

TOUR REPORT

Two-Day Outreach Programme on Conserving Kashmir Himalayan Flora

Date of Event: October 5th and 6th 2026

Organized in Collaboration with: CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM)

Venue: CSIR-IIIM Field Station, Yarikhah, Verinag

Theme: *Preserving the Paradise: Conserving Critically Endangered Flora of the Kashmir Himalayas*
(Under the CSIR Mission Mode Project: Bioresource Conservation and Prospection - BioCaP)

1. Executive Summary

A comprehensive two-day educational and outreach programme was successfully conducted in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM). The primary objective of this initiative was to bridge the gap between theoretical botanical knowledge and practical field application. The programme aimed to familiarize students with the rich biodiversity of the Kashmir Himalayas, the prospects of organic medicinal plant cultivation, and ongoing scientific conservation efforts.

2. Day 1: Academic Lectures and Orientation

The first day of the programme was dedicated to laying the theoretical groundwork for the students through expert-led lectures.

- **Resource Persons:** Dr. Ubaid Yaqoob and Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Wani.

- **Key Topics Delivered:**

- **Biodiversity:** An in-depth look at the ecological significance and fragility of Himalayan biodiversity.

- **Himalayan Wealth:** Exploration of the vast natural resources available in the region and the necessity for their sustainable use.

- **Medicinal Plant Cultivation:** Detailed lectures on the prospects and methodologies of cultivating medicinal plants specifically through organic farming practices.

3. Day 2: Experiential Field Trip to Yarikhah, Verinag

The second day focused on practical exposure, taking the students out of the classroom and into the natural habitat at the IIIM Field Station in Yarikhah (Verinag).

- **Field Immersion & Agro technological Exposure:**

Students were accompanied by Dr. Sumira Jan on a guided field trip. During this excursion, students were introduced to various new medicinal herbs. They received hands-on exposure to the mass cultivation techniques and the agro technological innovations currently being implemented by IIIM scientists to propagate these species.

- **Interactive Learning Activities:**

Aligning with the official programme banner, students actively participated in:

- **"Tree Talk":** Learning to identify native plant species and understanding their ecological roles.

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Bioresource Conservation Challenges: Engaging in activities designed to highlight the challenges of preserving critically endangered flora.

- **"Know Your Forests":** An interactive session with forest officials and IIIM scientists regarding local forest management and conservation.

- **Expert Interactions and Motivation:**

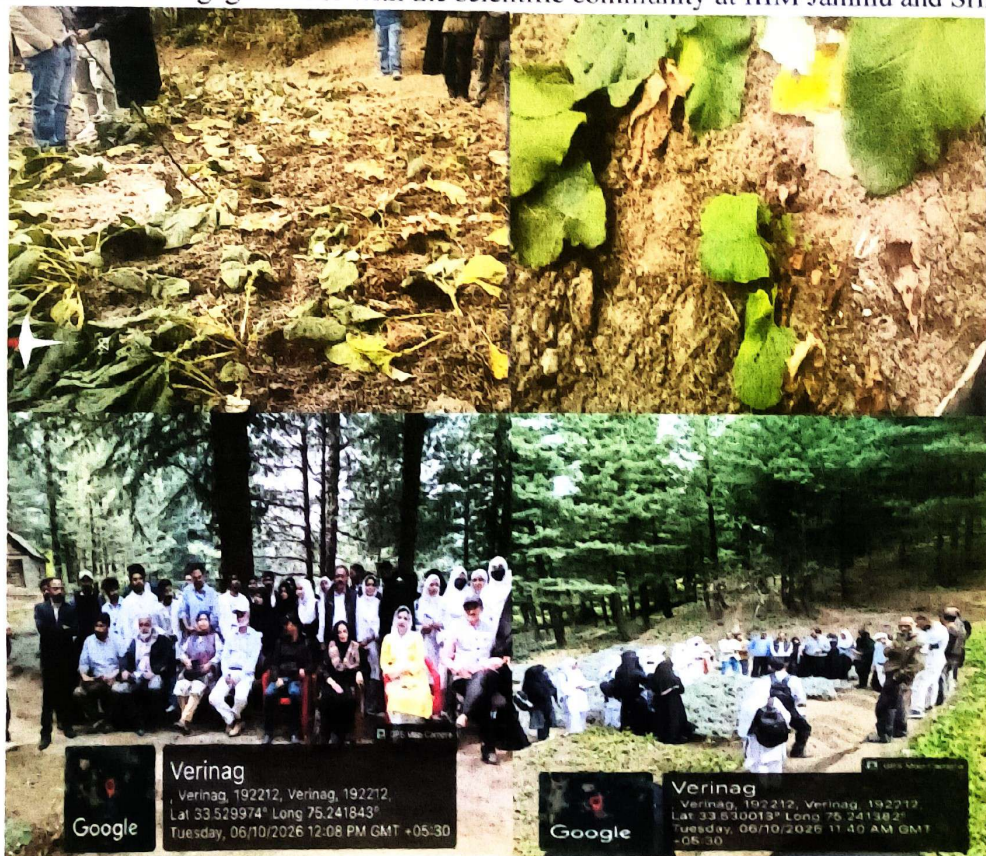
The field trip provided a unique platform for students to interact directly with the scientists from IIIM and the Director of IIIM Srinagar. Furthermore, Ex-Dean Faculty, **Mr. Zabeer Ahmed**, addressed the students, highly encouraging them to pursue further scientific inquiry by visiting the advanced laboratories at IIIM Srinagar and IIIM Jammu.

4. Visual Documentation & Key Highlights

- Photographic evidence highlights large, diverse groups of students and faculty gathered in the pine forests of Verinag. The official CSIR-IIIM banners clearly outline the "Healing with Nature" stalls and "Conservation Innovation Challenges."
- Students are seen actively taking notes, examining cultivated plant beds, and engaging in deep observation of the local flora, demonstrating high levels of engagement and curiosity.

5. Conclusion and Outcome

The two-day programme was a resounding success. By combining the academic rigor of Day 1 with the immersive, practical field experience of Day 2 at the Verinag field station, the initiative successfully met its goals. The students departed with a profound understanding of the "Healing with Nature" concept, a heightened awareness of the need to conserve the endangered flora of the Kashmir Himalayas, and a strong motivation to engage further with the scientific community at IIIM Jammu and Srinagar.



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07/10/26