

**J&K CHAPTER**  
*UNDER*  
**HIMALAYAN KNOWLEDGE NETWORK**

**A Brief Report about**  
**THE INCEPTION WORKSHOP FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF**  
**J&K CHAPTER**



**University of Kashmir, Srinagar**  
**2021**

**Background:**

The activity for the establishment of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) chapter under the Himalayan Knowledge Network (HKN) started immediately after receipt of a letter from Principal Investigator, Himalayan Knowledge Network (HKN), G.B.Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, Almora bearing no. HKN Project/NMHS/GBPMIHE/ dated 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 requesting for nomination of a Nodal Person for the establishment of JK Chapter by the University of Kashmir, Accordingly, the competent authority in the University was approached on 12-07-2021 for approval which was conveyed vide order no. F(nodal person)D.Res/KU/21/1376 dated 19 July, 2021. Subsequent to it, the Letter of Approval (LOA) was signed and first installment of funds (Rs. 3 lakh) was released on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.

In accordance with the terms and conditions of the project, inhouse consultations and preparations were started in right earnest for holding inception workshop to chalk out the course of action to be pursued for accomplishment of the objectives of the project. The Vice Chancellor of all the Universities in Jammu and Kashmir, Directors of regional and national institutes, heads of concerned departments of JK Govt. and other stakeholders were approached to either nominate the relevant faculty members, officers, officials for the inception workshop which was scheduled on 28-09-2021 through the online mode. Following is a list of institutions and individuals invited to participate in the workshop.

**List of invitees**

1. Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, Jammu
2. Vice Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir, Ganderbal, Srinagar
3. Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, Jammu
4. Vice Chancellor, Sheri-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Shalimar, Srinagar
5. Vice Chancellor, Sheri-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Jammu
6. Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, Kashmir
7. Vice Chancellor, Ghulam Shah Badshah University, Rajouri, Jammu
8. Vice Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, Jammu
9. Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Kashmir, Srinagar
10. Principal Secretary to Govt. Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir
11. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu & Kashmir
12. Commissioner/Secretary to Govt. Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment Jammu & Kashmir, Srinagar
13. Director, National Institute of Technology (NIT), Srinagar
14. Director, Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu
15. Director, Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture, Srinagar
16. Director, Agriculture, Kashmir
17. Mr. Rashid Naqash, Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir
18. Prof. Namrata Sharma, Department of Botany, Jammu University, Jammu
19. Dr. Aijaz A Wachkoo, Degree College Shopian, Kashmir
20. Dr. Fayaz A Malik, Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu
21. Dr. Aijaz H Ganie, Department of Botany, University of Ladakh, Kargil

22. Dr. Pervaiz A Dar, Department of Botany, Amar Singh College, Srinagar
23. Dr. Harish Dutt, Department of Botany, Jammu University, Jammu
24. Dr. Susheel Varma, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, Rajouri
25. Prof. Mohammad Sultan Bhat, Department of Geography and Regional Development, University of Kashmir
26. Dr. Rayees A Malik, Department of Botany, University of Kashmir, Srinagar
27. Dr. Arshid Jehangir, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Kashmir
28. Dr. Samiullah Bhat, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Kashmir
29. Prof. Ghulam Jeelani, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Kashmir
30. Prof. Shaukat Ara, Division of Environmental Sciences, SKUAST-K, Srinagar
31. Dr. Irfan Rashid, Department of Geoinformatics, University of Kashmir
32. Dr. Imtiyaz Ahmed, Department of Zoology, University of Kashmir
33. Prof. Veenu Kaul, Department of Botany, University of Jammu
34. Prof. YashPal Sharma, Department of Botany, University of Jammu
35. Prof. Irshad A Nawchoo, Department of Botany, University of Kashmir, Srinagar
36. Prof. Abdul Hamid Wani, Department of Botany, University of Kashmir, Srinagar
37. Prof. Farooq A Masoodi, Department of Food Technology, University of Kashmir
38. Dr. Aijaz A Qureshi, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, Srinagar
39. Dr. Majid Farooq, Climate Change Centre, DEERS, JK Govt. Srinagar
40. Ms. Asmat Buch, Lakes and Waterways Development Authority, Srinagar
41. Mr. Tasaduq Moeen, Department of Horticulture, Kashmir, Srinagar
42. Mr Intesar Suhail, Wildlife Warden, Shopian
43. Dr Neeraj Sharma Institute of Mountain Environment, Jammu University, Baderwah Campus
44. Dr Sajad Ahmad Parey, Department of Zoology, BGSB University, Rajouri
45. Dr Riyaz Ahmad, Wildlife Trust of India
46. Dr Khursheed Ahmad, Wildlife Division, SKUAST-K
47. Dr. Nisar Ahmad Bhat, Range Officer, JK Forest Department, Kashmir
48. Dr. Sanjana Koul, Department of Biotechnology, University of Jammu
49. Dr. S.K. Gupta, Division of Agroforestry, SKUAST, Jammu
50. Dr. Amit Jasrotia, Division of Fruit Science, SKUAST, Jammu
51. Dr. Mahital Jamwal, Dy. Director Research, SKUAST, Jammu
52. Dr. Geeta Sharma, Department of Botany, university of Jammu
53. Prof. Aijaz A Wani, Department of Botany, university of Kashmir
54. Dr. Akhlaq Amin Wani, SKUAST, Shalimar, Srinagar
55. Dr. Mohammad Latief, Central University of Kashmir, Ganderbal, Kashmir
56. Dr. Abid Hamid, Department of Biotechnology, Central University of Kashmir, Ganderbal, Kashmir
57. Dean, Faculty of Forestry, SKUAST, Beehama, Ganderbal, Kashmir
58. J&K Biodiversity Council
59. J&K Forest Research Institute.



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**Google Meet joining info**

**Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/czw-tzck-msq>**

***Detailed Programme***

<b>Inaugural Session</b>		<b>10:30 AM to 11:05 AM</b>	
1.	Welcome address	<b>Prof. Zafar A Reshi</b> Nodal Person	10.35
2.	Objectives and expectations of 'State Chapters' under HKN	<b>Dr. G C S Negi</b> Scientist 'G' (Forest Ecology) G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment	10.40
3.	Brief address	<b>Dr. Nisar A Mir</b> Registrar, University of Kashmir	10.45
4.	Brief address	<b>Prof. Farooq A Masoodi</b> Dean Academic Affairs and Dean Research, University of Kashmir	10.50
5.	Inaugural address	<b>Prof. Talat Ahmad</b> Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor University of Kashmir	11.00
6.	Vote of thanks	<b>Prof. Manzoor A Shah</b> Department of Botany University of Kashmir	11.05

<b>TECHNICAL SESSION-I 11.05 AM TO 1.30 PM</b>			
S. No.	Name	Institution	Title
1.	Dr. Anzar A Khuroo	University of Kashmir	Building Baseline Data on Biodiversity for its Sustainable Management: Floristic Diversity of Kashmir Himalaya
2.	Dr. Geeta Sharma	University of Jammu	Cytogenetic assessment of flowering plants of North-west Himalaya
3.	Prof. Aijaz A Wani	University of Kashmir	Apple and other fruit crop Germplasm Resources: Conservation, Propagation and utilisation for sustainable regional development
4.	Dr Akhlaq Amin Wani	SKUAST, Kashmir	Forest resources for climate, biodiversity and livelihood in Kashmir Himalayas"

5.	Prof. Manzoor A Shah	University of Kashmir	Harnessing the bioresource potential of J&K for regional sustainable development
6.	Dr. Aijaz Hassan Ganie	Ladakh University	Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) of J&K: Diversity and prospects
7.	Dr. Khursheed Ahmad	SKUAST, Kashmir	Status and Conservation of Wildlife in the Western Himalayas: Threats, Gaps and way forward
8.	Dr. Mohammad Latief	Central University of Kashmir	Conservation and sustainable use of fish bio-resource in Northern Western Himalayan Region; Implementing and innovating modern approaches for the development of holistic fish culture industry
9.	Dr. Sajad H Parey	BGSBU, Rajouri	Insect Pollinators as Ecosystem Service Providers of Kashmir Himalaya
10.	Dr. Aijaz A. Wachkoo	GDC, Shopian	Pollination services; Biocontrol agents; Ecosystem health indicators; Insects as food etc.
11.	Dr. Sanjana Koul	University of Jammu	Bioprospecting Himalayan microbiome: Potential towards plant productivity, sustainable development and other applications
12.	Dr. Sami Ullah Bhat	University of Kashmir	Inland Waters of Kashmir Himalaya: Progress, Challenges and Future Directions
13.	Dr. Akhtar Alam	University of Kashmir	Land use and land cover change
14.	Dr. Harish Chander Dutt	University of Jammu	Biotic change detection in degraded habitats in Jammu and Kashmir
15.	Dr. Majid Farooq	ENVIS, J&K	Working of J&K Climate Change Cell - Initiatives, Outcomes and Future Plans
16.	Dr. Irfan Rashid	University of Kashmir	The State of Cryosphere in Western Himalaya
17.	Dr. Riyaz Ahmad	Wildlife Trust of India	Working/Engaging with local communities and migratory herders to conserve threatened habitats and species of Kashmir Himalayas
18.	Dr. Aijaz Ahmad Qureshi	IUST, Awantipora	Generating knowledge and enhancing capacities through Research, Citizen Science & Traditional Knowledge tools
<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>			
<b>1.30 PM TO 2.15 PM</b>			
<b>TECHNICAL SESSION-II 2.15 PM TO 3.30 PM</b>			
1.	Prof. Manzoor A. Shah/ Dr. Anzar A Khuroo	University of Kashmir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the deliberations in the Technical Session-I</li> </ul>
2.	All the participants	All Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestions and recommendations</li> <li>• Identification and finalization of the thematic areas</li> </ul>
3.	Prof. Zafar A Reshi		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future plan of action</li> </ul>

## **Proceedings of the Inception Workshop**

An online inception workshop was conducted by the University of Kashmir to establish the J&K Chapter under Himalayan Knowledge Network (HKN). At the outset Prof. Zafar A Reshi, Nodal Person of the HKN welcomed the participants and briefly discussed the broader contours of the JK Chapter for HKN. Dr. G. C. S. Negi, Scientist 'G' (Forest Ecology) G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment discussed the objectives and expectations of 'State Chapters' under HKN and presented the importance of getting all knowledge partners to the same platform for connecting policy to practice. Prof. Talat Ahmad, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir in his inaugural address emphasized the importance of such a Chapter for J&K and its relevance to development of effective policies. He desired it to be an all-inclusive and interdisciplinary chapter taking societal dimension into consideration. Prof. Farooq A Masoodi, Dean Academic Affairs (DAA) and Dean Research, said that Himalayan states are confronted with common challenges, such as climate change, species loss and food insecurity, which bring institutions and individuals on a common platform. Registrar Dr. Nisar A Mir committed full support of the University in terms of the facilities and human resource for the said chapter. DAA and Registrar both stressed on adding people from Social Sciences to the HKN. Prof. Manzoor A Shah presented the vote of thanks in the inaugural function.

The workshop was attended by scientists and representatives of Government Departments from almost all major institutions of J&K including Universities of Jammu and Kashmir, SKUAST Jammu, SKUAST Kashmir, IUST, BGBSU, IIIM, Cluster University, Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing, LAWDA, etc. In the technical session, there were 20 presentations made by various scientists deputed for the purpose from their respective institutions on various facets of physical (water, soil, glacial) and biological (plant, animal and microbial) resources, the status of existing information and modalities of data sharing. There was a consensus on two thematic areas in terms of Biological and Physical resources to be taken up as mandated by the NITI Ayog for this purpose. The report to be developed under the aegis of J&K Chapter for HKN is expected to synthesize the critical information from natural and other sciences for better policy planning vis-à-vis the natural resources of the Jammu & Kashmir. Prof. Reshi conducted the proceedings while Dr. Khuroo and Prof. Shah wrapped up the session.

### **Pre-lunch session**

Dr Anzar A. Khuroo, Department of Botany, University of Kashmir highlighted the need of building baseline data for sustainable management of biodiversity. He gave an overview of the scientific data available on floristic diversity of Kashmir Himalaya, and emphasized on structured data management system, uniform data formats and explicit credit framework for data contributors to regional HKN.

Dr Geeta Sharma, Department of Botany, University of Jammu discussed the cytogenetic data available on the flowering plants of North-western Himalaya. She highlighted the role of such data in conservation of threatened plants and genetic improvement of economically important plants of the region.

Professor Aijaz A. Wani provided a broad overview of the apple germplasm in Kashmir Himalaya. He highlighted the research progress achieved so far on this important horticulture crop, current challenges being faced and possible solutions for climate-smart horticulture in the region. He suggested for creation of an apple germplasm database under the umbrella of HKN.

Professor T. H. Masoodi, Dean Forestry Faculty, made a presentation on behalf of SKUAST-K, wherein he highlighted the major thrust areas of research and briefly highlighted the research extension activities being undertaken. He assured that the SKUAST-K is ready to contribute in the niche areas relevant to the major objectives of HKN.

Dr Akhlaq A. Wani, SKUAST-K made a concise presentation on research work carried out on the sustainable management of natural resource. He highlighted success stories related to agroforestry and silviculture that has contributed to gainful employment opportunities in the region. He also briefly discussed the research activities related climate smart forestry.

Professor Manzoor A. Shah highlighted the need for harnessing bioresources for regional sustainable development. He emphasized that the scientific documentation and quality data of bioresources is crucial for its better linkage to bioprospecting. He called for rethinking bioresources as natural capital stocks in order to develop bioeconomy.

Dr Aijaz A. Ganie, Department of Botany, Ladakh University gave a brief overview of the database available on medicinal and aromatic plants of this Himalayan region. He highlighted the rich repository of traditional knowledge associated with these plants, that needs proper validation and due benefit sharing with the knowledge holders.

Dr. Khursheed Ahmad, Division of Wildlife, SKUAST-K discussed the current status of wildlife in the Western Himalayan region. He highlighted the knowledge gaps and gave an outline of way forward to meet the challenges of conservation policy and practice.

Dr Sajad H. Parey, Department of Zoology, BGSB University, Rajouri gave a concise account on the research work being carried out on the insect pollinators with reference to their precious role as ecosystem service providers. He highlighted several success stories at gross root level by linking the this important but ignored area of biodiversity with the societal benefits.

### **Post-lunch session**

Dr. Mohd Latief from the Central University of Kashmir stressed on sustainable utilization of medicinal plants, their bioprospection, besides emphasizing on fish bioresources.

Dr. Aijaz Wachkoo from Higher Education Department, Govt. of J&K, threw light on insect resources of Kashmir Himalaya and agreed for the need of sharing of data and resources, while looking forward for handholding from HKN.

Dr Samiullah Bhat from the Department of Environmental Sciences stated that the aquatic systems (lakes and wetlands) could be considered as one of the thematic areas and that lessons from the other state chapters of HKN need to be taken into consideration. Also, the specific roles need to be assigned with due accountability.

Dr. Akhtar Alam from the Department of Geography and Regional Development alarmed about the increasing land-use changes with concomitant decrease in area of water bodies and agriculture.

Dr. Irfan Rashid from Geoinformatics in his pre-recorded video said that the J&K is the hotspot for glacial retreat for which there is a valuable database generated over time that is critical in understanding climate change, cryobiology and permafrost destabilization.

Prof. Sanjana Koul talked about the bioprospection of Himalayan microbiome for enhanced agriculture productivity and regional development. Dr Sushil Gupta vouched for multi-party MoUs and the importance of data sharing.

Dr Harish Dutt from Jammu University expressed his opinion about the anthropogenic ecotones, normalizing the habitat degradation index and distribution modeling.

Dr Majid Farooq from Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing, J&K Govt. emphasized on the need to overcome pre-conceived biases between scientists and Govt. Departments. He discussed how vulnerability assessment phase I and II helped the Govt. in targeted investment and interventions for mitigating the climate change impacts. He welcomed the idea of common data sharing portal.

Dr Riyaz Ahmad from Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) while highlighting their work on species rescue and recovery vis-à-vis human wild-wildlife conflict, stressed on working with fringe communities and migratory herders for conserving degraded habitats and wildlife.

Professor Yash Pal Sharma, Department of Botany, University of Jammu presented a summary of the research work on fungi – an important group of biodiversity – in the region. Besides their commercial use, he highlighted the life supporting ecological role of fungi in maintenance of ecosystem functioning.

Dr. Aijaz Qureshi from IUST discussed wide variety of issues spanning citizen science, traditional wisdom and resource sharing.

After due deliberation following two themes were identified and Prof. Z. A. Reshi, summarized the workshop proceedings and discussed the roadmap ahead for carrying forward the work on the two themes:

- 1. Biodiversity: Current status, conservation and sustainable utilization**
- 2. Water Resources: Current status and sustainable management**



