, Bilal Ahmed District General Secretary DPAP Abid Hussain-Sr. Leader DPAP, Mashkoor Ahmed-Sr. Vice President DPAP and numerous esteemed Senior Leaders, as well as dedicated workers and supporters, have joined the Congress party here today at PCC



HQ Shaheedi Chowk Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion PCC President Tariq Hameed Karra said that Congress Party is an instrument of service to the people, which has remained dedicated to the cause of serving the people. The Congress Party is duty bound to address the urges and aspirations of the people, for the fact, it is the Congress Party alone which has always taken care of urges and aspirations of the common man. Congress has been pioneer in implementing revolutionary programmes aimed at improving the conditions of the people, especially those living in remote and backward areas.

He said Congress party believes in strengthening the people and is committed to equitable development of the State. He

described BJP dispensation as anti-poor, anti Youth, anti Kissan and due to its wrong policies the sufferings of the people increased manifold. The insensitive government pushed people to the wall, as unemployment has increased, prices have risen and developmental activities have suffered a lot. He claimed that BJP Government pushed back State in all sectors during last more than ten years.

Shri Raman Bhalla, Working President PCC, criticized BJP leaders for betraying the people of Jammu by failing to represent their concerns. He opposed toll hikes, smart meters, and new plazas.

He urged citizens to join Congress for the state's development and said Congress remains committed to public welfare and aspirations.