

# Div Com Kashmir, Dir SKIMS Jointly Flag-Off Walkathon on World Diabetes Day

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**SRINAGAR:** To mark World Diabetes Day, a Walkathon aimed at raising awareness about diabetes and promoting healthy living was jointly flagged off today by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, and Director SKIMS & EOSG, Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie at the iconic Clock Tower (Ghanta Ghar), Srinagar.

Senior faculty members of SKIMS including Prof. Nisar Ahmad Bhat, HOD Pediatric Surgery & Associate Dean Student Welfare and Prof. Abrar Ahad Wani H.O.D Emergency Medicine were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir lauded the initiative of SKIMS and stated that such initiatives

play a crucial role in early prevention of the disease. He said public participation in awareness programs like these is essential to curb the rising tide of diabetes in our region.

He emphasized on extensive awareness regarding causes leading to diabetes among the people. He urged Dir SKIMS to identify high risk patients and extend them medical assistance.

Highlighting the importance of the day, Director SKIMS said that a significant proportion of the local population is affected by diabetes, underscoring the need for sustained public awareness.

Prof. Ashraf emphasized the need for early prevention, noting that uncontrolled diabetes can lead to serious complications if not

managed in time. “People need to adopt a healthy lifestyle,” he stressed, adding that diabetes prevalence is higher in urban populations compared to rural communities. He urged the public to embrace active living and healthy dietary habits.

He appreciated the efforts of the Organising Committee, headed by Prof. Riyaz Misgar and Dr. Aijaz, for conducting a well-coordinated and impactful awareness program.

Following the Walkathon, a Screening Camp was organized at Joggers Park, Rajbagh, where experts from SKIMS screened around 300 individuals.

Notably, 20 participants in a age group of 40- 45 years were newly diagnosed with diabetes, reflecting an upward trend in the burden of the disease.



# DC Srinagar hands over Reefer Van to beneficiary under HADP at Parimpora Fruit Mandi

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**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Commissioner(DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today handed over the key of Reefer Van to a beneficiary under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) during a programme organized by Horticulture Planning & Marketing at Parimpora Fruit Mandi.

The event was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; SDM West, Irfan Bahadur; Tehsildar Shalteng, Area Marketing Officer(HP&M), stakeholders from Parimpora Fruit Mandi and other concerned.

While presiding over the programme, the DC handed over the Refriger-

ated Truck (Reefer Van) to the district beneficiary to facilitate the efficient transportation of fruits and vegetables across the Srinagar catchment area. On the occasion, the DC also flagged off the Reefer Van carrying fresh fruit produce to Co-imbator.

The DC congratulated the beneficiary and appreciated the department for the initiative, encouraging unemployed youth to take advantage of various livelihood and employment-generation schemes for economic upliftment.

It is pertinent to mention that under HADP, the government provides a 75% subsidy on each reefer unit costing Rs 25 lakh under the compo-

nent Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing, Project 4, aimed at augmenting logistics support for the fruit industry.

The Reefer Truck, with a capacity of 9 metric tonnes, is a recent intervention under post-harvest management initiatives.

Equipped with an in-built controlled atmosphere system, it enables long-distance transportation of fruits and vegetables while preserving freshness and quality.

The services of these for Controlled Atmosphere (CA) trucks is steadily increasing in the local cold-chain sector, as these vehicles significantly enhance the shelf life and profitability of fruit produce.

# Vibrant Cultural programmes held at GDC Kupwara

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**KUPWARA:** In connection with the commemoration of the iconic national song “Vande Mataram”, Forest Department organized a plantation drive at D.C Office Complex which was led by Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse.

During the drive, the DC planted pine saplings in the compound of the complex. ADDC Kupwara, ADC Kupwara, ASP Kupwara, ACR, CPO and concerned officials were present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, in connection with the commemoration of 150 years of the national song “Vande Mataram”, Department of Information and Public Relations Kupwara, in collaboration with the Education Department and Government Degree College (GDC) Kupwara, organized a vibrant cultural programme at the Auditorium Hall of GDC Kupwara.

The event brought together students, faculty members, of-

ficials, and local dignitaries to celebrate the historic significance and cultural legacy of “Vande Mataram,” a song that has inspired generations during India’s freedom movement and continues to evoke a spirit of unity and patriotism.

The programme featured a series of enthralling performances, including patriotic songs, skits, poetry recitations, and traditional cultural presentations by students from various educational institutions.

Speakers highlighted the literary brilliance of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, the song’s author, and reflected on the enduring relevance of “Vande Mataram” in strengthening national identity.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks, acknowledging the collaborative efforts of the Information Department, Education Department, and GDC Kupwara in organizing the commemorative programme and encouraging youth participation in cultural and historical observances.

# Div Com Kashmir Chairs Meeting on Handover of Centaur Lake View Hotel

**SRINAGAR:** Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today chaired a meeting of the ‘Committee for Handing Over of Centaur Lake View Hotel’ to review the progress of the handover process.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner SMC, Managing Director of JKTDC, Director SKICC, Secretary JKAACL, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, and representatives from the KPDCCL, JalShakti, R&B, Horticulture, Tourism, and Forest departments.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on several crucial aspects, including the revised tendering process, the relocation of immovable items, and the division of utilities such as power and water between SKICC and the Centaur Hotel. The committee also discussed cost-sharing arrangements for some logistic issues, building permission, and other critical matters. The Div Com directed the concerned engineering departments to conduct a joint site visit to assess the immovable items and prepare a comprehensive report.

# Ganderbal residents protest alleges illegal land sale, seek probe into changed land status

■ RAYEES SHAH

**GANDERBAL:** Residents of Tulumulla in central Kashmir’s Ganderbal district on Friday staged a protest against alleged land brokers, accusing them of attempting to illegally sell a disputed plot whose ownership status has been under question for years.

The protesters demanded a thorough investigation into how the land classified as state land in 2014, has allegedly been recorded as private property, reigniting a controversy that had previously led to official suspensions over suspected irregularities.

Protesters said they firmly oppose any such transactions, asserting that “this land is our right.” They also questioned the change in land status, stating: “If this land was classified as state



land in 2014, how is it possible that today it is shown as private ownership?”

Following the protest, the Tehsildar, accompanied by police officials, visited the spot and interacted with the aggrieved residents. He assured them that their concerns would be thoroughly examined and that appropriate action would be taken. The officer, however,

clarified that he was “not authorised to speak to the media regarding this matter.”

Locals recalled that the same parcel of land had triggered controversy in 2014, when alleged land-filling by brokers prompted departmental action, resulting in the suspension of several officials at the time.

Residents have now urged the administration to investigate

how the land’s status allegedly changed over the years and to take strict action against those involved in any wrongdoing.

When contacted, the concerned owner, a Kashmiri Pandit, stated that he possesses complete documentation proving his ownership of the land and alleged that certain locals have been harassing him over the issue.

# SHEW Shopian, Health Department organises medical camp at GDC

**SHOPIAN:** Mission Shakti, Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW) Shopian, under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative, in collaboration with the Department of Health, today organised a free health camp at Government Degree College (GDC), Shopian for Girls.

The programme aimed to promote health awareness among young women and ensure they have access to essential medical care.

A team of dedicated doctors conducted comprehensive health check-ups for the college girls. The doctors also interacted with the students, addressed their health concerns and provided valuable guidance on maintaining physical and mental well-being.

# Phase-I of Commemoration of 150 Years of Vande Mataram concludes with Mega Event at GDC Shopian

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**SHOPIAN:** A grand culmination event of the phase-I of 150 Years of Commemoration of National Song, ‘Vande Mataram’ celebration was today held at the Auditorium Hall, GDC Shopian, marking the conclusion of a week-long series of activities organised across the district from 7th to 14th November.

Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while senior officers, SSP, Mushtaq Ahmed Choudhary; ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone; ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; Principal GDC, Shafiq Ahmed, students, faculty members,

civil society members and participants from various departments attended the programme with great enthusiasm.

The event showcased cultural performances, patriotic songs and thematic presentations reflecting the spirit of Vande Mataram and the nation’s rich heritage.

While addressing, the DC appreciated the collective efforts of all departments, institutions and participants for making the week long celebration a resounding success and encouraged students to actively contribute to nation-building and uphold the ideals of unity, discipline and collective responsibility and stressed the

need to instill patriotic values among the younger generation.

Speaking on the occasion, the SSP highlighted the historical importance and emotional resonance of Vande Matram as a National Song. He said that commemorating ‘Vande Matram’ is not merely a ceremonial exercise but a tribute to the spirit of India’s freedom struggle and a reminder of the values that bind the nation together. The event ended with the distribution of appreciation certificates to participating students and departments and acknowledgment of all stakeholders who contributed to the successful culmination of the Vande Mataram commemoration.

# KVK Anantnag Begins Training Initiative to Promote Modern Orchard Management

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**ANANTNAG:** Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Anantnag, SKUAST-K, in collaboration with the Department of Horticulture Anantnag, today inaugurated a district-wide series of Pruning-cum-Training Demonstration Sessions aimed at enhancing scientific orchard management among fruit growers.

The first programme was held at the KVK campus for farmers, orchardists, and budding agri-entrepreneurs from Horticulture Zone Dooru.

Experts from KVK imparted detailed technical guidance on pruning methods, training systems, and orchard rejuvenation practices.

The session also featured hands-on demonstrations across multiple

orchard models, with a special focus on Scientific Canopy Management in High-Density Apple Plantations.

Horticulture Development Officer (HDO) Dooru, along with field functionaries from the department, actively participated and interacted with the farmers.

The officers highlighted the importance of adopting modern pruning and canopy management techniques to improve fruit quality, enhance productivity, and ensure long-term sustainability of apple orchards.

Head KVK Anantnag, Dr. Ishitiyaq Ahmad Khan on the occasion said that similar training sessions will be conducted across all major horticulture belts of the district in the coming days to empower growers with the latest scientific practices.

# DIPR Bandipora Holds Commemoration Programme Marking 150 Years of National Pride ‘Vande Mataram’

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**BANDIPORA:** Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Bandipora on Friday organised an Exhibition-cum-Cultural Programme at the Auditorium Hall of N.M. Higher Secondary School, Kaloosa, to commemorate 150 years of national pride ‘Vande Mataram’.

The event marked the culmination of the first phase of the ongoing celebrations.

The programme was graced by Senior Superintendent of Police Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar; Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl; ACR Bandipora, Shabir Ahmad Wani; DPO ICDS Bandipora, Yaar Ali Khan; CMO Bandipora, DyCEO along with officials from various departments, teachers, staff and a large gathering of students.

Dignitaries, including SSP Bandipora, ADC Bandipora,

DPO Bandipora and DIO Bandipora, visited the exhibition stalls set up outside the Auditorium Hall. The displays showcased the historical evolution, legacy and national significance of Vande Mataram, offering insights into its role in India’s freedom movement. The visitors expressed appreciation for the well-curated exhibits and the deeper understanding they provided.

Addressing the gathering, SSP Bandipora, said the event offered a meaningful opportunity to come together and honour a historic milestone. He said that Vande Mataram inspired a deep cultural and patriotic awakening that strengthened the national movement. He encouraged students and participants to uphold the values of unity, integrity and national pride.

In his address, Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl, congratulated all participants

for their enthusiastic involvement. He emphasised that despite the country’s linguistic diversity, people across India recite Vande Mataram with equal love and devotion. He added that the national song gives citizens a strong sense of pride and unity, reflecting the shared spirit that binds the nation together.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy CEO, highlighted the timeless relevance of the national song, noting that Vande Mataram embodies the spirit of unity, sacrifice and national consciousness, values that continue to inspire generations.

In his remarks, District Information Officer Bandipora expressed gratitude to all departments, schools, cultural units and dignitaries for ensuring the smooth conduct of the event. He urged everyone to continue nurturing the ideals of unity, harmony and collective progress.



# DC Kupwara reviews progress of Mission Yuva, DLIC approves 170 applications

**KUPWARA:** In a significant boost to youth entrepreneurship in the region, the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) Kupwara, chaired by Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today approved 170 applications under the Mission YUVA.

This initiative aims to empower young entrepreneurs by providing them with financial assistance and capacity-building support to start and sustain their businesses, thereby fostering economic growth and employment opportunities.

During the meeting, the Committee conducted a thorough review and scrutiny of applications submitted by young aspirants. After detailed deliberations, the Committee approved 170 eligible cases for financial support and mentorship, paving the way for these budding entrepreneurs to turn their business ideas into reality.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the pivotal role of Mission YUVA in unlocking the potential of local youth and enabling them to build sustainable livelihoods.

He directed the concerned departments to intensify awareness campaigns and outreach programs to encourage more eligible youth as well as SHGs as part of Udyam Jagruti 4.0.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the performance of bank branches in disbursement of sanctioned cases as well as sanctioning and directed to expedite the process.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Kupwara and other members and representatives of DLIC.

# District-level Mock Exercise held in Ganderbal district

**GANDERBAL:** Barzulla RRC of the 13th Battalion National Disaster Response Force, under Command of Sub-Inspector Amir Chand and Under Supervision Shri Praveen Singh, Assistant Commandant, successfully conducted a district-level Mock Exercise on Earthquake and Flood Water Emergency in Ganderbal district of UT J&K.

The main objective of this Mock Exercise was to strengthen preparedness in disaster management, coordination among all agencies and disaster awareness among the public.

In this district-level Mock Exercise, the team from the 13th Battalion National Disaster Response Force demonstrated disaster response methods related to earthquake & flood relief and also raised awareness among public.

Several District Administration Officials, as well as the State Disaster Response Force, Fire and Emergency Service, Police, Health Department and School children participated in the Mock Exercise. Following the exercise, the National Disaster Response Force team carried out equipment display.