

Landmark Two-Day International Conference on Sustainable Development, Transformative Learning, and Multidisciplinary Research Successfully Concludes at GDC Bhaderwah

BHADERWAH, JAMMU & KASHMIR — In a landmark academic milestone for the Chenab Valley, Government Degree (PG) College Bhaderwah, in association with Government Degree College Kilhotran, successfully concluded a two-day International Conference on "Multidisciplinary Approach in Educational Research and Transformative Learning for Sustainable Development" on September 3, 2026. Organised in collaboration with GDC Khilotran and in associations with the International Benevolent Research Foundation (IBRF), Kolkata, and the Confederation of Indian Universities (CIU), New Delhi, and sponsored by the Department of Higher Education (UT of J&K) alongside the J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKSTIC), this historic event marked the first offline international conference of its magnitude hosted in the mountainous district of Doda. Aligned with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the conference convened global experts, researchers, and policymakers to exchange cutting-edge research and devise actionable solutions for challenges including climate resilience, biodiversity preservation, green chemistry, and socio-economic transformation.

The conference commenced on September 2 at the Multi-Purpose Hall with a ceremonial reception, National Anthem, and an address of welcome by Prof. Basharat Iqbal, Principal of GDC Bhaderwah. Key inaugural addresses were delivered by Prof. Anita Jamwal, Principal of GDC Kilhotran; Dr. Tanmoy Rudra, Executive Secretary of CIU, New Delhi; Dr. Tridib Bandopadhyay, Chairman of SERI, Kolkata; and Special Guest Lt. Col. Susama Masanta, and Chief guest Prof. Zaheer Abass Hashmi followed by the official unveiling of the college magazine "Shaheen" and the Conference Abstract Book, with the formal vote of thanks offered by Prof. Zain Ul Abideen Banday. Inaugural session was coordinated by Dr. Neelam Saba Asst. professor Dept. of zoology. Over the two days, plenary addresses were delivered by prominent international keynote speakers, including Dr. Saikat Kumar Basu from the University of Lethbridge, Canada, and Dr. Binay Kumar Chakraborty from Bangladesh. Concurrently, vigorous parallel technical sessions with invited talks held across the Zoology Smart Class Room and the IQAC Room showcased multi-sectoral research spanning post-quantum cryptography, AI-driven horticulture, wildlife conservation in Himalayan ecosystems, green synthesis of nanomaterials, the Design Your Degree NEP framework, and ecocritical literature. A special, resounding tribute was placed on record for the Organizing Secretary, Dr. Ajaz A. Wani organizing secretary (Head, Department of Zoology and IQAC Coordinator, GDC Bhaderwah), whose tireless commitment, academic vision, and meticulous organizational leadership served as the driving force behind the summit's flawless execution. Presenting the comprehensive conference synthesis during the valedictory proceedings, Dr. Wani earned unanimous praise from visiting dignitaries, partnering bodies, and delegates for curating an academic convention of international calibre in a remote hilly terrain. His proactive stewardship bridged premier national think tanks like CIU and IBRF with regional higher education institutions, establishing a transformative platform that directly connected researchers, faculty, and students across the Chenab Valley to frontline global scientific discourse.

The summit culminated on the afternoon of September 3 with a high-profile valedictory session presided over by Chief Guest Sh. Krishan Lal (JKAS), Deputy Commissioner of Doda, alongside Guests of Honour Sunil Kumar Bhutyal (JKAS), ADC Bhaderwah; Kartik Shrotriya (IPS), Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Doda; and Dr. Syed Muzaffar Ahmad, Principal of GDC Sopore and S.C Kotwal Ex principal of College. During the closing function,

dignitaries officially released the edited zoology research volume “Compendium of Sciences” compiled and edited by Dept. Of Zoology is 1st of its kind in Jammu and Kashmir colleges and conferred prestigious national and international IBRF awards, certificates, and mementos to distinguished academicians and participants. The proceedings formally drew to a close with a comprehensive vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Tasir Sharief Per, HoD Botany of GDC Kilhotran. The valedictory session was coordinated by Dr. Rajni Kumari Head dept. of Hindi.