

KU hosts 3-day national conference on surfactants, emulsions and biocolloids



Srinagar, August 30: The University of Kashmir (KU) hosted the 22nd National Conference on Surfactants, Emulsions and Biocolloids (NATCOSEB-XXII), bringing together leading scientists, researchers, and scholars from across the country for a three-day exchange of ideas and innovations.

Organized by KU's Department of Chemistry in collaboration with the Indian Society for Surface Science and Technology (ISSST), Jadavpur University, the event witnessed wide participation and engaging discussions on cutting-edge developments in the field. The conference aimed to provide a platform for knowledge sharing, showcase the latest advancements in surfactants, emulsions, and biocolloids, and foster collaborations to tackle key scientific, industrial, environmental, and healthcare challenges.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, congratulated the Department for organizing the prestigious event, terming it an important milestone for the University.

"Research in surfactants and biocolloids is directly linked to innovations in healthcare, environment, and industry. By hosting NATCOSEB, the University is developing a culture of collaborative science that not only enhances academic excellence but also responds to pressing societal needs," she said.

Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada, noted that conferences of this scale not only advance scientific frontiers but also promote collaborations to address challenges specific to the region, including environmental sustainability and restoration of water bodies.

Prof. B.K. Mishra, President ISSST, lauded the varsity's strong academic engagement with surface science, observing that NATCOSEB-XXII had attracted participants from across the country, while Prof. Kallol Kumar Ghosh, Jadavpur University, highlighted the importance of such conferences in building stronger scientific linkages and nurturing young talent.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Prof. Aijaz Ahmad, Head, Department of Chemistry, KU, and convenor of NATCOSEB-XXII, highlighted the Department's contributions in colloid and interface science, green chemistry, material science, and environmental chemistry.

The conference featured 11 themed scientific sessions, including plenary lectures, invited talks, oral presentations, and poster sessions by young researchers.

Special highlights included memorial lecture awards delivered by Prof. S. K. Mehta (former VC, University of Ladakh), Prof. Santanu Bhattacharya (Director, IISER Tirupati), and Dr. M. Nandi (ISERC West Bengal). Prof. Sunil K. Bhagwat, Director, IISER Pune was also among the distinguished delegates.

A formal vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. Syed Wajahat Amin Shah, faculty at Department of Chemistry KU and organizing secretary of the event.

The event was sponsored by the University of Kashmir, J&K Bank, JKSTIC, DST, and chemical and glassware suppliers.