

XIII Regional Meeting of State Science & Technology Councils and Departments (Northern Region).



Minister for Science & Technology, Information Technology, Sheep & Animal Husbandry, Jenab Taj Mohi-ud-Din, Speaking on the occasion of inaugural function.

J&K State Council of Science & Technology organized XIII regional meeting of Science & Technology Councils and Departments (Northern Region) on 29-30 November 2005 at Director's Hall, Regional Research Laboratory, Canal Road, Jammu. The participants in the meeting included representatives of Northern State Science & Technology Councils and Departments, Central Science & Technology Agencies, Planning Commission and few NGOs working in the area of Science and Technology. The main objective of the meeting was to review Science & Technology activities in the Northern states and to identify the areas for mutual co-operation.

The meeting was inaugurated by Jenab Taj Mohi-ud-Din Hon'ble Minister for Science and Technology, Information Technology, Sheep and Animal Husbandry, J&K State. The minister, in his inaugural address expressed his keenness in implementing Science and Technology activities in letter and spirit at grass root level. He stressed the need for inculcating scientific temper among the masses in general and student community in particular. The minister informed the gathering that the Government is putting in all the efforts to bring the J&K State at the front line in the field of Science and Technology. The minister highlighted the role of Science and Technology Council in the development of the Socio-economic condition of the State. Intervention of Science and Technology in agriculture, horticulture, sericulture has become imperative, he added. He urged for launching a vigorous awareness campaign among the farmer community regarding latest in-puts being used in the field of agriculture.

Dr.V.K. Koul, Addl. Director, J&K State Council for Science & Technology in his welcome address expressed sincere gratitude to the authorities of Department of Science & Technology Govt. of India, New Delhi for giving J&K State S&T Council a chance to host the meeting. The opening remarks were given by Shri. Lokesh Jha IAS, Commissioner/Secretary to Govt., Science and Technology and Information Technology Departments, J&K State. In his address, he apprised the scientific gathering about the role and achievements of Science and Technology Department in the State. He also informed that the Science and Technology Department is in the process of upgrading the Human Genetic Counseling cum Research Centers at University of Jammu and SK Institute of Medical Sciences, Srinagar. The centers are providing genetic counseling to the patients suffering from various genetic disorders.

Dr. (Mrs.) C.P.Sehgal, Advisor, Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India, highlighted the objectives of the meeting and assured that Department of Science and Technology Govt. of India will provide helping hand to the States for the projects to be undertaken for the socio-economic development of the society. She also gave a brief appraisal of the schemes being sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India.

The keynote address was given by Dr.G.N.Qazi, Director, Regional Research Laboratory, Jammu. Dr Qazi highlighted the contribution of CSIR and its constituent

laboratories in the development of Indian Science. The achievements of RRL, Jammu were also highlighted by him. The vote of thanks was presented by Sh.Sanjay Bajpai, Scientist and Member Secretary (TDT), Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

Two days meeting was divided into four technical sessions. On the first day three technical sessions were conducted. During the technical sessions of the meeting, the participating representatives of State Science & Technology Councils and Departments of Northern Region gave detailed presentation of the activities and programmes being undertaken by them. Dr.R.K.Raina and Dr.Y.S.Bedi made presentations on behalf of RRL, Jammu. The fourth technical session comprised of brief discussion followed by a general recommendation session. About twenty (20) participants/representatives from various S&T Councils/Departments of Northern States attended the said meeting. The details of the participants are given as follows:



Sh. Lokesh Jha IAS, Commissioner/Secretary, Science & Technology and Information Technology, J&K Govt. addressing the delegates.

S.No.	Name/Designation	Address
1.	Mr..Pankaj (IAS) Principal Secretary,	Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of Rajasthan, Jaipur
2.	Dr. Venkateswarn (IAS) Director,	Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of Rajasthan, Jaipur
3.	Mrs.C.P.Sehgal, Adviser (SSTP)	Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, New Delhi
4.	Mr. Sanjay Bajpai, Scientist 'E'	Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, New Delhi
5.	Mr.Rajveer Singh, Scientific Officer	Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Haryana
6.	Mr.N.R.Mehta, Superintendent	Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Haryana
7.	Dr. R.K.Sood, Joint Member Secretary	Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla
8.	Dr(Mrs) Neelam Gulati Sharma, Principal Scientific Officer	Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Punjab, Chandigarh
9.	Dr.D.K. Mishra	Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Utter Pradesh, Lucknow
10.	Dr.Sheshi Rana, Principal Scientific Officer	Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Utter Pradesh, Lucknow
11.	Mr.Mukesh	Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, New Delhi
12.	Mr. Brij Mohan Sharma, Secretary (NGO)	Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Uttranchal, Dehradun
13.	Dr. Brij Sharma,	National Research Development Corporation, New Delhi
14.	Mr. N.K.Choubey Sr. Scientist	Department of Science & Technology, M.P, Bhopal
15.	Mr.Sanjay Samuel Assistant Director Computers	Department of Science & Technology, M.P, Bhopal
17.	Mr.Rajeev Acharya Research Officer	Department of Science & Technology, Rajasthan, Jaipur
18	Mr.V.C.Goyal	Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, New Delhi

19.	Dr.R.K.Raina	Scientist, Regional Research Laboratory, Jammu
20.	Dr.Y.S.Bedi	Scientist, Regional Research Laboratory, Jammu



Dr. (Mrs.) C.P. Sehgal, Advisor, Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, Speaking on the occasion



Dr. G.N. Qazi, Director, Regional Research Laboratory, Jammu delivering address

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- ★ Regular meeting of the councils will have catalytic efforts in dissemination of S&T information to development departments of the States. Meeting of the Council, at least once in a year may be requested.
- ★ S&T Councils need to have effective interaction with development departments, panchayats and some of the active NGOs to take stock of the local problems concerning health, environment, traditional skills etc. for S&T intervention
- ★ State S&T Councils may invite leading scientists for delivering talks for the benefit of scientific community as well as general public in the State.
- ★ Many important recommendations emerge from Regional Meetings. States should vigorously take follow up action in the areas of interest to them with the concerned States and Central S&T Agencies/Departments.
- ★ State S&T Councils may attempt to prepare an atlas of problems so that some need based research efforts could be initiated by the Central agencies/research institutions. Techno-economic surveys and other relevant studies to identify the problems as well as possible S&T interventions for socio-economic development could facilitate this effort.
- ★ State S&T Councils should put in greater and more systematic efforts towards replication of successful experiences elsewhere as well as field trials of successful technologies.
- ★ States should pro-actively make use of promotional programmes of Central S&T Agencies, having State S&T orientation/relevance.
- ★ State S&T Councils may consider taking up immediate initiative to document traditional knowledge regarding the use of various herbs and plants used as medicines and artisanship.
- ★ States may take initiative in sharing of experiences with other states belonging to similar territorial zone such as mountainous, arid etc to evolve joint programmes involving more than one state.
- ★ Horizontal interaction between State S&T Councils should be strengthened utilizing advances in the field of information technology.
- ★ To ensure continuity of activities, there is need to have strong professional S&T secretariat to serve the State S&T Council and also the State Department of

Science & Technology with fairly senior level scientific manpower. Considerable stress may be placed on emulating the experience of center in the key organization features of State S&T bodies.

- ★ The State S&T bodies should have enough flexibility and operational freedom for smooth and effective implementation of various S&T programmes.
- ★ In order to make use of scientific and technological knowledge generated in the scientific infrastructure created so far, it is necessary that a plan for utilization of S&T at State level is carefully drawn keeping in view the development priorities of the State involving scientists, technologists, planners and decision makers in the process. The S&T infrastructure existing in the States may be used optimally. This may require identification and prioritization of specific areas requiring S&T intervention. Adequate financial resources may be allocated for S&T interventions accordingly.
- ★ High priority is accorded to application of science and technology in the States and Union Territories, keeping in view, the specific needs and resources of the State. Specific initiatives, drawing upon successful experience of centre and other states, may be taken up in important sectoral areas such as agriculture, health, water, transport, land-use, forestry, housing, urban development, animal husbandry etc.
- ★ State Governments may identify specific locations in their States where some of the projects already successfully demonstrated by Central S&T Departments/agencies could be replicated so that the total impact of S&T does not remain in the form of demonstration projects but is actually transformed through replication in different locations in the country.
- ★ Specific S&T based schemes, projects and programmes for employment generation in terms of training, re-training, skill development, entrepreneurship development etc. would not only help in the creation of employment opportunities at the State level but would also help in improving the productivity and efficiency of various services and production sectors.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- ★ For specific local problems, individual initiative has to be taken by council in consultation with identified expert groups.
- ★ Regional centers may be encouraged for better spread of council activities. They should take up programmes of societal appreciation in addition to awareness programmes.
- ★ The councils need to develop effective linkage with S&T institutions and State Government line departments to ensure better effectiveness
- ★ Human Resource Development programme aimed at employment generation need to be encouraged.
- ★ The council may also address the needs of scientific community within the State by providing finances for foreign travel, conferences, fellowships etc.
- ★ Councils may consider taking up programmes in following areas:
 - a) Promotion of aromatic and medicinal plants
 - b) Ground water pollution through improper sanitation
 - c) State Natural Resources Management Systems may be promoted in consultation with Department of Space, Govt. of India.
- ★ The councils may be encouraged to setup separate web page on their activities, which may be regularly updated. DST, Govt. of India may support such developments, if required.
- ★ A project may be taken up to identify successful technologies available with various S&T institutions/industries and disseminated through Department of Science & Technology as well as council website.
- ★ The councils may articulate their problems and pose them for solution to appropriate institutions. They may also consider publicizing the same and evaluate the potential solutions.



A view of audience





DAILY EXCELSIOR, JAMMU



Minister for Science and Technology Taj Mohi-ud-Din attending inaugural session of 13th Regional Science and Technology meet at Jammu on Tuesday.

13th regional annual meet of S&T commences **Genetic counselling centres of GMC Jammu, SKIMS to be upgraded: Taj**

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 29: The genetic counselling centres of Government Medical College Jammu and Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences Srinagar would be upgraded into full-fledged research-cum-counselling centres. The centres would provide counselling to the patients who otherwise were required to go outside the state for such counselling.

This was stated by Minister for Science and Technology, Information Technology and Sheep and Animal Husbandry, Taj Mohi-ud-Din after inaugurating 2-day seminar, to mark its 13th annual regional meet organized by J&K State Council for Science and Technology Department in collaboration with Department of Science and Technology, Government of India at Regional research Laboratory here today.

The inaugural function was attended by the representatives from Himachal Pradesh, Punjab,

Harayana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

The main objective of the seminar was to review the activities of science and technology and to identify the thrust areas for mutual cooperation.

Addressing the seminar, the Minister said that J&K State Council for Science and Technology has a mission to pursue for the overall development of the state especially for rural areas. He stressed for implementation of Science and Technology at grass root level in letter and spirit and stressed for inculcating scientific temper among the students.

The Minister said that present Government is putting in all efforts to bring the J&K State at the fore-front in the field of Science and Technology.

Earlier in his welcome address, Additional Director J&K State Council for Science and Technology, Dr G.N. Qazi gave a detailed presentation of the activities be-

ing executed by the State S&T Council. Dr Qazi, urged for identifying the thrust areas where science and technology could be used in a simple but effective manner, particularly in the processing of medicinal plants, agriculture etc..

Advisor Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, Dr C.P. Sehgal highlighted the objectives of the meet and assured that Department of Science and Technology, Government of India will provide every help to the States for the projects to be undertaken for the socio-economic development.

Commissioner/ Secretary Science and Technology, Lokesh Jha on the occasion apprised gathering about the role and achievements of science and technology department in the state.

The vote of thanks was presented by Sanjeev Bajpai, Scientist and Members Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.