

Bharti Airtel Foundation organized exposure visit of Government teachers to CSIR, IIIM Jammu

31st January, Jammu: An exposure visit organized by Bharti Airtel Foundation in collaboration with the Directorate of School Education Jammu, under the CSIR Jigyasa programme, concluded today at the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu. The event saw the participation of 81 science teachers from government schools across Jammu, Samba, and Rajouri districts, supported by Bharti Airtel Foundation under its Quality Support Program. The workshop aimed to provide teachers with hands-on training in cutting-edge science and research facilities, enhancing their understanding of practical science and research methods.

The initiative focused on equipping science teachers with skills that will enable them to inspire and engage students more effectively in their classrooms. Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director of CSIR-IIIM Jammu, addressed the participants and encouraged them to take full advantage of such opportunities. He highlighted the importance of initiatives like the CSIR Jigyasa program, in fostering awareness about science and technology, which plays a crucial role in addressing the challenges faced by society. Mr. Anil Bhat, Regional Head of Bharti Airtel Foundation, provided insights into the Foundation's ongoing efforts to support schools across Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh UTs in collaboration with the Directorate of School Education. Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist and Head of RMBD & IST at CSIR-IIIM, spoke about the Skill India Initiative, which focuses on upgrading the skills of teachers to improve the quality of education at the school level.

The workshop kicked off with technical lectures and practical sessions led by Dr. Asha Chaubey, Senior Principal Scientist and Head of the Fermentation and Microbial Biotechnology Department, who is also the Nodal Scientist for the Jigyasa program. Teachers had the opportunity to conduct basic science experiments aligned with school curricula, offering them valuable hands-on experience that they can take back to their classrooms. The exposure visit marked a significant step in bridging the gap between scientific research and classroom teaching, further strengthening the connection between the scientific community and educators.

About Bharti Airtel Foundation

Bharti Airtel Foundation was set up in the year 2000 as the philanthropic arm of Bharti Enterprises with a vision, 'To help underprivileged children and youth of our country realise their potential.' The Foundation works in the space of holistic quality education in rural India with a special focus on the girl child; and also supports Higher Education programs in partnership with premier institutions. Since 2006, the flagship, Satya Bharti School Program has been providing free quality education to thousands of underprivileged children in 164 schools in rural India across four states. At present over 36,000 children are enrolled in Satya Bharti Schools of which over 50% are girls. The impact of quality education has been widened by transferring the learning and good practices of this program to more than 3.7 lakh students studying in 888 partner government schools across 12 States/UTs, through Quality Support Program (QSP), since 2013. In addition, Bharti Airtel Foundation was invited by several education officers at district and state

level to scale up some of the initiatives through QSP State Partnerships. The Foundation's recently launched initiative, TheTeacherApp, is one of the most innovative technology solutions for teachers and educators in the country. Satya Bharti Abhiyan, the sanitation initiative, from 2014 till 2021, has benefitted over 2 lakh beneficiaries by improving sanitation conditions in the districts of Punjab, providing access to toilets and by fostering behavioral change in communities. The Foundation has been able to impact over 3 million children in a meaningful manner through its education programs since inception.

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