

# Two-day Cursor Hackathon Kashmir Kicks Off at NIT Srinagar

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**SRINAGAR:** The much-anticipated Cursor Hackathon Kashmir began on Saturday at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, marking the launch of a two-day innovation-focused event aimed at fostering impactful and scalable solutions among student participants. The hackathon serves as a platform for young innovators to showcase their technical skills, creativity, and problem-solving abilities in a collaborative environment. Organized under the guidance of Dr. Iqra Altaf Gilani, Faculty Coordinator of the Technology Club, the event saw enthusiastic participation from students across various disciplines.

In her welcome address, Dr Iqra said that the main objective of Cursor Hackathon Kashmir is to provide a structured platform where students can convert ideas into tangible solutions. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Dr. Janib ul Bashir, Associate Dean ERP, NIT Srinagar, and Mohtasham Madani, Ambassador of Cursor, whose collaboration has brought valuable technological exposure and mentorship to the student community. Speaking at the event, Dr. Janib ul Bashir said that Hackathons like Cursor are crucial for nurturing creativity and problem-solving skills among students. "It is inspiring to see participants engage with technology in such a hands-on



Mohtasham Madani, Ambassador of Cursor said collaboration with NIT

Srinagar aims to empower students with hands-on experience and exposure to advanced tools. He said such Hackathons are the perfect platform for young innovators to transform ideas into real-world solutions and prepare for global challenges. In his message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia said that this hackathon strengthens coding culture, encourages teamwork, and fosters critical thinking and innovation. "We are proud to host initiatives that equip students with the knowledge and experience to thrive in a competitive technological landscape," he added. Prof. Atikur Rehman, Registrar, NIT Srinagar, added that NIT Srinagar is committed to creating an eco-

system that encourages innovation, experimentation, and technical excellence. "Events like Cursor Hackathon provide our students with the opportunity to explore, learn, and apply cutting-edge technologies, preparing them to become future leaders in the tech industry," he added. Centered around the theme "Build for the Next Billion," the hackathon encourages participants to tackle challenges across sectors, including education, healthcare, finance, agriculture, and accessibility. Meanwhile, Day 1 featured structured workshops to equip students with relevant tools and frameworks, followed by intensive coding sessions. Mentorship support from

industry professionals was available throughout the day, enabling teams to refine both technical and conceptual aspects of their projects. Participants worked tirelessly, meeting the Day 1 submission deadline at 5:00 AM on Day 2, demonstrating remarkable dedication and focus. The hackathon is being conducted in two rounds, with submissions evaluated by a panel of experts from leading organizations, including NVIDIA, Oracle, LinkedIn, Dell EMC, and AIG. Multiple sponsor tracks provide participants with opportunities to explore specialized domains such as AI, backend and frontend development, UI/UX design, automation, and search technologies.

## ACB traps, arrests Jal Shakti executive engineer in Awantipora for Rs 12,000 bribe

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**SRINAGAR:** The J&K Anti-Corruption Bureau on Saturday said they have arrested Executive Engineer of Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora after catching him red-handed while accepting a Rs 12,000 bribe for clearing AMC bills. They said, the arrest followed a complaint alleging he had demanded Rs 20,000, of which Rs 8,000 had already been paid earlier. In a statement a spokesperson said the J&K Anti Corrupting Bureau received a written complaint to the effect that Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division South Awantipora namely Manzoor Ahmad Dar is demanding a bribe of Rs 20,000 from him for clearing of Bills on account of Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) works carried out by him at the said PHE Mechanical Division, out of which the complainant has earlier paid an amount of Rs 8000 to the suspect and the remaining amount of Rs 12000 was to be paid after the clearance of the bills. He said, the complainant chose not to pay bribe and instead approached Anti Corruption Bureau



for taking legal action against the said Executive Engineer as envisaged under law. "On receipt of the complaint, a discreet verification was conducted which confirmed the demand by the said Govt. employee and accordingly Case FIR No. 02/2026 u/s 7 of P/C Act 1988 read with amendment Act-2018 was registered in P/S ACB Anantnag and investigation was taken up," said the spokesperson. He said during the course of investigation a trap team was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and caught

the said Govt. employee Manzoor Ahmad Dar S/o Ghulam Mohammad Dar R/o Daf Pora Budgam red handed while demanding and accepting bribe. "He was arrested on spot and bribe amount was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses associated with the trap team." "Subsequently, search of residential houses of the accused Govt. employee was carried out in presence of Executive Magistrates and independent witnesses. Further investigation of the instant case is going on," the spokesperson said.

## DIPR Bandipora organises exhibition on "Vande Mataram"

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**BANDIPORA:** Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Bandipora, in collaboration with Government Degree College (GDC) Bandipora, on Saturday organised an exhibition programme on the theme of "Vande Mataram" at GDC Bandipora. The event featured vibrant exhibitions showcasing the historical significance and enduring spirit of "Vande Mataram." On the occasion, the National Song "Vande Mataram" was also played, creating a patriotic atmosphere and evoking a strong sense of national pride among the participants. Speaking on the occasion, the District Information Officer Bandipora, Aadil Manzoor Wani highlighted the significance of "Vande Mataram" as a symbol of the nation's rich heritage and unity, and emphasized the role of youth in preserving and promoting patriotic values. He appreciated the active participation of students and faculty



members. During the programme, students who had contributed significantly to the event and related activities were felicitated for their outstanding efforts and creativity. The programme is part of the ongoing series of activities being conducted across the district under the special phase of "Vande Mataram," aimed at strengthening the spirit of national unity and collective pride. Among others, the event was attended by Principal GDC Bandipora, Faculty members, Students and officials from DIPR.

## Mir hails Omar gov't's clearance of employees' dues

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**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President Showkat Mir Saturday termed the resolution of long-pending issues faced by government employees as a significant and welcome development, reflecting the strong commitment of the Omar Abdullah-led government towards the welfare of its workforce and economically vulnerable sections. In a statement issued today, Adv. Showkat appreciated the clearance of GP Fund dues up to December 2025, along with the release of all pending pension commutation bills and gratuity payments till date, describing the move as highly commendable and long overdue. He said that the government employees had been waiting for these payments for years and that prolonged delays and bureaucratic bottlenecks during previous administrations had caused immense financial strain and mental stress among employees and their families. Mir said that such decisive and people-centric interventions will not only restore the confidence of government employees but also strengthen institutional credibility and enhance administrative efficiency across departments. Congratulating the Omar Abdullah-led government on this important decision, Showkat Mir expressed hope that the administration will continue to undertake similar pro-poor and reform-driven initiatives aimed at strengthening governance and ensuring the welfare and dignity of all sections of society.

## Multi-Stakeholder Platform Meet under JKCIP held at Pulwama

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**PULWAMA:** Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing today organized the 4th Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP) Meet of 2025-26, under the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP) at Conference Hall, SIDCO, Lasipora, Pulwama. The event marked an important step towards strengthening collaboration among key stakeholders in the agriculture and horticulture sectors. The meet was inaugurated by Director Horticulture Planning & Marketing, Ghulam Jeelani Zargar, who briefed the audience about the significance of Multi-Stakeholder Platform meets for overall development of Agri/Horticulture Sector.

While addressing the gathering, the Director emphasized the upliftment of the farming community through flagship initiatives such as the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and JKCIP. He urged all participants to actively raise their concerns, challenges, and suggestions on such platforms to enable effective, inclusive, and farmer-centric policy formulation. He reiterated the government's commitment to strengthening agricultural value chains, improving market access, and enhancing farmers' incomes. The meet witnessed an overwhelming response from a wide spectrum of stakeholders, including Presidents from Fruit & Vegetable Markets of Jablipora, Pulwama, Shopi-

an, Anantnag besides FPOs, progressive farmers, CA store operators, entrepreneurs, industrialists from processing & packaging sector, traders and HADP/JKCIP beneficiaries. The platform facilitated threadbare and constructive discussions on critical issues related to supply chain management, marketing linkages, post-harvest infrastructure, and institutional financing. The concerns and suggestions raised by participants were addressed in detail by the concerned officers of various departments. The various issues raised by the beneficiaries of Kissan Khidmat Ghars (KKG) and Rural Business & Service Hubs (RBSH) established under HADP were also discussed. The event concluded with a

felicitation ceremony, wherein the Dy. Director Central, Horticulture Planning and Marketing, felicitated the dignitaries, and experts from various institutions in recognition of their valuable contributions and support. The meet successfully reinforced the spirit of collaboration and dialogue, paving the way for sustainable growth and development of the agriculture and horticulture sectors in Jammu & Kashmir. The event was also attended by the Functional Manager District Industries Centre (DIC) Pulwama, Officers from Agriculture Department, Horticulture Department and JK Horticulture Processing & Marketing Corporation, experts from SKUAST Kashmir, along with officers from various financial institutions.

## SWD Srinagar organizes Distribution of New Born Baby Kits to Girl Child under BBBP

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**SRINAGAR:** Social Welfare Department (SWD), SANKALP- Hub for Empowerment of Women-Mission Shakti Srinagar, today organized distribution programme of newborn baby kits to girl child at SKIMS Medical College Hospital- Bemia as part of its continued efforts to promote maternal and child welfare. On the occasion, the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), Srinagar distributed newborn baby kits among the beneficiaries at the hospital. The kits, comprising essential items required for the care and hygiene of newborns, were provided to

support mothers during the immediate postnatal period. While interacting with the beneficiaries, the DSWO Srinagar highlighted the importance of institutional healthcare, proper nutrition, and hygiene for both mother and child. The officer also briefed the attendees about various welfare schemes being implemented by the department for the benefit of women and children. Shakti Srinagar, today organized distribution programme of newborn baby kits to girl child at SKIMS Medical College Hospital- Bemia as part of its continued efforts to promote maternal and child welfare.

On the occasion, The programme witnessed participation from hospital staff and officials of the Social Welfare Department, who reiterated their commitment to ensuring the well-being and support of vulnerable sections of society. The beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the Social Welfare Department for the timely assistance and appreciated the initiative aimed at safeguarding the health and care of newborns. SWD Srinagar remains committed to organizing such outreach programmes to strengthen social security and promote inclusive welfare across the district.

## PDP workers protest in Srinagar, accuses govt. of not fulfilling promises



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**SRINAGAR:** Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Saturday held a protest here, accusing the Jammu and Kashmir government of turning a blind eye to people's issues and not fulfilling its promises. Scores of party leaders and workers assembled at the Press Enclave here and protested against the government. Speaking to reporters, party leader Iqbal Tramboos said March 31 has become a "black day" for the people of Kashmir due to mounting financial

pressures. "People are under an immense tax burden. Hefty power bills are being issued, water fees are being demanded, and employees are without salaries," he said. Tramboos said the party wants to raise people's issues and become their voice. "We want to tell the Omar Abdullah government that it has not fulfilled any of its promises: the employees are without salary, contractors have not been paid their dues, and poor people are harassed to pay their bills," he said. The protesters later dispersed peacefully.

## Comprehensive Evaluation of PM SHRI Schools in Anantnag by Central Nodal Officer concludes with Strategic Review Meeting

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**ANANTNAG:** In a significant step towards strengthening the vision of PM SHRI Schools as centres of excellence under the national education transformation agenda, Abhishek Dev, Joint Secretary, Government of India, and Central Nodal Officer (CNO-PM SHRI), concluded his two-day official visit to District Anantnag with extensive school inspections and a high-level review of implementation progress across PM SHRI institutions. During the two-day visit, the Central Nodal Officer undertook a comprehensive assessment of academic, infrastructural, and administrative dimensions of PM SHRI schools in the district, focusing on institutional preparedness, implementation quality, and alignment with national educational priorities. On the first day, the officer visited multiple PM SHRI institutions across the district and reviewed progress under the PM SHRI framework with special emphasis on Performance Grading Index (PGI), quality

of teaching-learning processes, competency-based education, and integration of innovative and experiential pedagogies. He interacted extensively with students, teachers, and Heads of Institutions to obtain first-hand insights into classroom practices, learner engagement, and school leadership processes. The visible transformation in school ecosystems and commitment of educators towards learner-centric and inclusive education were appreciated during these interactions. On the second day, the visit commenced with an inspection of PM SHRI High School Semthan, where the overall institutional status, academic practices, infrastructural development, and key achievements under the PM SHRI initiative were closely evaluated. The officer reviewed the school's progress in implementing child-centred pedagogy, digital interventions, and holistic development activities. Thereafter, the team visited PM SHRI SRJ Higher Secondary School Khanabal, where detailed interaction was held with school authorities regarding academic outcomes, in-

novation initiatives, resource utilization, and challenges in implementation. The school's efforts towards creating an enriched learning environment and integrating PM SHRI objectives into daily academic functioning were examined in detail. The visit concluded with a comprehensive review meeting held at District Institute of Education and Training Anantnag, attended by district administration and education department functionaries. The district administration was represented by Tariq Ahmad Malik, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Anantnag. Senior officers of the Education Department including the Chief Education Officer Anantnag, District Education Planning Officer, Samagra Shiksha Coordinator, DIET faculty and Zonal Education Officers of PM SHRI school zones also participated in the deliberations. The review meeting witnessed a threadbare and constructive interaction wherein district officials presented institutional progress, achievements, and field-level challenges emerging during implementation.

Stakeholders also highlighted practical concerns relating to infrastructure optimization, academic flexibility, capacity building, digital access, and school-level administrative needs. Several policy suggestions and implementation-oriented recommendations were placed before the Central Nodal Officer for consideration. During the deliberations, the Central Nodal Officer emphasized continuous academic monitoring, optimal utilization of resources, digital integration, competency-based learning, and stronger institutional leadership to further improve educational outcomes. He reiterated that PM SHRI schools must evolve as model institutions that establish benchmarks in innovation, sustainability, inclusion, and holistic student development. The visit concluded with a renewed collective commitment by district administration and the education department to transform PM SHRI schools of Anantnag into vibrant, future ready centres of excellence capable of delivering quality, equity, and excellence in education to every learner.