

Cursor Hackathon Kashmir concludes at NIT Srinagar

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SRINAGAR: The two-day Cursor Hackathon Kashmir concluded at National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, drawing strong participation and showcasing innovative, real-world tech solutions developed by young innovators.

A total of 125 teams participated on Day 1, submitting projects after intensive ideation and development cycles. The event stood out for its inclusivity, with participation from an 11-year-old innovator, underscoring growing grassroots engagement in the technology space.

Following a rigorous screening process, 15 teams were shortlisted for the final round.

On Day 2, finalists presented live pitches backed by working prototypes, demonstrating both technical depth and practical applicability of their solutions.

Participants focused on addressing everyday challenges through innovative approaches, with several projects aligned to real-world needs. Teams leveraged advanced tools, including OpenAI, Cursor, Exa, and Convex to build scalable and efficient solutions.

The jury comprised Dr. Iqra Altaf Gillani, Dr. Kaiser Giri, Mohtasham



Madani, and Inaam ul Haq, who evaluated entries on innovation, execution, feasibility, and real-world impact.

In his message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, said the hackathon has further reinforced a culture of coding excellence, collaboration, and problem-solving among students.

"Such platforms not only sharpen technical skills but also push participants to think creatively and work collectively to solve real-world

challenges," he said, adding that the institute remains committed to preparing students for an evolving and competitive tech landscape.

Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman said the successful conclusion of the second day reflects the institute's continued focus on nurturing innovation and hands-on learning.

"We aim to build a vibrant ecosystem where students are encouraged to experiment, innovate, and translate ideas into impactful solutions," he added.

Faculty Coordinator of the Technology Club, Dr. Iqra Altaf Gillani, said that this hackathon has demonstrated the immense potential of young innovators from across the country. The quality of ideas and execution reflects a strong foundation for future technological growth," she said.

Dr. Kaiser Giri said that the level of innovation seen here is highly encouraging. Many of these solutions have the potential to evolve into scalable products addressing real-world challenges," he added.

Ambassador of Cursor, Mohtasham Madani, said that it is inspiring to see participants effectively leveraging modern AI tools and platforms. Cursor Hackathon Kashmir has created a meaningful space for learning, collaboration, and innovation," he said.

While Inaam ul Haq also stated that the technical depth and practical approach of the finalists stand out. Events like these are crucial in nurturing industry-ready talent," he added.

The hackathon also drew an engaged audience, with participants actively attending the pitching sessions, reflecting a collaborative, competitive innovation environment.

Sports Key to youth empowerment, nation building: Satish Sharma



MAIRA MANDRIAN: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, IT, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today attended the annual sports fay at PM Shri NB/Sub Bansi Lal Government High School, Maira Mandrian.

The event witnessed an overwhelming response with enthusiastic participation from the students, teachers and the local community, reflecting a growing culture of sports and fitness at the grassroots level.

Chief Education Officer Ajeet Sharma, and several other officers from different

departments were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Satish Sharma highlighted the transformative power of sports in shaping the future of youth.

"Youth are the backbone of our society and sports are a vital instrument to harness their energy in a constructive direction. The government is committed to build a robust sports ecosystem that nurtures talent from villages to national platforms," he said.

Spelling out the policy priorities, the Minister underlined that the government is actively working towards expanding

sports infrastructure, strengthening youth engagement programmes and integrating physical education more effectively within the academic framework.

He further stated that initiatives under Youth Services & Sports are being intensified to identify and groom talent at an early stage, ensuring that young athletes from remote areas receive equal opportunities to excel.

Reiterating the importance of discipline and healthy living, Satish Sharma urged the students to actively participate in sports and maintain a balance between academics and physical activities.

The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony where the outstanding performers were honoured with medals and certificates.

The Minister also laid foundation stone for several developmental initiatives being undertaken to strengthen the public infrastructure in the area.

Range level training programme on investigation of terror financing cases concludes

BARAMULLA: The RPHQ Baramulla successfully concluded a Range Level Training Programme on "Investigation of Terror Financing Cases" under the ongoing Capacity Building Initiative of J&K Police. Designed to sharpen the professional edge of field officers across North Kashmir Range, the programme focused on dismantling the financial lifelines of terrorism.

The event was inaugurated by DIG North Kashmir Range Shri. Maqsood-ul-Zaman (IPS) along with SSP Baramulla Shri. Gurinderpal Singh (IPS) and other officers in attendance underscoring its institutional importance. Eminent speakers from the Prosecution and SIA J&K delivered sessions on fund tracing, inter-agency coordination,

evidence collection and case study analysis, equipping participants with practical tools for stronger investigations and successful prosecutions.

Officers from the ranks of Dy.SsP, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors from all districts of North Kashmir Range actively engaged, appreciating the interactive discussions and actionable guidance. Speaking on the Occasion DIG NKR Shri. Maqsood-ul-Zaman (IPS) emphasized that the true worth of such initiatives lies in their practical application—whether in tracing illicit flows, preparing robust case files or ensuring convictions. The programme concluded with mementos presented to guest speakers, and participants expressed renewed resolve to apply the insights gained.

Javid Dar inaugurates Tulip Garden at MCRS Sagam, calls for Floriculture led rural transformation

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ANANTNAG: In a significant step towards promoting high value floriculture and strengthening the rural livelihoods, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, today inaugurated Tulip Garden at MCRS Sagam, SKUAST-K, during his visit to the Centre of Excellence for Tulip and Temperate Bulb Production. The Minister was accompanied by MLA Dooru, Ghulam Ahmad Mir, along with senior officers, scientists and officials. During the visit, the Minister undertook a comprehensive inspection of the tulip beds and reviewed the ongoing floriculture and research activities at the Centre. A publication showcasing the Centre's research achievements, innovations and developmental initiatives was also released, highlighting its growing role in advancing scientific floriculture in the region.

Addressing the media persons, Javid Dar lauded the proactive in-

volvement of the local community in establishing the Tulip Garden, terming it a model of participatory development. "Though the garden is in its nascent stage, it carries immense promise for the future. With the expected increase in tourist inflow, it will catalyse economic activity, create sustainable livelihood opportunities and open new avenues for entrepreneurship in the region," he said.

He further emphasized that the initiative would play a crucial role in reducing dependence on imported tulip bulbs, thereby promoting self-reliance and strengthening the local economy. The Minister reiterated the government's commitment towards developing Jammu and Kashmir as a hub for high-value floriculture through focused investments, policy support and institutional strengthening.

Highlighting the importance of research and innovation, the Minister called for greater integration of scientific advancements with field-level practices. He stressed the need to accelerate the dissemination



of modern technologies among the farmers to enhance productivity, ensure sustainability and maximize returns. Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Nazir Ahmad Ganai, underscored the university's commitment to cutting-edge research and farmer-centric innovation. He stated that the Tulip Garden at Sagam represents a strategic initiative towards achieving self-sufficiency in bulb production

while promoting diversification and resilience in the agriculture sector of Kashmir. The event also featured a one-day workshop on "Potential of Tulip Bulb Production in Kashmir," where the experts, scientists and progressive farmers engaged in detailed deliberations on crop diversification, high-density cultivation, modern technologies and sustainable development strategies.

Gondola model not viable beyond Gulmarg: Govt

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday told the Assembly that a cable car project is unlikely to boost tourism in Karnah, citing limited success of similar projects outside Gulmarg.

Responding to a query by MLA Javid Ahmad Mirchal, the Chief Minister said there is no proposal under consideration to construct a cable car from TD Dryangari to Zarla via Sadhna Pass in Karnah constituency.

He said the success of the gondola in Gulmarg cannot be replicated elsewhere. He pointed to projects in Jammu and Srinagar where similar attempts failed to draw comparable tourist footfall.

He also referred to the gondola at Patnitop, which has not seen traffic on the scale of Gulmarg.

Police promote legal awareness on new criminal laws among students in Baramulla

BARAMULLA: Continuing its public outreach efforts, Baramulla Police today organised awareness programmes on the New Criminal Laws (NCL) at Government Higher Secondary School, Kunzar, and Government Higher Secondary School, Bijhama.

The programmes aimed to familiarise students and staff with the key provisions of the newly implemented criminal laws, highlighting important legal reforms and their practical implications. Officers sensitised participants about the rights and responsibilities of citizens under the new legal framework and encouraged them to remain informed and law-abiding.

The sessions witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members. Participants appreciated the initiative and expressed gratitude to Baramulla Police for promoting legal awareness and strengthening community-police relations.

Govt says no special tourism dev package for Sonamarg under existing plans

SRINAGAR: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir said no special tourism development package has been sanctioned specifically for Sonamarg as of now.

Replying to a starred question raised by MLA Mian Mehar Ali in the Legislative Assembly last week said that while no dedicated package exists, development and maintenance of tourism infrastructure,

parks and allied facilities in Sonamarg are being carried out under the approved Capital Expenditure (Capex) Plan.

It said that during the financial year 2025-26, the department has taken up 27 works in Sonamarg at an approved cost of Rs 20.55 crore. Out of the allocated Rs 7.00 crore under Capex 2025-26, an amount of Rs 5.95 crore has already been

released for execution of these works.

The government further said that two major infrastructure projects are currently under implementation to enhance environmental management and overall aesthetics of the tourist destination. These include installation of Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) Phase-I at an approved cost of Rs 7.10 crore

aimed at proper treatment and management of wastewater and safeguarding the fragile ecosystem of Sonamarg.

Besides, ornamental see-through fencing around the main bowl and Golden Glory/Eco Park is being installed at a cost of Rs 3.70 crore to regulate visitor movement, protect landscaped areas and improve the aesthetic appeal.

No plan to redraw medical block boundaries in Srigufwara-Bijbehara: Sakina Itoo

SRINAGAR: Health and Medical Education Minister Sakina Itoo informed the Legislative Assembly that no proposal is on cards to redraw medical block boundaries in the Srigufwara-Bijbehara constituency.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Bijbehara Bashir Ahmad Shah Veeri, the Health Minister informed the House that four Medical Blocks—Bijbehara and Salar under the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Anantnag, and Qaimoh and Yaripora under CMO Kulgam—are presently overseeing healthcare delivery in the constituency.

She said that while the constituency falls within District Anantnag, certain health institutions such as Jablipora, Arwani, Subhanpora, and Naina-GB Khalil are administratively controlled by Anantnag but function under the supervision of CMO Kulgam through the Yaripora and Qaimoh blocks.

"The Medical Blocks have been constituted based on technical parameters like population density, topography, and accessibility, in line with WHO standards," the Minister said, adding that there is no current proposal to make these blocks co-terminus with the constituency boundaries.

The Minister, however, acknowledged that the matter was examined following her visit to the area in May 2025. "Although certain administrative anomalies were observed, the Department has decided to

focus on improving healthcare delivery through existing mechanisms rather than altering the administrative framework," she said.

Itoo added that the government is prioritising strengthening healthcare facilities under IPHS-2022 norms and enhancing accessibility through telemedicine services like e-Sanjeevani, operating on a hub-and-spoke model to ensure better outreach, particularly in underserved areas.

Addressing concerns over staff shortages in several health centres—including PHCs and NTPHCs at K-Kalan, Veeri, Kanelwan, Adlash, Naina-GB Khalil, Subhanpora, and Arwani—the Minister said that services are currently being maintained through internal adjustments and rationalisation of available manpower.

"The vacancies of doctors and paramedical staff will be filled on a regular basis after recruitment agencies complete the selection process. Till then, interim arrangements are in place to minimise inconvenience to the public," she said, adding that no specific timeline can be committed at this stage. On the functioning of the 110-bedded Trauma Hospital at Bijbehara, the minister stated that out of eight sanctioned consultant posts, four are filled, while both sanctioned Medical Officer posts are in place. Of the 24 sanctioned paramedical posts, 11 have been filled so far.

Sakeena Itoo felicitates 12th class meritorious students at GDC Kulgam

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KULGAM: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today felicitated meritorious students who secured top positions in the 12th class examination during 'Mega Shining Star' ceremony held at Government Degree College (GDC) here.

The event was organised by Directorate of School Education Kashmir in collaboration with CT University Ludhiana and GDC Kulgam.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister congratulated the toppers for their dedication, perseverance and commitment to excellence, stating that their success reflects not only personal hard work but also the collective efforts of teachers and families who guided

them throughout their academic journey.

"Students and youth are the true architects of Jammu and Kashmir's future. Your achievements symbolize hope, progress and transformative power of education," the Minister stated. Highlighting the government's commitment to strengthening the education sector, the Minister emphasized that various ongoing initiatives are aimed at improving educational infrastructure, enhancing digital learning facilities and creating equal opportunities for students in both urban and rural areas. She noted that delivering quality education is topmost priority of Government as it remains a cornerstone for sustainable development and social empowerment of Jammu and Kashmir.



The Minister appreciated the role of teachers in shaping young minds and acknowledged their dedication in nurturing talent despite challenges. She reiterated that educators remain central to building a knowledgeable and progressive society.

She highlighted that the students and youth of Jammu and Kashmir are shining in every sector, be it medical science, civil

services, engineering or any other field.

Interacting with students, the Minister motivated them to set ambitious goals and assured continued government support for youth through scholarships, skill development programs, and career guidance initiatives.

She also encouraged the students to adopt innovation, critical thinking and social responsibility as

guiding principles in their careers.

Director School Education Kashmir, Naseer Ahmad Wani; Director Colleges, Dr. Sheikh Aijaz Bashir; CEO Kulgam, senior officers of district administration, representatives of CT University Ludhiana, students, faculty members of college, teachers, parents and large number of students were also present on the occasion.