

# Jammu & Kashmir Digest

A Review of Developments in J&K



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR  
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES  
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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- EAM Inaugurates J&K's First International Education Fair
- Rs. 463 Crores Project For Revitalising Agriculture
- Kashmir Scientist Gets Fellowship For Brain-Blood Cell Research

**More News and Analyses**



Union Minister for External Affairs Dr S. Jaishankar inaugurating First International Education Fair of J&K in the presence of Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan; Union MoS, PMO, Dr Jitendra Singh; Lieutenant Governor, Jammu & Kashmir Manoj Sinha, and President ICCR Shri Vinay Sahasrabuddhe at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi. — ANI

The External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, inaugurated Jammu and Kashmir's (J&K) first international education fair on 21 February 2023. This event was jointly organised by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations and SKUAST-Kashmir.

Dr. Jaishankar hailed the event as a hallmark of how locals, especially the youth in J&K, can now avail of complete benefits of progress and development, earlier enjoyed by the rest of the country. He remarked, "In that sense, people of J&K in the national mainstream was extremely important. It was also by doing so they would connect with the rest of India and the international mainstream. For me it is not just an education event; it is a very integral part of ensuring that a very important region of India is connected to what is happening in the world."

Furthermore, the Lt. Governor of J&K, Mr. Manoj Sinha, emphasised that this initiative would serve as an example for other universities nationwide. He also explained that his administration aims to "invite international students to J&K for short-term and long-term courses in various disciplines & strengthen the international connect." – *The Print*

## DEVELOPMENT SECTION

### EAM INAUGURATES J&K'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FAIR

### 33<sup>RD</sup> POLICE PUBLIC MELA



Lt-Gov. Manoj Sinha, inaugurated J&K's 33<sup>rd</sup> Police Public Mela on 19 February 2023 in Jammu.

This event was organised in Gulshan Ground (Jammu) for the first time after the COVID-19 outbreak. Painting competition and a cultural programme were some of the event's highlights.

J&K DGP, acclaimed this event, stating "...earnings from the mela are being used for the welfare of the martyr families and those who get injured during the fight against militancy. – *The Print*





## AGRICULTURE SECTION

Rs. 463 CRORES  
PROJECT FOR  
REVITALISING  
AGRICULTURE

The J&K government announced on 22 February 2023 that it had sanctioned a five-year project, Innovative Extension Approaches for Revitalising Agriculture in Jammu and Kashmir, worth Rs. 463 crores.

This initiative aims to introduce sustainable agricultural practices in the union territory, empower the youth and farmers through 'inclusive and technology-driven agri-extension services,' and establish approximately 2,000 Kissan Khidmat Ghars, akin to one-stop centres providing 'farmer-oriented services.'

Mr. Atal Dulloo, the Additional Chief Secretary of Agricultural Production, firmly believes this initiative will remedy the defects plaguing the current extension system in the union territory.

He added, "The project aims to address these issues by developing a dynamic agri-extension system using IoT-enabled real-time big data for farm-centric planning and resource allocation. This technology-enabled system will form the basis for a proactive agriculture extension system with a cluster approach. This approach will use real-time regional analysis of climate and agro-ecology information to promote niche agriculture under given agro-climatic conditions." – *Business Standard*

## OILSEED INITIATIVES



Jammu and Kashmir's oil industry will be witnessing a major transformation with the implementation of new schemes by the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme by the Agriculture Production Department.

The department will implement an Rs. 31 crore project. The three-year initiative will create jobs and contribute towards promoting economic growth.

The government intends to bring 210 Th Ha under oilseed cultivation from 140 Th Ha over the next three years. —

*Greater Kashmir*



Dr Mubarak Hussain Syed with young students at an unidentified science laboratory in the US. — *Kashmir Life*

Dr. Mubarak Hussain Syed, a Kashmiri neuroscientist, is among 125 scientists who have secured the highly sought-after Sloan Research Fellowship. He is the first person of Kashmiri origin to do so. This fellowship is granted to the ‘most promising’ early career scientists. As per the guidelines, each fellow will be allocated USD 75,000 to carry out research for a period of over two years.

Dr. Syed is attempting to find how specific cells in the brain make a division of labour and manage to create a brain-blood barrier. To this end, he has already identified four genes from fruit fly as a model.

Dr. Syed serves as an Assistant Professor of Biology at the University of New Mexico and spearheads the institution’s Neural Diversity Lab. In 2011, he also secured the National Science Foundation Career Award.

Speaking to *Kashmir Life*, the young scientist said: “Early in my independent scientific career, this recognition (Sloan Fellowship) will tremendously help our research programme and mentoring activities. I am grateful to my dedicated and hardworking team at the University of New Mexico, especially my first two graduate students, who also happen to be from Kashmir...” — *Kashmir Life*

## HEALTHCARE SECTION

### KASHMIR SCIENTIST GETS FELLOWSHIP FOR BRAIN-BLOOD CELL RESEARCH

### 20 MORE DNB SEATS IN MEDICAL COLLEGES & DISTRICT HOSPITALS

The National Board of Examination in Medical Science (NBEMS) has sanctioned 20 more Diplomate of National Board (DNB) seats in government medical colleges and district hospitals in Jammu and Kashmir. An official spokesman has said these seats will be in addition to the earlier granted DNB seats. According to official data, GMC Srinagar has received approval for two seats in FNB paediatric anaesthesia and Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Hospital, Srinagar, and three post-MBBS DNB seats in general surgery. Mission Director, National Health Mission (J&K), Ayushi Sudan, has said that implementing the DNB courses at the district level in J&K has been termed as a best practice in the country. — *The Print*