

# NIFTEM-K

## NEWSLETTER

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**NEWSLETTER**

## FROM THE DESK OF DIRECTOR

### Advanced Next Generation Vision for Gen Zs

There is a lot of buzz going around Gen Zs, especially their vision for growth, professionalism, clear goals, attitude towards life and tech savvy nature. The highlight of the quarter was ANVESH 2026 organized by the Institute from 26-28 February 2026. International Conference on “Advanced Next Generation Vision for Emerging and Sustainable Healthy Foods” (ANVESH) was not only a Conference but a conglomeration of different events stitched together. The Conference saw the presence of 33 International delegates from 25 different countries spanning across different continents, in addition to more than 80 Indian delegates. The delegates comprised of renowned Academicians, Researchers, Policy makers, Industry professionals, Scholars, Students, Entrepreneurs and Start-ups. The inaugural session and the exhibition were inaugurated by the Hon’ble Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, Sh. Chirag Paswan in the august presence of Sh. Avinash Joshi, Secretary, MoFPI, Professor TG Sitharam, former Chairman, AICTE and Director, IIT Guwahati, Dr. Shakuntla Haraksingh Thilsted, World Food Prize laureate and many distinguished leaders from Academia and Industry. Twelve technical sessions, chaired and moderated by Editor in Chiefs of reputed food journals and renowned food scientists were



sinsightful as the discussion covered almost all the facets of food and allied science. Three panel discussions on emerging trends in different aspects of food processing and a round table with Academic leaders including Vice Chancellors and Directors of reputed Universities and Institutes, former Chairpersons of AICTE, UPSC, CEO, ANRF ensured that all the participants were well engaged and involved in thought provoking discussions. In addition to the engrossing technical sessions, an exhibition with 65 exhibitors including 22 start-ups, 16 PMFME beneficiaries, 19 food companies including Corporates and Central and State Government departments was a star attraction for about 2000 visitors, besides about 1400 registered participants who visited the Exhibition during all the three days. A cookery show organized in collaboration with IHM, Pusa showcasing some healthy and palatable dishes made from the indigenous raw materials have left a lasting impact not only on the tongue but heart of the visitors too.

Another key highlight of the quarter was signing of MoU between NIFTEM-K and University of Saskatchewan, Canada for research collaborations, student and faculty exchange, etc. The MoU was signed in the presence of Mr. Scott Moe, Premier of Saskatchewan, Canada and Sh. Avinash Joshi, Secretary, MoFPI and Sh. D Praveen, JS, MoFPI. An agreement was signed between the Hon’ble Union Minister for Food Processing and Industries, Government of India and the Hon’ble Minister for International Trade, Government of Canada. This document for establishing a Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Pulse Proteins. was exchanged in the presence of Hon’ble PMs of India and Canada on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026. The proposed CoE will be led by NIFTEM-K from India and University of Saskatchewan from Canada. This agreement holds a special significance as the thrust is now shifting to alternate proteins, especially plant proteins. The CoE at NIFTEM-K will open a gateway for cutting edge research, technology validation, scale up opportunities and capacity building in the area of pulse proteins for our diverse stakeholders.

The Institute also welcomed delegates and delegations from Industry during the quarter which reinforces the vision and commitment of the Institute in establishing strong ties with the Industry. As always, our brilliant and talented students during this quarter too organized various interesting and exciting programmes and participated and gained top spots in literary and sports events organized by other Academic and scientific organizations in the country. However, it was a sad day for the Institute to lose one of our brilliant PhD students, Mukesh Devangan on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026. May the departed soul rest in peace. I am hopeful that all our readers will find this edition of Newsletter informative and insightful. We would love to hear about your comments/ feedback for improving the contents and presentation of our Newsletters.

Happy reading till we come back again with some new, insightful and exciting updates



**Dr. Harinder Singh Oberoi**  
Director (NIFTEM-K)

## NEWS AND EVENTS

### Director NIFTEM-K met Hon'ble Union Minister MoFPI

Dr Harinder Singh Oberoi, Director, NIFTEM-K, had the honour of extending New Year greetings to Hon'ble Union Cabinet Minister for Food Processing Industries, Sh. Chirag Paswan. The interaction included an invitation for International Conference 'ANVESH-2026', detailed briefing on the ongoing initiatives for international conference, and discussions on strengthening skill development in the food processing sector, including support approved by Ministry of Minority Affairs. The meeting also highlighted the salient achievements of the Institute in the past year along with deliberations on key institutional matters, reinforcing a shared vision for capacity building, innovation, and inclusive growth in the food processing ecosystem.



### NIFTEM hosted Shri Dharambir Kamboj, Founder of Apni Kheti

NIFTEM, Kundli was honoured to host Shri Dharambir Kamboj—farmer, entrepreneur, Rashtrapati Bhawan awardee, and founder of APNI KHETI—along with Shri Manoj Sharma, a young and progressive farmer whose journey reflects the new face of Indian agriculture. The interaction led by Director, NIFTEM-K was a powerful exchange of ideas rooted in real-field experience and forward-looking innovation. Discussions revolved around strengthening agri-food systems through farmer-led entrepreneurship, technology adoption, value addition, and institutional collaboration. Such engagements reaffirm NIFTEM's commitment to nurturing a farmer-centric ecosystem that bridges grassroots wisdom with scientific and technological advancement



### India-Australia Bilateral Workshop & Joint Dialogue at NIFTEM, Kundli

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India, in collaboration with the Australian Wine Industry, successfully hosted the India-Australia Bilateral Workshop & Joint Dialogue at NIFTEM, Kundli on “Market Development and Challenges in the Wine Industry: Tradition, Regulation & the Way Forward.” The workshop brought together policymakers, regulators, industry leaders, scientists, and academia to exchange global best practices and deliberate on the future growth of the wine sector. The programme featured a welcome address by Dr. Harinder Singh Oberoi, Director, NIFTEM-K, followed by an insightful address by Dr. Ranjit Singh, Joint Secretary, MoFPI, highlighting the Ministry's vision for the sector. The Australian delegation included Paul Denny, Assistant Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry, Government of Australia; Ned Hewitson, General Consul; Naomi Verdonk, Manager, Wine Australia; Eric Wilkes, Australian Wine Research Institute (AWRI); and Damien Griffante, Manager, Australian Grape and Wine.

he delegates shared insights on the evolution and success of Australia’s wine industry, while Indian participants highlighted India’s expanding wine ecosystem, fruit-based beverages, growing acceptance, and the emerging potential of wine tourism.

## Strengthening ties with Coca-Cola India Leaders

NIFTEM-K had the honour of hosting a distinguished delegation from Coca-Cola India Pvt. Ltd., Gurugram, led by Shri Rajendra Dobriyal, Senior Director, Scientific & Regulatory Affairs, along with senior leaders including Shri Shobhanjeet, Director, Marketing; Dr Mili Bhattacharya, Director, SRA; Dr Virendra Landge, Director, SRA; and Shri Deepak Jasyal, Senior Manager, SRA. The visit enabled an enriching exchange on emerging trends in beverage technology, product innovation, regulatory science, and collaborative research opportunities.

Dr. Harinder Singh Oberoi, Director, NIFTEM-K, articulated the institute’s vision to strengthen impactful industry partnerships driven by research, innovation, and translational technologies. He also highlighted NIFTEM-K’s pioneering initiatives in food science, fortification, quality assurance, sustainable processing technologies and lead a visit to state-of-the-art facilities of NIFTEM-K.



## Mr. Scott Matthies, Managing Director (India Office) Saskatchewan, Government of Canada visited NIFTEM-K

NIFTEM-K was honored to host Mr. Scott Matthies, Counsellor & Managing Director (India Office) Saskatchewan, Government of Canada, during his visit to the institute. Dr. Harinder Singh Oberoi, extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guest. The interaction sparked insightful discussions on advancing academic partnerships, collaborative research in plant-based proteins, innovation exchange, and stronger industry linkages between India and Canada. Key deliberations highlighted opportunities in food science, sustainable processing, entrepreneurship development, capacity building for future-ready talent and nutrition-driven food systems for the future.



## Visit of Novo Nordisk Foundation, Denmark delegation to NIFTEM-K

A delegation from the Novo Nordisk Foundation, Denmark, led by Mr Rikke Johannessen, Director, Global Development visited NIFTEM, Kundli. The delegation visited key facilities including the Centre of Excellence in Food Fortification (CEFF), Central Research Analysis Facilities (CFRA), and pilot plant units. The visit facilitated insightful discussions and exchanges on emerging trends in beverage technologies and innovative food product development.

## NIFTEM-K and ICEA unite for future ready food systems

NIFTEM, Kundli had the privilege of hosting Mr Pankaj Mohindroo, Chairman, ICEA, in a significant engagement aimed at advancing food safety, fortification, and innovation in India’s food processing ecosystem. The visit facilitated meaningful discussions on leveraging technology, research, and institutional expertise to address emerging challenges in food quality and security.

Under the leadership of Director, NIFTEM-K, the engagement marked another step towards strengthening collaboration between academia, industry, and policymakers in alignment with national food security and public health goals.

## SNL Innovations engages with NITEM-K for Postharvest innovations

A team from SNL Innovations including Mr Sudhanshu Gupta, Mr Saurabh Gupta, and Mr Ashim Nath, visited the NIFTEM-K campus on 22nd January 2026. The team was warmly welcomed by Dr Harinder Singh Oberoi, Director, NIFTEM-K, marking the beginning of an engaging and productive interaction. The discussions focused on farmer-friendly mobile fruit and vegetable processing solutions, highlighting innovative approaches to bring processing technologies closer to the farm gate. Emphasis was laid on developing practical, scalable, and cost-effective solutions that can empower farmers, reduce post-harvest losses, and enhance value addition at the grassroots level.



Novo Nordisk Foundation,  
Denmark delegation to NIFTEM-K



Chairman, ICEA with  
Director, NIFTEM-K



Team SNL Innovations  
at NIFTEM-K

## Pulse Canada delegation visited NIFTEM-K

NIFTEM-Kundli hosted high-level delegations from Pulse Canada, a national association representing Canadian pulse growers, processors, and exporters to initiate a synergistic partnership in pulse research and food technology on 3 March 2026. The delegation, led by Mr Greg Cherewyk (President, Pulse Canada), engaged with NIFTEM-Kundli leadership to explore the institute's pivotal role in global food supply chain innovation. The visit showcased high-end analytical instrumentation available for a comprehensive range of food product testing and quality assurance. The delegation visited NIFTEM facilities including CEFF, pilot plants and attended technical demonstration at specialized processing and manufacturing units for Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) and Fortified Pulse Kernels (FPK).



## NIFTEM-K hosted 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Institute Research Committee

NIFTEM-K conducted its 2nd Institute Research Committee (IRC) meeting at its campus marking a significant milestone in strengthening the Institute's research and innovation ecosystem. The meeting was chaired by Dr Harinder Singh Oberoi, Director, NIFTEM-K, and was graced by the presence of esteemed members of the Institute Research Council whose presence and guidance added immense value to the deliberations. The distinguished IRC members included Mr Nitin Goel, Founder, Inficold India Pvt. Ltd.; Dr Amit Arora, Professor, IIT Bombay; Dr Deepak Saini, Professor, Department of Developmental Biology & Genetics, IISc Bengaluru; Dr R. Viswanathan, Former Dean, College of Agricultural Engineering, TNAU, Coimbatore; D. Vinay K. Nangiya, former Dean, Department of Management Studies, IIT Roorkee; Dr Shashank Joshi, Consultant, Department of Diabetology and Endocrinology, Lilavati Hospital, Mumbai; Dr T. S. R. Murali, Founder Director, Urjita Food Business Consultants, Gurugram; Mr Vilas Shinde, Chairman & Managing Director, Sahyadri Farms, Nashik; Dr M. N. Doja, Former Director, IIIT Sonapat; and Dr Siva M. Sivaramkrishnan, Head, R&D, Omni Active.

The discussions focused on the journey, growth, and research progress of NIFTEM-K. Heads of all the five departments presented detailed insights into their achievements, ongoing research activities, and strategic roadmaps outlining future directions. A key highlight of the meeting was the discussion on the launch of the Institute Post Doctoral Fellowship (IPDF) Programme by NIFTEM-K, where critically cutting-edge research proposals were scrutinized and enriched through inputs from experts. The meeting concluded with a plantation drive by the IRC members, symbolizing the Institute's commitment to sustainability and a greener future.



## Secretary MoFPI visited NIFTEM-K

Shri Avinash Joshi, Secretary, MoFPI, GoI, visited NIFTEM, Kundli to review the Institute's progress and ongoing initiatives. He was warmly welcomed by Dr. Harinder Singh Oberoi, Director, NIFTEM-K, followed by an interaction with senior faculty and staff members. A detailed presentation highlighting the achievements of NIFTEM-K, key milestones, and the roadmap ahead was shared during the visit. Shri Joshi appreciated the commendable efforts of the faculty and staff in strengthening education, research, and skill development in the food processing sector. He congratulated the team for their dedication and encouraged continuous capacity building and skilling to meet the evolving needs of the industry. As part of the visit, Shri Joshi participated in a plantation drive, reinforcing the institute's commitment to sustainability. He also toured the campus, including the world-class facilities of the CFRA and Pilot Plants, and lauded NIFTEM-K's infrastructure and institutional growth. During the luncheon hosted at NIFTEM-K, Shri Avinash Joshi interacted with eminent academic leaders from universities across the Sonipat district. The gathering included Shri Ashok Kumar (Former DGP, Uttarakhand), Vice-Chancellor, Sports University of Haryana; Prof. (Dr.) Devinder Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonipat; Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Vice-Chancellor, World University of Design; Dr. Sudesh, Vice-Chancellor, Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya; Dr. Shobhit Mathur, Vice-Chancellor, Rishihood University; Dr. Ashutosh Mishra, Registrar, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonipat; Dr. Aditya Trivedi, Director, Rishihood University; and Shri D. Praveen, Joint Secretary, MoFPI. The interaction provided a valuable platform for dialogue on ongoing academic initiatives, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the growing educational ecosystem of the Sonipat district, with a shared vision of strengthening higher education, research, and skill development in the region.



## Augmenting CSR Partnerships with ICICI Foundation

NIFTEM-Kundli hosted the ICICI Foundation delegation for a meaningful interaction focused on collaboration and social impact. Dr. Harinder Singh Oberoi, Director, NIFTEM-K, warmly welcomed Shri Sanjay Datta, President, ICICI Foundation, along with the esteemed delegation. The visit aimed to explore potential avenues for collaboration under CSR initiatives, with special emphasis on skill development, capacity building, support to research and development, and promotion of rural entrepreneurship in the food processing and allied sectors.

## NIFTEM-K's efforts for strengthening partnerships for social impact

NIFTEM-K hosted Ms Jessica Wang (Director, MAT India CSR Association, MICA), along with Ms Melissa Wang (Investment Portfolio Manager, MAT Capital, LLC), Mr Kim (Group CEO, MENETA Holdings), Mr. Manog Bhala (Group Vice President, Finance, MENETA), and Mr Kamal Tandon (Finance Head, MENETA) during their campus visit.

The visit focused on strengthening the ongoing CSR collaboration between MANETA and Aarambh Society, which works towards empowering underprivileged children through quality education and holistic development. The initiative aligns with the vision of Dr Harinder Singh Oberoi, Director, NIFTEM-K, to strengthen institution-led social responsibility through sustained academic engagement and meaningful community partnerships. NIFTEM's continued support to Aarambh Society through academic guidance, mentoring and tutoring by student volunteers, and active participation in cultural programs has played a vital role in nurturing the talent.



ICICI Foundation delegation with Dr HS Oberoi, Director NIFTEM-K

Team AARAMBH with Ms Jessica Wang & Ms Melissa Wang, MANETA

## NIFTEM-K joins hands with IIT Bombay

Prof Sachin C. Patwardhan, Dean (R&D), IIT Bombay, visited NIFTEM-Kundli and was accorded a warm welcome by Dr. Harinder Singh Oberoi, Director, NIFTEM-K. The visit featured insightful discussions on collaborative research and innovation, highlighting how synergy between two premier institutions can create transformative outcomes. Prof. Patwardhan also visited various state-of-the-art facilities of NIFTEM-K and appreciated the entrepreneur-ready pilot plant infrastructure, designed to support startups and industry-led innovation. The visit concluded with a plantation drive, symbolizing a shared commitment to sustainability, growth, and nurturing ideas for the future.



## Advancing healthier food innovations with Hardcastle Restaurants Pvt. Ltd.

Dr Shatadru Sengupta, Chief Legal Officer, HRPL, the master franchisee operating the McDonald's brand for West & South India visited NIFTEM-K. Dr. Harinder Singh Oberoi, Director, warmly welcomed Dr Sengupta during his visit to the campus. The interaction opened avenues for meaningful discussions on new product development, food fortification, and healthier food innovations tailored for Gen Z consumers.

## Fostering collaborative synergies with Jain Irrigation Pvt. Ltd.

Dr Bal Krishna, Sr Vice President, Agri Biotech R&D, and Dr Anil Dhake, Sr Vice President, Agri R&D, from Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd., Jalgaon, Maharashtra, visited NIFTEM-K to explore opportunities for collaboration. The team visited the campus facilities and also got engaged in insightful discussions on potential joint initiatives in the areas of sustainable food processing, water resource management, and post-harvest management. Dr Krishna invited Director, NIFTEM-K to visit the Jain Irrigation facilities in Jalgaon and proposed organizing joint programmes such as conferences, seminars, and technical training sessions.

## Fostering institutional ties with PepsiCo Global

NIFTEM-Kundli had the pleasure of hosting Ms Natalia Douek, Vice President & Global Head, Regulatory Affairs, PepsiCo, along with Mr Shaminder Pal Singh, Senior Executive, Scientific & Regulatory Affairs, PepsiCo South Asia, on 29th January 2026. The visit focused on meaningful discussions around strengthening industry-academia collaboration, working together across multiple facets of food processing, safety, and regulatory science. Dr Oberoi warmly welcomed the delegation and highlighted opportunities for knowledge exchange, innovation, and capacity building to support a robust and future-ready food processing ecosystem.

## Driving Farmer-First Innovations with SONACO

The leadership team of Sonartari Multi-State Agro Cooperative Society Limited (SONACO), New Delhi, led by Mr Ashish Tiwari and Mr Apurva Mishra, for an insightful dialogue aimed at strengthening India's food processing ecosystem.

The discussions with Dr Harinder Singh Oberoi, Director, NIFTEM-K, and Dr Komal Chauhan, Dean (Research & Outreach) centered on scalable and farmer-friendly food processing solutions, millet-based value-added products, ready-to-eat foods, and focused skill development initiatives for FPOs.



## Campus Immersion Programme (MBA 2024-26 Batch)

As part of academic exposure activities, first-year MBA students participated in a five-day campus immersion program (19th-23rd January 2026) at IIM Jammu. The visit enabled meaningful engagement on academic practices, institutional processes, and learning outcomes, significantly strengthening experiential learning and managerial perspective among students. The program comprised of interactive lectures, case-based discussions, workshops, and campus engagements that enhanced analytical skills, strategic thinking, and leadership capabilities. Students also experienced the vibrant academic culture of IIM Jammu and benefited from meaningful interactions with faculty and peers. Institute expresses sincere gratitude to Prof Anuja Akhouri, Prof Jabir Ali, Prof Jai Kamal and their dedicated team at IIM Jammu for their warm hospitality, academic mentorship, and meticulously designed sessions that made this learning journey impactful and memorable.



## Session on women's empowerment and creating safe work places

NIFTEM-K organized a special interactive session by Smt Maninder Sachdeva, social educator and POSH trainer, bringing together students and staff to discuss the importance of women's empowerment, dignity, and creating safe and respectful environments. The session was focused on raising awareness about sexual harassment, encouraging women and girls to confidently stand against any form of misconduct, and highlighting the importance of speaking up. It also emphasized that ensuring safety and respect is a shared responsibility, where men play a crucial role as allies by supporting and standing up for women whenever needed.



# CELEBRATIONS

## Republic Day celebrations

NIFTEM celebrated the 77<sup>th</sup> Republic Day at its campus. The day was marked by patriotism, discipline and unity. The key events included the ceremonial parade, an inspiring address by Director, NIFTEM-K and vibrant cultural performances.

It was the first time when the NCC cadets in uniform marked their presence in the ceremonial parade. Moments like these remind us that the strength of our nation lies in education, innovation, and the spirit of togetherness.



## Harvest season festivals and cultural spectacle

NIFTEM-K came alive with the vibrant spirit of Lohri, Makar Sankranti, Pongal, and Magh Bihu, as the campus resonated with traditional attire, folk performances, colorful rangoli, awards, and unstoppable student energy. The celebration was a beautiful reminder that food, festivals, and heritage unite us beyond regions, honoring diversity while nurturing a shared future.



Adding pride to the occasion, Director, NIFTEM-K, felicitated Miss Krithika, daughter of Dr. Thangalaxmi, for her outstanding achievement of winning double Gold Medals in Bocce and Softball Throw, and Miss Aarna, daughter of Dr. Rakhi Singh, for securing a Silver Medal in Bocce, at the Asia Pacific Down Syndrome Federation (APDSF) Games 2026, held in Chennai.



## Run for Swadeshi on National Youth Day 2026

NIFTEM-K proudly organized Run for Swadeshi on 12 January 2026 to mark National Youth Day and celebrate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda Ji. The 3 km campus run saw enthusiastic participation and smooth coordination, reflecting a strong spirit of fitness, discipline, and national pride. The inspiring presence and motivating words of Director NIFTEM K, Dr. Harinder Singh Oberoi and Prof P. K. Nema energized the youth to lead by example and embrace the values of self-reliance and service.



# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

**NIFTEM, Kundli signs MoU with University of Saskatchewan (USask), Saskatoon, Canada, for cooperation in Agricultural Science and Food Technology.**

NIFTEM, Kundli signs MoU with University of Saskatchewan, Canada, for cooperation in Agricultural Science and Food Technology fostering academic and research collaboration in the areas of Food Sciences.

The MoU was formally signed by Dr Harinder Singh Oberoi, Director, NIFTEM-K, and Dr Baljit Singh, Vice President (Research), University of Saskatchewan, Canada, in presence of Mr. Scott MoE, the Premier of Saskatchewan; Shri Avinash Joshi, Secretary MoFPI; and Shri D. Praveen, Joint Secretary, MoFPI. This strengthens the bilateral cooperation between India and Canada in the agri-food processing sector. The MoU holds special significance amid the announcement of the establishment of the Center of Excellence in Pulse Protein through joint collaboration between India and Canada.



## NIFTEM-K's PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL EVENTS

### NIFTEM-K participated in Chintan Shivir 2026

Shri Chirag Paswan, Hon'ble Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, inaugurated the two-day Chintan Shivir 2026 at Udaipur, Rajasthan (19th-20th January 2026). The event, organized by MoFPI, serves as a strategic platform for shaping a robust, future-ready, and globally competitive food processing sector, in alignment with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 articulated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. The Shivir was attended by senior government officials, policymakers, industry leaders, academicians, startups, and other stakeholders for structured deliberations and strategic planning. Shri Paswan emphasized the Shivir's role in formulating actionable recommendations to attract investment, enhance global competitiveness, and strengthen farmer-centric value chains across the sector. Shri Avinash Joshi, Secretary, and Shri Devesh Deval, Joint Secretary, MoFPI, along with Dr Harinder Singh Oberoi, Director, NIFTEM Kundli, and Dr V. Palanimuthu, Director, NIFTEM Thanjavur, were also present on this occasion. Six specialized working groups have been constituted to develop a comprehensive roadmap addressing key dimensions of the food processing ecosystem, including value addition, supply chain optimization, technological upgradation, export promotion, food safety compliance, and the promotion of nutraceuticals and fortified foods.



### NIFTEM-K participated in 81st AIFPA Annual Conference

NIFTEM-K participated in the 81st AIFPA Annual Conference & Food Safety Awards, held at The Imperial, New Delhi on 13 March 2026. Dr Harinder Singh Oberoi, Director, NIFTEM-K, delivered a visionary keynote address highlighting the importance of science-based narratives, innovation, and collaboration in strengthening India's food processing ecosystem. In his address, he emphasized the need to counter the widespread myth that processed food is inherently unhealthy, and highlighted how scientific food processing plays a vital role in ensuring food safety, nutrition, and shelf life. He also promoted the significant work undertaken by MoFPI and NIFTEM in creating awareness and busting misconceptions about processed foods through research, outreach, and innovation. Dr Oberoi also emphasised on the need of support from Industry Associations for R&D activities so that the fruits of such research can be realised by the entire food industry and not only few companies.



# STUDENTS PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCE AND SEMINARS

- Ms. Anshu, PhD Scholar, presented paper titled “Balancing Heritage and Hyper-Personalization: AI Anthropomorphism’s Dual Impact on Luxury Brand Adoption through Trust, Emotion, and Ethical Tensions” at 3rd International Society for Luxury Management (ISLUX) Meeting, held on 5th March 2026 at Paris La Défense, Puteaux, France.
- Ms Ankita Thakur, PhD Scholar, Agriculture & Environmental Sciences department, secured, First position in poster presentation on “Development of biochar-based ethylene scavengers from agro waste” in session on innovations in postharvest during ANVESH-2026, International Conference organized by NIFTEM, Kundli, 26th-28th February 2026.
- Ms Rhytham Kalsi, Ms. Bhumika & Ms. Monika, PhD Scholars, Interdisciplinary Sciences department, made poster presentations during ANVESH-2026, International Conference organized by NIFTEM, Kundli, 26th-28th February 2026.



# FACULTY PARTICIPATION IN CONFERENCES/ INDUSTRY VISIT/ SESSION/ MEETING AND TRAININGS

Faculty members from NIFTEM-K actively participated in diverse academic and professional events, with their contributions are presented below.

**Major types of academic and professional engagements were:**

S. No.	Type of Event Participated	Number of Participations
1	Invited Talks & Expert Lectures	10
2	Conferences (National (4); International (3))	7
3	Faculty Development Programs	3
4	Session Chair	2
5	Paper Presentations	2
6	Awards	1
7	Workshops / Expos / Special Academic Events	2

## AWARDS

- Dr. Chakkaravarthi, S., Associate Professor, Department of Interdisciplinary Sciences has received Distinguished VIT Alumni Award-2026 under Academics and Research (National category) on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

[Click the link to access detailed information](#)

# CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED BY NIFTEM-K

## International Conference on Advanced Next Generation Vision for Emerging and Sustainable Healthy Foods (ANVESH-2026)

NIFTEM-K organized International Conference “ANVESH-2026”, a landmark gathering igniting innovation, collaboration, and transformative dialogue in the food processing sector. The grand inauguration of the conference and exhibition was led by Shri Chirag Paswan, Hon’ble Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, in the esteemed presence of Shri Avinash Joshi, Secretary, MoFPI. Welcoming the distinguished gathering, Dr Harinder Singh Oberoi, Director, NIFTEM-K, delivered a compelling and visionary address, highlighting the urgent need for sustainable, innovative, and future-ready food systems. The occasion was further enriched by the presence of eminent Guests of Honour, Dr T. G. Sitharam, Former Chairman, AICTE, and Dr Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted, World Food Prize Laureate, whose insights reinforced the global significance of research-driven innovation in food processing.

ANVESH-2026, hosted by NIFTEM Kundli, consisted of 13 specialized sessions and featured 115 invited talks from experts representing 26 countries. Key thematic areas focused on sustainable food systems, digital transformation (AI, IoT, and blockchain), food safety, circular economy, and alternate proteins. The conference served as a global platform bridging academia, policy, and industry to drive innovations in personalized nutrition and waste valorization. Overall, the event established a strategic roadmap for a resilient food ecosystem, emphasizing quality-assured production and regulatory harmonization to achieve India’s Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

The event also witnessed presence of more than 40 eminent educational leaders including vice chancellors, directors, pro-vice chancellors, members from AICTE & UGC participating in a Round Table discussion on “Reimagining India’s Higher Education Ecosystem (Policy reforms, research, innovation and industry interface)”.

From high-powered panel discussions to an engaging exhibition walkthrough, ANVESH-2026 emerged as a dynamic platform celebrating cutting-edge research, technological advancement, and entrepreneurial excellence. The conference spotlighted pioneering ideas, cross-sector collaboration, and breakthrough solutions aimed at building a resilient and sustainable food ecosystem. The details can be accessed through the following links:

- [PIB link 1](#)
- [PIB link 2](#)
- [PIB link 3](#)



Hon'ble Minister MoFPI during ANVESH-2026 at NIFTEM-K



Cultural festivities during ANVESH 2026

## TRAININGS AND LECTURES ORGANIZED

NIFTEM, Kundli organized 15 training programmes invited lectures, hands on trainings, and 2 workshops during this quarter reflecting strong emphasis on PMFME, hands on training, capacity building, skill development, and knowledge dissemination.

These included 7 specialized trainings, 6 expert lectures/sessions, and 2 workshops, covering areas such as food processing, entrepreneurship, AI in agriculture, financial literacy, and MSME productivity.

The trainings and sessions directly benefited at least 261+ participants including students, researchers & academicians, farmers & FPO members, government officials & field staff, industry professionals & MSMEs, women & rural youth. Significant participation was observed in major programmes like NTIBIF workshops and hands-on trainings.



**Training on Food Processing Techniques**

**Session on Entrepreneurship**

**Training programme at RC Hajipur, Bihar**

**Training Programme for FPO Directors**



**Capacity building programme for MSME**

[Click the link to access detailed information](#)

## TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

### Millet processing technologies

The technology of Millet Panjiri, Protein Rich Bar-Chocolate Flavoured, Protein Rich Bar-Vanilla Flavoured, Millet Energy Bar, Millet Nutri bar, Millet/Multigrain Khichdi was transferred to Sonartari Multi-State Agro Cooperative Society Limited (SONACO), New Delhi. The technology is developed by Dr Komal Chauhan, Professor, Department of Food Science and Technology. The technology transfer took place in the august presence of Hon'ble Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, Sh. Chirag Paswan, and Secretary, MoFPI, Sh. Avinash Joshi. Director Dr. Harinder Singh Oberoi highlighted that these innovative millet products are gluten-free, preservative-free, and free from added colours or flavours, while being rich in protein, fibre, and essential micronutrients, making them suitable for all age groups.

### Technology of Biofortified Mushroom Flour

The technology of Vitamin D2,B12,B2 Biofortified Mushroom Flour-Next Gen Superfood has been transferred to Annu Kanwar Kanawat, Founder, Aamlida Organic Foods and Research Center Private, Ltd., Jaipur, Rajasthan. The technology is developed by Dr Neetu Kumra Taneja, Associate Professor, Department of Interdisciplinary Sciences.



Technology Transfer of Millet Processing Technologies



Technology Transfer of Biofortified Mushroom Flour

## IPR PATENTS/ COPYRIGHTS/ TRADEMARK

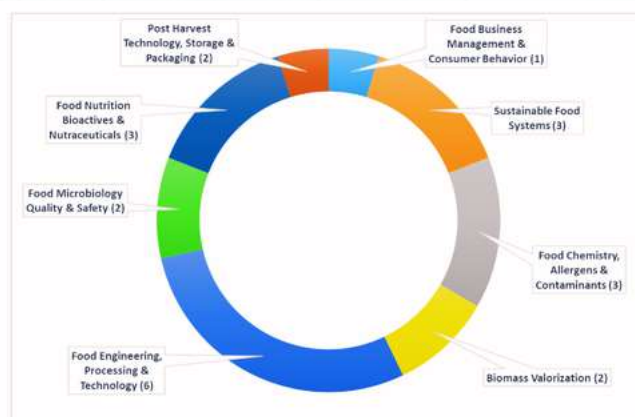
The following patents filed by NIFTEM-K and were published online during January to March 2026:

1. Mansha, Harinder Singh Oberoi, Komal Chauhan Patent titled “Probiotic Peanut Curd and Method of Preparation Thereof” with application No 202511079532 has been published online on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026.
2. Neetu Kumra Taneja Patent titled “Process for Biofortification and Co-Fermentation of Multiple Vitamins: D2, B2 And B12 In Mushroom Powder” with application No 202511003949 has been published online on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026.
3. Neetu Kumra Taneja Patent titled “Riboflavin-Enriched Vegetarian Probiotic Mayonnaise-Like Sauce” with application No 202511006886 has been published online on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026.
4. Rakhi Singh, Barjinder Pal Kaur, Shivangi Mishra, Harinder Singh Oberoi, Ashutosh Upadhyay Patent titled “Plant-Based Synbiotic Beverage Formulation and A Method of Preparation Thereof” with application No 202411069409 has been published online on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026.
5. Shekhar Agnihotri, Harinder Singh Oberoi, Bhim Pratap Singh Patent titled “Agri-Food Processing Waste Based Plantable Biodegradable Food Packaging Film Composition and Method for Preparation Thereof” with application No 202411093757 has been published online on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

## RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

### PUBLICATIONS

NIFTEM-K published 21 research papers and review articles in leading scopus indexed national and international journals during the quarter which can be broadly categorized under domain areas of Food Business Management & Consumer Behavior; Food Engineering, Processing & Technology; Food Nutrition, Bioactives & Nutraceuticals; Post-harvest technology, Sustainable Food Systems; Food Microbiology Quality & Safety; Biomass Valorization & Value-Addition; and Food Chemistry, Allergens & Contaminants. Faculty members of NIFTEM-K also published 9 book chapters in books published by Apple Academic Press, Springer (including Springer Nature/ Springer US/ Springer Cham), CAB International (CABI), CRC Press (Taylor & Francis Group) and 2 books published by Apple Academic Press and Kruger Brentt Publishers UK Ltd.



Papers published in leading journals by faculty members of NIFTEM-K

# AUGMENTING NIFTEM-K'S INCOME STREAM

NIFTEM-K pilot plants generated Rs. 17.55 Lakhs as revenue for the period of January-March 2026.

## CRC ACTIVITIES AND CORPORATE RELATIONS

### Corporate & Placement Training

A three day “Campus to Career-cum- Employability enhancement” program was organized for 3<sup>rd</sup> year B.Tech FTM and 1<sup>st</sup> year M.Tech and MBA students in association with VATS consulting. The sessions included lectures, roleplays, games, group discussions to make students learn about various soft skills required in the today’s corporate era. Mock Personal Interview (PI) sessions were also organized to enhance students’ knowledge and ability to face interviews.



### Placements & Internships

The Placement-2026 drive was initiated by Team CRC. Leading companies in food processing sector like Amul (GCMMF), Mother Dairy, AWL Agri Business Ltd., Camline Fine Sciences, Barmalt Malting India, GreyB, Country Delight and Bacardi offered the placements to our students. So far 38 B.Tech, 29 M.Tech & 7 MBA students have secured placements. Around 40 students have also secured internship opportunities as full-time interns.



Amul (GCMMF) team visited Campus on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 for

Nestle R&D India Ltd. visited campus on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026 for Internship drive

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Student life at NIFTEM-K is quite vibrant and enriching, driven by the active engagement of diverse student societies that foster holistic development. The Samarthyaa Society promoted fitness and national values through the “Run for Swadeshi,” while the Geetanjali Society encouraged critical thinking via events like “Film Thinking” and the impactful TEDxNIFTEM platform. Emotional well-being was addressed through a mental health workshop led by experts, highlighting stress management and resilience. Cultural and spiritual engagement was strengthened by the Aarambh Society through Saraswati Puja and World Cancer Day initiatives, reflecting a balance between tradition and social responsibility. Collaborative efforts of Saarang Society and Kalakriti Society during Republic Day celebrations showcased patriotism and artistic talent, while the Student Activity Council (SAC) fostered unity through vibrant harvest festival celebrations like Lohri, Pongal, and Makar Sankranti.

Academic and professional growth were equally emphasized through society-led initiatives. The BizMaC Society facilitated industry exposure via internship sharing sessions, connecting students with leading companies and real-world insights. The ALABHYAM Society strengthened students' digital competencies through workshops on LinkedIn and personal branding, while the Vyaktitva Society, in collaboration with BizMaC, enhanced strategic thinking and communication skills through business simulations like "Scenario Quest." Cultural excellence peaked during ANVESH 2026, organized by Saarang, where students showcased India's diverse heritage through classical and folk performances before distinguished guests and international delegates. Collectively, these societies have played a pivotal role in nurturing leadership, creativity, social awareness, and professional readiness, making student engagement at NIFTEM-K both dynamic and impactful.



[Click the link to access detailed information](#)

## PRIDE OF NIFTEM-K

### Gold Medal Glory for NIFTEM Kundli

The girls' badminton team of NIFTEM-K clinched Gold at AAROHAN, the annual sports fest of Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar. A phenomenal performance by Chhavi Sharma (Captain), Neha, and Shalini, showcased exceptional teamwork, resilience, and determination on the court. This achievement stands as a testament to the Institute Director's vision and motivation, inspiring students to rise above academics and strive for holistic excellence in every dimension of their development.

### 1st position in the Business Pitch Competition

NIFTEM-K secured 1st position in the Business Pitch Competition organized by Institute of Hotel Management, Pusa, New Delhi. 2nd year B.Tech students Priyanshu Raj, Gulshan Kumar & Nitish Kumar represented NIFTEM-K, showcasing innovation, strategic thinking & presentation skills. The team was mentored by Dr Rajni Chopra & Dr Heena Yadav.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize in recipe competition

NIFTEM-K congratulates Mr. Yash Savaliya on securing 2nd Prize at the Recipe Competition organized by AFSTI – Association of Food Scientists & Technologists (India), Delhi. The competition provided a valuable national-level platform to demonstrate food innovation, product development, and scientific application, fostering hands-on learning and creativity in real-world food science challenges. The award was conferred upon by Dr. Dinkar B. Kamble, and Ms. Mita Sinhamahapatra, AFSTI Delhi Chapter.



# ENTREPRENEUR OF QUARTER

## Mr. Deepak Rajmohan

Founder and CEO of GreenPod Labs Pvt. Ltd



**GREENPOD LABS**

*Innovating to Reduce Post-Harvest Losses*

Deepak Rajmohan, Founder and CEO of GreenPod Labs Pvt. Ltd., is advancing biotechnology-driven solutions to address the critical issue of post-harvest losses in fruits and vegetables. With expertise in agricultural engineering and food science, along with professional experience in the United States, he returned to India to create scalable and affordable innovations for farmers. In 2019, he established GreenPod Labs and developed plant-based active packaging that naturally enhances the defense mechanisms of fresh produce, slowing ripening and reducing microbial growth. This technology extends shelf life by 40–60% under ambient conditions, reducing dependence on costly cold-chain infrastructure. As a result, the solution has reduced spoilage by up to 80% and improved returns for farmers, traders, and retailers, with crop-specific applications for commodities like bananas and oranges.

NIFTEM-NTIBIF has been significant enabler of this innovation journey. Through incubation support and a grant of ₹13 lakhs, NTIBIF played a pivotal role in strengthening product validation, commercialization, and market expansion. The institutional ecosystem of NIFTEM further facilitated industry linkages and technological refinement, accelerating the startup's growth. GreenPod Labs has gained national and international recognition, including accolades from global innovation platforms and regulatory approval from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India. The combined support of NTIBIF and NIFTEM highlights the importance of academic incubation ecosystems in nurturing impactful agri-biotech innovations that enhance sustainability, reduce food waste, and build resilient food supply chains.



# TECHNOLOGY OF THE QUARTER

## FERMENTED KANJI POWDER

### Transforming Traditional Wisdom into a Modern Functional Food Innovation

In response to the growing demand for natural and functional foods, NIFTEM-K, has developed an innovative “Fermented Kanji Powder” that modernizes a traditional Indian beverage. Kanji, usually made from fermented vegetables like beetroot and carrots, is known for its digestive and probiotic benefits. However, its short shelf life and preparation time limits its regular use. This new product overcomes these challenges by converting Kanji into an instant, shelf-stable powder without losing its nutritional value or traditional taste.

The key innovation lies in combining controlled natural fermentation with advanced spray-drying technology. A natural prebiotic encapsulation process is used to protect beneficial bacteria, ensuring high probiotic viability (up to  $10^9$  CFU/g). The powder retains the original flavor, color, and nutrients of Kanji and can be easily reconstituted into a ready-to-drink beverage.

Technically, it is rich in antioxidants, dietary fiber, essential minerals, B-vitamins, and short-chain fatty acids like butyric acid, which support gut health, immunity, and reduce inflammation. The product has a shelf life of more than six months at room temperature, making it highly suitable for large-scale distribution.

The benefits of this innovation are significant. It offers consumers a convenient way to include probiotics in their daily diet, supports digestive health, and fits well with clean-label and wellness trends. For industry, the technology is scalable and can be integrated into existing spray-drying systems with minimal changes, creating strong opportunities for food companies and startups in the functional foods sector.

NIFTEM has played a crucial role by developing, testing, and standardizing this technology. The institute also provides a complete package for commercialization, including formulation, processing methods, and technical support, enabling smooth transfer from laboratory to industry.



## NEW JOINING AT NIFTEM-K



**Ms Sruti Chandra**  
Senior Research Fellow (SRF)

Ms. Sruti Chandra joined NTIBIF-CEFF on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026, as a Senior Research Fellow for the project titled "Evaluation of Partially Hydrolysed Guar Gum (PHGG) based composite flours on glycaemic and metabolic health: in vitro, ex vivo, and in vivo investigations in dyslipidemic diabetic rodent models." She completed her B.Tech (Food Technology) from Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences, Prayagraj, UP and M.Tech in Food Technology (Food Process Technology) from NIFTEM, Thanjavur, Tamilnadu.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Academic visit of students from Verghese Kurien Institute of Dairy and Food Technology, Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Mannuthy, Thrissur at NIFTEM-K**

NIFTEM-K hosted B.Tech and M.Tech students along with faculty members from the Verghese Kurien Institute of Dairy and Food Technology, Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Mannuthy, Thrissur, under the All India Exposure Visit program. The students toured NIFTEM- K's facilities including laboratories, pilot plants, incubation centers, and research units, which provided them with valuable insights into food technology processes and innovations fostering academic partnerships for future growth.

### **GSSS, Murthal students visit NIFTEM-K**

GSSS, Murthal students visited NIFTEM-K on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026 along with the 02 faculty members. CRC official (Mr. Aditya Kumar) briefed students about the institute's activities, courses, admission process, facilities & future opportunities for the students. Team also took a round of the Pilot Plants and become aware on various machinery & food processing packaging techniques.



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