

## DC Akshay inspects construction work of school, bridge

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**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today visited Gangbug area of the District and conducted an on-site inspection of the ongoing work on construction of new building for Government Middle School. During the visit the DC was accompanied by Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintending Engineer SMC, Sajad Kawoosa, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tahir Sajad, Executive Engineer



R&B, Khalid Mehmood, Executive Engineer PCD-I, Nasir Ahmad, Executive Engineer, Master Plan, Muzamil Ahmad and other concerned.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner assessed the progress of construction of the new school building, which aims to fulfill a long-pending demand of the local population and strengthen educational infrastructure in the area. The DC emphasized the importance of maintaining quality standards and ensuring timely completion of the project as per approved specifications. He directed the concerned officers to increase the manpower to speed up the progress of work so that the School building is completed within the stipulated timeframe. On the occasion, the local

residents also joined the DC and said that improved classrooms and better educational facilities would contribute to a more conducive academic environment and enhance access to quality education for students of Gangbug and adjoining areas. Later, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the progress of work being executed by PCD-Ist Division of R&B on Steel Truss bridge, Gangbugh connecting areas of Srinagar with Budgam and directed the executing agencies to ensure that all works are completed through close coordination in a time bound manner.

## SKUAST-K organizes plantation drive at MRCSG Shuhama

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**SRINAGAR:** Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) today held a mega plantation drive at the Mountain Research Centre for Sheep and Goat (MRCSG), Shuhama, as part of the university's ongoing Green Initiative. Research, Director, SKUAST-K, who was the chief guest at the occasion, lauded the efforts of the Centre in transforming barren landscapes into productive green zones. He commended Head of MRCSG&G,

Dr Parvaiz Ahmad Reshi's leadership in the development of the Centre, and said that such initiatives are vital for strengthening environmental sustainability and advancing livestock-based research activities. The event was attended by Prof. Mohammad Altaf Bhat, Director Education; Prof. Azmat Alam Khan, Registrar; Prof. Sajad Ahmad Gangoo, Dean Students' Welfare, and Prof. Riaz Ahmad Shah, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences. During the drive, the dignitaries, alongside various Heads of Divisions, scien-

tists, and faculty members, planted saplings of Kikar, Mulberry, Apricot, Willow, Ailanthus, and Poplar. These were distributed across key units of the Centre, including the Sub-Alpine Pasture, Rabbitry, and Goatry plots. Dr Parvaiz Ahmad Reshi, Senior Scientist & Head of MRCSG&G, highlighted that the Centre has set an ambitious target to plant 25,000 saplings during the current spring season. This initiative aims to both promote environmental sustainability and develop essential tree fodder resources for livestock.

## Awareness programme for senior citizens organized

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**SHOPIAN:** Social Welfare Department Shopian organised a sensitisation and awareness programme on Wednesday for senior citizens under the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana at Palaash, Pinjora. During the programme, resource persons delivered lectures on digital and financial literacy, highlighted the rights, protection and dignity of senior citizens. They also created awareness about various welfare schemes meant for the elderly. Addressing the gathering, the Superintendent Palaash spoke about the welfare schemes being implemented

by the Social Welfare Department for the benefit of senior citizens. He informed that the department is organising intergenerational bonding programmes to make elderly persons aware of different welfare schemes and support systems available to them. Senior citizens were educated about safe banking practices and ways to safeguard themselves from online banking fraud. The programme was chaired by the Superintendent Palaash and was attended by officials of the Social Welfare Department, representatives from the banking sector, and a large number of senior citizens from the district.

## Horticulture Planning & Marketing Department participates in Horti India Expo 2026

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**SRINAGAR:** Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing participated in the Horti India Expo 2026 at Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi being organized by SV Global Expo (Exhibition Organizer) today. The three-day event will continue till March 14, 2026. Besides, Business to Business (B2B) Exhibition and international platform dedicated to Horticulture, agro-processing, value addition technology adoption, branding and global market integration, the objective of event is to provide national and international market access to emerging companies, innovative products, and agri-horticulture enter-

prises. Ten Farmers' Producers' Organizations (FPOs) from across the UT of Jammu & Kashmir were facilitated and mobilized by the Department of Horticulture Planning & Marketing for participation in the event under 'Participation in Trade Fairs' Activity of JKICIP (Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors). The participants with the support of department showcased their variety of horticultural/agricultural produce before the global audience. The event was inaugurated by Ghulam Jeelani Zargar, Director Horticulture Planning & Marketing, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.



The Director welcomed the participants from across the world and briefed them about the significance of such National and International Business to Business Platforms for overall development of Agri/Horticulture Sector. In his in-

augural speech, Zargar also briefed about the varied produce of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir with special emphasis on the value addition products of FPOs of J&K. He also talked about the flagship initiative/support viz. JKHADP, JKICIP

etc. through various line departments for Holistic upliftment of the farming community in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir. He reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening agricultural value chains, improving market access, and enhancing farmers' incomes.

He urged all participants to actively participate in the event and make maximum benefits by making handsome deals and wished all a goodluck and the event was set on for next 3 days. The event witnessed participants from Global Markets viz. Russia, Netherlands, Bulgaria, Germany, Europe etc. in addition to the participants from across the Country.

## DC Fakhruddin for speedy completion of projects at GMC & Associated Hospital

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**BARAMULLA:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Syeed Fakhrudin Hamid today inspected Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla and its Associated Hospital to review health-care facilities and the status of ongoing developmental works. During the visit, the DC inspected key sections including the Emergency Ward, OPD, MRD Block, inpatient wards and diagnostic facilities to assess service delivery and infrastructure. He interacted with doctors, paramedical staff and patients to obtain feedback on the functioning of medical services and issues faced by patients. The DC directed the hospital administration to maintain proper sanitation and ensure availability of essen-



tial medicines, adequate staff presence and prompt patient care. Later, the DC chaired a review meeting with officers and executing agencies to assess the progress of ongoing works. He stressed expeditious completion of all projects within stipulated timelines. The DC also directed the concerned departments to prepare Detailed Project

Reports (DPRs) for a new OPD Block, Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and a comprehensive drainage plan to strengthen health-care infrastructure. The meeting was attended by Principal GMC, Dr. Majid Jahangir; Superintendent Associated Hospital, Syed Parvaiz Masoodi, Superintending Engineer R&B and other officers and engineers.

## Gulmarg: First Batch of 77 Valley Guide Licence Holders notified for conversion

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**GULMARG:** In a development being widely welcomed as a long-overdue breakthrough for tourism professionals in the Gulmarg region, the Office of the Assistant Director Tourism, Gulmarg has initiated a structured and phased process for the conversion of Valley Guide licence holders into the Tourist Guide category. This reform was initiated by Tahir Mohi-Ud-Din Wani, Assistant Director Tourism, Gulmarg, who, upon assuming charge, undertook a comprehensive verification exercise of registered service providers under the relevant provisions of the J&K Tourist Trade Act. During the exercise, the sector was found to be affected by long-pending irregularities, including registra-



tions held in the names of deceased persons, government employees, and individuals holding multiple registrations simultaneously. Rather than allowing the status quo to continue, Tahir Mohi-Ud-Din Wani, under the supervision of the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department, initiated a systematic scrutiny and rationalisation of the existing registration records. In the process, ineligible registrations were identified and

cancellation orders were issued in accordance with law. It is against the vacancies thus created, specifically 77 slots arising on account of deaths and government employment in the Tourist Guide category, that the first batch of eligible Valley Guide licence holders has now been notified for conversion. The list has been prepared on the basis of the prescribed eligibility parameters, including qualification, age, and experience,

as available on the official record so as to ensure uniformity, administrative clarity, and fairness in the selection process, and to avoid any ambiguity or dispute in determination of eligibility. For eligible license holders who do not figure in the first list, the Assistant Director Tourism, has clarified that subsequent lists shall follow in a phased manner, subject to vacancy, availability and approval of the competent authority. Applicants who have sought registration in the general Tourist Guide category have also been advised not to lose hope, as their case has likewise been submitted to the Directorate for consideration, and it is expected that vacancies may also be made available for them in due course, subject to approval.

## DIPR Shopian conducts Nasha Mukti Awareness Programme

**SHOPIAN:** An awareness programme under the ongoing IEC Campaign on Nasha Mukti Abhiyaan, J&K was conducted today by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Shopian in collaboration with the Education Department at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Zainapora. SDM Zainapora, Bilal Ahmed attended the programme as the Chief Guest. While speaking on the occasion, he highlighted the measures being taken in the subdivision to tackle the menace of illegal cultivation of cannabis and destruction of wild bhung. He stated that due to sustained efforts of the district administration, cultivation over forty hectares of land were converted towards the Sustainable and Cash crops which were previously used for poppy and Cannabis cultivation. He urged the audience to cooperate with the administration in eliminating the menace of drug abuse and illegal cultivation. He also advised students to stay away from narcotics and become ambassadors of a drug-free society. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Education Officer, District Information Officer and other speakers highlighted the growing menace of drug abuse and stressed the need for collective efforts to eradicate it from society. They urged the participants to adopt a healthy lifestyle and spread awareness among people, especially the youth, about the harmful effects of drugs. The speakers emphasized that public cooperation, awareness and strong willpower are essential to make the Nasha Mukti Abhiyan a successful movement at the grassroots level.

## Road Safety Awareness Elocution Competition held at GDC Ganderbal

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**GANDERBAL:** The Debate and Seminar Committee, in collaboration with the NSS Unit of Government Degree College, Ganderbal, successfully organized a District Level Elocution Competition on the theme "Traffic Ethics and Civic Responsibility" as part of the ongoing Road Safety Awareness Programme of the college. The programme was conducted by Dr. Wasia, Convener, Debate and

Seminar Committee, and highlighted the importance of traffic ethics and responsible civic behaviour for ensuring road safety. The event commenced with a welcome address by Prof. Fouzia Fatima, Principal of the College, who emphasized the need for creating awareness among youth about traffic rules and responsible road behaviour. She appreciated the participation of students from different institutions and stressed the role of

educational institutions in promoting road safety awareness. The Guest of Honour, DSP Traffic, Gulzar Ahmad War, delivered an insightful address on traffic regulations, road discipline, and civic responsibility. He highlighted the importance of awareness and responsible behaviour in reducing road accidents and ensuring safer roads for everyone. Students from GDC Ganderbal, GDC Kangan, and GCET Safapora participated enthusiastically

ly in the District Level Elocution Competition, presenting thoughtful speeches on the theme "Traffic Ethics and Civic Responsibility." The programme witnessed active participation and meaningful discussions reflecting the commitment of young students towards road safety awareness. The competition proved to be an effective platform for spreading awareness about traffic ethics, civic responsibility, and road safety among the youth of the district.

## IEI J&K State Centre marks World Engineering Day



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Institution of Engineers (India), Jammu & Kashmir (IEI J&K) State Centre organized a panel discussion to commemorate World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development. The event was attended by engineers, academicians, industry professionals, and young engineers who deliberated on the evolving role of engineering in addressing contemporary developmental challenges. The programme was organized under the theme "Smart Engineering for a Sustainable Future Through Innovation and Digitalization." The event commenced with an introduction to the programme by Er. Irfan Ahmad Reshi, MIE, Honorary Secretary, IEI J&K State Centre, Srinagar, who outlined the significance of World Engineering Day, which is globally observed to recognize the contributions of engineers in promoting sustainable development and technological advancement.

The programme aimed to provide a professional platform for meaningful dialogue among stakeholders to explore how innovation, digitalization, and smart engineering approaches can support sustainable infrastructure development and responsible technological growth. The inaugural session featured the welcome address delivered by Er. Ferdous Ahad Bhat, FIE, Chairman of the Institution of Engineers (India), J&K State Centre, who highlighted the crucial role engineers play in shaping resilient infrastructure systems, strengthening sustainable development frameworks, and responding to emerging global challenges such as climate change, rapid urbanization, and technological transformation. The address emphasized the need for continuous innovation, adoption of modern engineering technologies, and collaborative engagement between institutions, industry, and government bodies. The technical session of

the programme consisted of a multi-stakeholder panel discussion. Distinguished experts representing diverse fields of engineering and professional practice participated in the discussion and shared their insights on the evolving landscape of engineering in the digital era and the importance of integrating emerging technologies with sustainable development strategies. The discussion covered several critical dimensions of contemporary engineering practice, including the future of engineering professions in an increasingly digital world, the role of innovation in promoting sustainable development, and the application of smart engineering approaches to improve infrastructure efficiency and reliability. The panelists also deliberated on the integration of technological advancement with environmental responsibility, the growing importance of digital tools and data-driven decision-making in engineering systems, and the need for reforms in engineering education to prepare

the next generation of engineers for a rapidly changing technological environment. The panel discussion was followed by an interactive question and answer session in which participants from the audience actively engaged with the panelists, raising questions and sharing observations related to digital transformation, sustainable engineering practices, and the future direction of engineering education and professional development. The outcomes/recommendations of the panel discussion will be reviewed and compiled by the Institution into a policy document summarizing the outcomes of the discussion for onward submission with relevant government authorities and policy stakeholders for further consideration. The discussion reaffirmed the importance of engineering innovation, digital transformation, and collaborative engagement in advancing sustainable development goals and shaping the future of responsible infrastructure development.

## Holistic Well-Being Camp for Senior Citizens organized at Shalimar under AVYAY

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** In a continued effort to promote active and healthy ageing among senior citizens, Social Welfare Department Srinagar organized a Holistic Well-Being Camp, featuring Yoga and wellness activities at Shalimar under the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY). The programme was aimed at encouraging senior citizens to adopt healthy lifestyle practices that support physical fitness, mental well-being, and emotional balance. A large number of elderly participants attended the camp and enthusiastically took part in the yoga sessions and wellness in-

teractions. Expert instructors guided the participants through a series of simple and age-appropriate yoga exercises, breathing techniques, and relaxation practices designed to improve flexibility, reduce stress, and enhance overall vitality. The camp also included interactive sessions highlighting the importance of regular physical activity, balanced nutrition, and mindfulness for maintaining a healthy and fulfilling life in old age. Officials from the Social Welfare Department highlighted that the AVYAY, a flagship initiative, focuses on the welfare and empowerment of senior citizens by

promoting their health, social engagement, and overall quality of life. They emphasized that such holistic well-being initiatives play a vital role in encouraging senior citizens to remain active, socially connected, and mentally resilient. The Department reiterated its commitment to organizing similar programmes across the district to ensure that senior citizens continue to benefit from health-promoting and recreational activities. The programme concluded with a positive response from the participants, who appreciated the initiative and expressed their enthusiasm for more such wellness and yoga sessions in the future.