

**NMHS**

National Mission on  
Himalayan Studies



MoEF&CC



**भारत अमृत महोत्सव**

**हर राह पर बढ़ते कदम**

DATABASE DEVELOPMENT ON DIVERSITY AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE ON MUSHROOMS  
TOWARDS THEIR CULTIVATION AND CONSERVATION IN TRANS HIMALAYAN DISTRICT OF

KARGIL

**राष्ट्रीय हिमालयी अध्ययन मिशन (NMHS)**

**NATIONAL MISSION ON HIMALAYAN STUDIES (NMHS)**

**in Collaboration with**

**DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY**

**UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU, JAMMU-180006**

**Celebrates**

**BHARAT AMRUT MAHOTSAV**

**at various locations of the**

**District Kargil, UT of Ladakh, INDIA**

## **‘BHARAT AMRUT MAHOTSAV’ CELEBRATED BY THE NMHS AT KARGIL**

In order to commemorate the 75 years of India's Independence as '**BHARAT AMRUT MAHOTSAV**' as well as to reach out to the people at the remotest corners of the country, and ensure their participation in the development of the nation, a team of **National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS)** the project titled *“Database Development on Diversity and Indigenous Knowledge on Mushrooms towards their cultivation and conservation in Trans Himalayan district of Kargil”* (sanctioned by NMHS, G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, New Delhi) led by the Principal Investigator, **Prof. Yash Pal Sharma, Department of Botany, University of Jammu, Jammu** organized a series of events at various locations of the Trans-Himalayan District Kargil of the newly established Union Territory of Ladakh.

The events of the '**Bharat Amrit Mahotsav**' began at the picturesque Drass Valley, the second coldest inhabited place in the world, wherein capacity-building awareness workshops were organized at Govt. Degree College, Drass (Kargil). Strictly adhering to the set Covid-19 protocols, a large number of people including the Chairman, B.D.C, Principal, Govt. Degree College, Drass, Dr. Amjad Ali, Sarpanch, Villagers, senior citizens, freedom fighters, and students actively participated. Prof Yash Pal Sharma highlighted the significance of mega initiative '**Amrut Mahotsav**' of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India and the magnificent history of its people, heritage, culture, and accomplishments. “Time has come that every individual realizes his/her potential and contributes towards nation building with a sense of pride and vision for posterity”, urged Prof. Sharma. Prof Sharma also delivered an online talk on the **International Day of Biodiversity and the challenges of the Covid-19 Pandemic** to the students of Govt Degree College, Drass

In the backdrop of majestic Tiger Hill, a silent testimony to the Kargil War, many of the senior citizens and who had witnessed the Kargil War of 1999, narrated their stories of valour and supreme sacrifice and proudly appreciated the wholehearted support of the civil society of Kargil to the valiant Indian forces in myriad ways.

Dr. Tahir Mehmood, the Project Fellow gave demonstrative lecture on the domestication of wild edible mushrooms and their value-added products while Mr Syed Azhar, SRF informed the participants about Govt. funded schemes for entrepreneurship ventures including **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMKVY), Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY), PMEGP, Rural Livelihood Mission. Digital interventions and technological advancements and innovations** were also discussed for future skilling and making mushrooms a livelihood option for the people of Kargil.

Another capacity building workshop was organized at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Kargil Campus of SKUAST- Kashmir. The local implementing partner of the project Dr. Nasreen F. Kacho, Scientist, SKUAST- Kashmir, conducted the proceedings of the workshop. A large number of local farm women and 'Veer Naris' participated in this workshop. Prof Yash Pal Sharma, Dr. Nasreen F. Kacho and the Project fellow shared their knowledge on the cultivation techniques of wild edible mushrooms. A mushroom identification activity was also organized for the participants.

Addressing the prospective farm women of Kargil, Prof. Sharma appreciated the role of Indian women in national building and quoted several examples of their contributions in

strengthening the socio-economic fabric of the country as well their fast emergence in the political platform. Dr. Tahir Mehmood, Project Fellow, spoke on the cultivation aspects of wild edible mushrooms while Mr. Syed Azhar, SRF informed the participants about different schemes for entrepreneurship ventures.

Mrs. Parveena Akhtar, a renowned entrepreneur of Kargil and a social activist working on women empowerment also shared her views and expressed her gratitude to the team of NMHS for reaching out to them and hoped to have similar such interactions in the future also.

Various commemoration activities are on our calendar for **Bharat Amrut Mahotsav** such as mushroom painting completion, mushroom identification, essay writing competitions on the role of wild edible resources of Kargil Trans-Himalayan region, improving lifestyle, Green Kargil Smart Kargil, cultural diversity of Kargil and national harmony, short stories on the Indian heroes of the Kargil War etc, and will be further taken up in near future to maintain the momentum.

It is pertinent to mention here that National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) has taken a lead in sanctioning the first-ever project “Database Development on Diversity and Indigenous Knowledge on Mushrooms towards their cultivation and conservation in Trans Himalayan district of Kargil” (sanctioned by NMHS, G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, New Delhi) with the sole objective of documentation of the diversity, cultivation, conservation, and importance of wild mushroom resources and their socio-economic potential in Himalayan UTs of J&K and Ladakh. To address the challenges food security posed by the rapidly increasing population, growing incidence of malnutrition, and health issues, to generate employment opportunities and mitigate the challenges of environment, the wild edible mushrooms could be a game-changer resource. The profitable mushroom cultivation requires close attention, experience, and skills and hence is the objective of organizing such capacity building and training workshops to create awareness and impart skills amongst the participating women on the cultivation techniques of growing wild mushrooms. These wild edible mushrooms once domesticated can be grown throughout the season under controlled atmospheric conditions their lifestyle and livelihood options. Celebrating ‘**Bharat Amrut Mahotsav**’ along with the project activities are like the icing on the cake.





**Figure 1-** Various events organised in connection with “Bharat Amrut Mahotsav” NMHS Project awareness program at Govt. Degree College, Drass (Kargil).





**Figure 2**– Various events organised in connection with “Bharat Amrut Mahotsav” NMHS Project awareness program at : (a) Drass (Kargil); b Local women showing the traditional way of preserving locally growing wild edible mushroom (‘Shentil’) for winter consumption. c-d. Principal Investigator along with the research fellow and the local enthusiastic child with edible fruiting body of *Laetiporus* in the field. e-f Discussing various important Govt. funded schemes with local progressive farm women during the capacity building workshop at SKUAST- Kargil.



Radio News Kargil  
22 May ·

GDC Drass celebrates International Biodiversity Day

KARGIL, MAY 22, 2021: Department of Biosciences, Government Degree College (GDC) Drass organized an online talk to mark the International Day of Biodiversity at the college campus here today.

The talk was conducted on Google platform where former Head, Department of Botany, University of Jammu and renowned Environmentalist and Mycologist, Professor Yashpal Sharma presented the keynote address to the participants.

The programme began with the welcome speech by Dr Amjad Ali, Principal, GDC Drass. He appreciated and thanked Professor Yashpal Sharma for accepting the invitation on a very short notice and briefed the students about the biodiversity and the objective for celebrating the day.

This was followed by an expert talk in which Professor Yashpal Sharma advised the students to celebrate biodiversity throughout the year, instead of a single dedicated day. He informed the students about the threats to biodiversity in the 21st century and advised the students about corrective measures to deal with such threats.

Professor Yashpal Sharma further advised the students to spread awareness among the society and their neighbourhood about the local problems in the surroundings such as stoppage of dumping waste in river streams, indiscriminate use of pesticides and collection and use of

translating Nagar assembly the people for better angle others. family members of Ilav Singh fought the Chinese

## KVK Kargil, JU organise capacity building workshop for farm women

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: To sensitise and create awareness amongst stakeholders, the Kirti Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kargil of SKUAST-Kashmir, in collaboration with the Department of Botany, University of Jammu organised one-day Capacity Building Workshop for farm women on the wild edible mushrooms under the National Mission for Himalayan Studies (NMHS) project on Database Development on Diversity and Indigenous Knowledge on Mushrooms towards their cultivation and conservation in Trans-Himalayan district of Kargil sanctioned to Prof. Yashpal Sharma, Principal Investigator and Prof. Rupam Kapoor, Co-PI, while Dr. Naseem F. Kachroo, Scientist, Plant Pathology of KVK, Kargil is the local implementing partner. Addressing the gathering of prospective farm women of Kargil, Prof. Sharma highlighted the diversity and importance of wild mushrooms resources and their socio-economic potential in the Himalayan region of Kargil. These wild edible mushrooms once domesticated can be grown throughout the season under controlled atmospheric conditions. Developed on a large scale, the delivery of these non-green vegetables can become a common dietary supplement in near future to provide low-calorie food, cheap yet quality proteins, vitamins, and other nutrients. Moreover, mushroom cultivation would ultimately generate plenty of employment avenues for the rural youth, hoped Prof. Sharma, a mushroom researcher from Jammu. Earlier, Dr. Naseem F. Kachroo, Scientist, KVK, Kargil extended a formal welcome to Prof. Sharma and his team of researchers from the University of Jammu for organising the workshop at Kargil. It is pertinent to mention here that the above-sanctioned project of NMHS involves the collection and identification of mushroom diversity, traditional knowledge, cultivation, and conservation of wild mushrooms of Kargil. During the workshop, Dr. Tahir Mahmood, Project Fellow, spoke on the cultivation aspects of wild edible mushrooms while Prof. Ashutosh RSG informed the participants about the different schemes for entrepreneurship ventures. Professor Sharma, a renowned entrepreneur of Kargil and a social activist doing work on women empowerment prepared the formal vote of thanks.

## KVK, Kargil and JU organise one day capacity building workshop for farm women

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, OCT 21**  
To sensitise and create awareness amongst stakeholders, the Kirti Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Kargil of SKUAST-Kashmir, in collaboration with the Department of Botany, University of Jammu organized one-day Capacity Building Workshop for farm women on the wild edible mushroom resources and their nutritional importance under the National Mission for Himalayan Studies (NMHS) project on Database Development on Diversity and Indigenous Knowledge on Mushrooms towards their cultivation and conservation in Trans-Himalayan district of Kargil sanctioned to Prof. Yashpal Sharma, Principal Investigator and Prof. Rupam Kapoor, Co-PI, while Dr. Naseem F. Kachroo, Scientist, Plant Pathology of KVK, Kargil is the local implementing partner. Addressing the gathering of prospective farm women of Kargil, Prof. Sharma highlighted the diversity and importance of wild mushrooms resources and their socio-economic potential in the Himalayan region of Kargil. These wild edible mushrooms once domesticated can be grown throughout the season under controlled atmospheric conditions. Developed on a large scale, the delivery of these non-green vegetables can become a common dietary supplement in near future to provide low-calorie food, cheap yet quality proteins, vitamins, and other nutrients. Moreover, mushroom cultivation would ultimately generate plenty of employment avenues for the rural youth, hoped Prof. Sharma, a mushroom researcher from Jammu. Earlier, Dr. Naseem F. Kachroo, Scientist, KVK, Kargil extended a formal welcome to Prof. Sharma and his team of researchers from the University of Jammu for organising the workshop at Kargil. It is pertinent to mention here that the above-sanctioned project of NMHS involves the collection and identification of mushroom diversity, traditional knowledge, cultivation, and conservation of wild mushrooms of Kargil. During the workshop, Dr. Tahir Mahmood, Project Fellow, spoke on the cultivation aspects of wild edible mushrooms while Prof. Ashutosh RSG informed the participants about the different schemes for entrepreneurship ventures. Professor Sharma, a renowned entrepreneur of Kargil and a social activist doing work on women empowerment prepared the formal vote of thanks.

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Figure 3. Media Coverage of the events