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## Press Release

## Fostering Academia, Innovation, and Development: Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Jammu Inks MoU with Sheri-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture, Science and Technology, Kashmir (SKUAST-K)

Jammu, March 21, 2024: In a significant step towards fostering academic collaboration and advancing regional development initiatives, Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Jammu and Sheri-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture, Science and Technology Kashmir (SKUAST-K) joined hands through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 21st March 2024. The historic agreement was formalized at a ceremony held at the Srinagar Campus of SKUAST-K.

The MoU was signed between Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director of IIM Jammu, and Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-K. The MoU signing witnessed the presence of key dignitaries including Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics of IIM Jammu, Dr. Mugbil Burhan, Chairperson of Srinagar Campus, Cmdr Kesavan Baskkaran, Chief Administrative Officer of IIM Jammu, along with other officials from SKUAST-Kashmir and IIM Jammu.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director of IIM Jammu, expressed enthusiasm about the collaborative opportunities presented by the MoU, stating, "This partnership signifies a pivotal moment for both institutions, as we embark on a journey of knowledge exchange and collaborative growth. By joining forces with SKUAST-K, we aim to leverage our respective strengths in research, education, and innovation to address pressing societal challenges and foster holistic development in the region. This MoU not only facilitates academic and research collaborations but also underscores our commitment to nurturing entrepreneurial talent and promoting sustainable development. Together, we envision creating a transformative impact that transcends boundaries and empowers communities.

Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-K, emphasized the transformative potential of the collaboration, stating, "This partnership opens new avenues for interdisciplinary research, skill development, and entrepreneurial initiatives. Together, we can address pressing challenges and contribute to the socio-economic progress of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. By leveraging our combined expertise and resources, we can drive innovation, promote sustainable development, and empower the youth with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in today's dynamic world. This collaboration embodies a broader vision of regional prosperity and underscores our shared commitment to fostering excellence in education, research, and entrepreneurship."

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean Academics of IIM Jammu, highlighted the holistic approach envisaged through this collaboration, stating, "By synergizing our academic resources and expertise, we aim to create inclusive opportunities for students, faculty, and the wider community. This MoU lays the foundation for a dynamic partnership focused on fostering innovation, knowledge exchange, and sustainable development."

The MoU between IIM Jammu and SKUAST-K marks a significant step towards establishing a comprehensive partnership focusing on Research and Development, Executive Education & Consultancy, Faculty Development Programmes, Skill Development Programmes, Advisory Services and Consulting, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Inclusive and Sustainable Development, and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC). Notably, the agreement facilitates the sharing of term credits in the MBA program as per NEP 2020, allowing students from SKUAST-K to enrol in term courses at IIM Jammu with credit transfer.

The MoU will also foster collaborative initiatives such as joint course offerings, interdisciplinary research promotion, and educational resource exchange. Moreover, it promotes workshops, seminars, and short-term education programs to enhance research and teaching collaborations. The partnership also emphasizes providing research and consultancy services to governmental bodies, joint research endeavours, and active participation in cultural exchange programs, boot camps and sports activities. Additionally, the MoU prioritizes internship opportunities, credit exchange, and the promotion of entrepreneurship, innovation, and skill development through state-of-the-art incubation facilities. Together, IIM Jammu and SKUAST-K aim to cultivate an environment conducive to academic excellence, research innovation, and societal impact.

The MoU between IIM Jammu and SKUAST-K sets the stage for a collaborative journey aimed at advancing knowledge, promoting entrepreneurship, and driving growth in the Union Territory of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. Both institutions are poised to embark on joint initiatives that promise to create lasting impact and contribute to the socio-economic development of the region.

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Glimpses from the MoU Signing between IIM Jammu and SKUAST-K