



First Annual Review Meeting of RuTAG 2.0 Projects

Why in News?

Recently, the first annual review meeting of the **Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAG) 2.0 projects** was held at the **Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Srinagar, Kashmir.**

Key Points

- **Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAG):**
 - **About:**
 - RuTAG is an initiative of the office of the [Principal Scientific Advisor \(PSA\)](#) since 2004.
 - It was conceptualized as a **mechanism to provide a higher level of science and technology intervention and support for rural areas.**
 - Under this initiative, the interventions are designed to be primarily **demand-driven, focusing on bridging technology gaps at the grassroots level, upgrading technology,** and providing training and demonstrations through innovative projects.
 - **Achievements:**
 - Effective outreach to [Non-governmental Organizations \(NGOs\)](#), [Self-Help Groups \(SHGs\)](#), and community organizations.
 - Innovations reduced labor, enhanced production, and improved rural livelihoods.
 - **RuTAG 2.0:**
 - It was **launched in April 2023** to focus on commercialization and **widespread dissemination of technologies across sectors** such as [agriculture](#), [textiles](#), [energy](#), [water conservation](#), [healthcare](#), and more.
- **Event Activities:**
 - The foundation stone was laid down for a **system designed to improve water and fertilizer efficiency**, promoting [sustainable farming](#).
 - Dignitaries **explored ongoing research and technological advancements** at SKUAST-Kashmir.
 - Demonstrations from seven RuTAG centres showcased **grassroots innovations for rural development.**
 - The **official RuTAG logo was introduced** to unify and strengthen communication among stakeholders.
 - RuTAG Centres that were present in the meeting were **SKUAST-Kashmir, IIT Bombay, IIT Roorkee, IIT Guwahati, IIT Madras, IIT Delhi, and [Indian Council of Agricultural Research \(ICAR\)-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management \(NAARM\) Hyderabad.](#)**
- **Strategic Initiatives:**
 - **RuTAGe Smart Village Centres (RSVC)** was introduced to transform villages into economic hubs using innovative, affordable, and tailored technologies.
 - The event facilitated discussions on **upscaling technologies, design improvements, and expanding adoption** in similar regions **across India.**



Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA):

- India has had a Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) since 1999. **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was the first PSA** from 1999-2001.
- The PSA's office **aims to provide pragmatic and objective advice to the Prime Minister and the cabinet in matters of Science and Technology.** The Office of PSA was **placed under the Cabinet Secretariat** in 2018.
- The [Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council \(PM-STIAC\)](#) is an **overarching Council** that facilitates the PSA's Office to assess the status in specific science and technology domains, comprehend challenges in hand, formulate specific interventions, develop a futuristic roadmap and advise the Prime Minister accordingly.
- The Office of PSA, supported by the project management team at [Invest India](#), is facilitating the **delivery and progress of all Nine national missions under PM-STIAC.** Four of the nine missions, [Deep Ocean Mission](#), [Natural Language Translation mission](#), [AI mission](#), and [Quantum Frontier mission](#) have been approved