

DC Shahzad visits EMRS Tangmarg; reviews progress on hostel

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KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam today visited Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) Tangmarg to take stock of the functioning of the institution and review the progress of ongoing infrastructure works. During the visit, the DC inspected various sections of the school and assessed the facilities being provided to students. He directed the concerned authorities to expedite the completion of the hostel building, principal's residence and boundary wall of the institution within the stipulated timeframe.



The DC also instructed the concerned department to ensure extension of electricity connection to the newly constructed building at the earliest so that the facilities can be

made fully functional. Later, the DC visited ITI K.B. Pora, where he reviewed the functioning of the institute and inspected various training sections. He also inter-

acted with the students and patiently listened to their demands regarding the strengthening of infrastructure and facilities at the institute. The DC assured that the

genuine issues raised by the students would be taken up with the concerned authorities. While interacting with the trainees, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of skill development in enhancing employability and entrepreneurship among youth. He also asked for recommendations on introducing new courses that are in demand in the area so that the institute can better cater to local employment needs. During the tour, the Deputy Commissioner also visited solid waste management sheds in different areas and inspected their condition.

He directed the concerned officials to ensure proper cleanliness and effective utilization of these sheds so as to strengthen waste management practices in the district. The DC emphasized the need for coordinated efforts among departments to ensure that public institutions function efficiently and provide better services to the people. The DC was accompanied by JDP, Malik Suhail; SDM D.H. Pora, Bashir Ul Hassan; ACD Kulgam, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar, Executive Engineers from Jal Shakti R&B, CEO Kulgam Tehsildar D.H. Pora and other concerned officers.

IUST Organises Cybersecurity Awareness Program with ISEA, MeitY

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SRINAGAR: The Office of the Dean Outreach, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), organised a Cybersecurity Awareness Program for students and apprentices of the University. The program was sponsored under the Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Project of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The program was conducted by experts from the CDAC-Mohali as part of a national initiative to promote cybersecurity awareness and responsible digital practices. More than a hundred participants, including students and apprentices, attended the pro-

gram. In view of the growing dependence on digital technologies and the rising risks of cyber threats such as phishing, identity theft, financial fraud, and social engineering, the program focused on building awareness and practical understanding among participants. Key areas covered included password security, safe authentication practices, digital payment safety, social media risks, emerging threats such as deepfakes, and best practices for securing devices and data. The program witnessed active participation, with attendees sharing real-life cases and concerns, which were addressed by the experts through practical guidance and solutions.

Water Supply to remain disrupted in several parts of Srinagar

SRINAGAR: Executive Engineer, Water Supply Master Plan, Division Srinagar has informed that due to urgent repair works on the Sindh Power Canal, scheduled to be carried out by the Civil Investigation & Design Wing of JKPCDC, Kashmir, at Ganderbal on April 06, 2026, the raw water supply to Water Treatment Plants at Alusteng and Rangil will be affected. Consequently, the potable water supply to several parts of Srinagar city and its adjoining areas shall remain disrupted for a period of 24 hours, commencing from 6:00 AM on Monday (April 06, 2026) to 6:00 AM on Tuesday (April 07, 2026). The areas likely to be affected include Zakoora, Gulab Bagh, Habak, Naseem Bagh, Malla Bagh, Ahmad Nagar, Illahibagh, Buchpora, Soura, Anchar, Bohlochopora, Zoonimar, Nowshera, Bagh-i-Ali Mardan Khan, Sikhbagh, Zaidibag, Hawal, Alamgari Bazar, Rajouri Kadal, Nallahmar, Nawakadal, Bohri Kadal, Nowhatta, Lal Bazar, Hazratbal, Sadribal, Karan Nagar, Kakasari, Balgarden, Chattabal, Kawdara, Eidgah, Mahraj Gunj, Zaina Kadal, Saidpora, Firdous Abad, parts of Batmaloo, Qamarwari, Zainakoot, Noorabad, Lawaypora, Mujgund, Bemina, Iqbalabad, Usmanabad, Sir Syedabad, Mansoor Colony Bemina, Boatman Colony, Gousia Colony, EWS Colony, HIG/MIG/LIG Colony Bemina, Qamarabad, Nundreshi Colony Bemina, Tengpora (partly), JVC Hospital, Government Dental College, GMC Hostel Bemina, others.

ERO Handwara reviews SRPER-2026; Issues directions on Electoral Rolls Revision

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA: Electoral Registration Officer (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi on Friday chaired a meeting to review and strategize the Summary Revision of Panchayat Electoral Rolls (SRPER) 2026, with 01-04-2026 as the qualifying date, within the jurisdiction of Handwara. During the meeting, a comprehensive review of the progress achieved so far in the revision process was undertaken, and necessary directions were issued to ensure the timely and error-free completion of the exercise. The ERO emphasized maintaining accuracy, transparency, and inclusiveness in the electoral rolls. Officers were directed to ensure proper verification of entries, inclusion of all eligible voters, and deletion of ineligible or duplicate entries strictly in accordance with

guidelines. Special focus was laid on maximizing voter awareness and participation. PBEOs were instructed to conduct door-to-door verification and facilitate eligible citizens, particularly first-time voters, in enrolling themselves in the electoral rolls. The ERO stressed strict adherence to prescribed timelines and called for close coordination among all stakeholders to ensure the smooth conduct of the revision process. The meeting was attended by Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), Tehsildars of Handwara, Vilgam, Tarathpora, Drugmulla, Qaziabad, Kralgund, and Qalamabad; Block Development Officers (BDOs) of Handwara, Mawer, Ramhall, Tarathpora, Qaziabad, Nutnoosa, and Rajwar, and Deputy Chief Education Officer, Kupwara (HQ Handwara), and other concerned officials.

Budgam admin bids farewell to outgoing SSP Nikhil Borkar

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM: District Administration Budgam, under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Amir Khan, today organized a warm farewell function in honour of the outgoing Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Budgam, Nikhil Borkar, on his transfer from the district. The function was attended by senior officers of the civil and police administration, including the Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Senior Police officers, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Sub-Divisional Police Officers, Tehsildars, Station House Officers, and officers and officials from various departments. Speaking on the occasion, the DC Budgam, appreci-



ated the dedicated services rendered by outgoing SSP during his tenure in the district. He highlighted his professional competence, effective leadership, and close coordination with the civil administration in maintaining

law and order and ensuring public safety. The DC noted that outgoing SSPs tenure was marked by proactive policing, responsiveness, and strong public engagement initiatives that strengthened public confidence in the administration.

During the farewell, several officers shared their experiences of working with Nikhil Borkar commending his commitment, discipline, and people friendly approach to policing. While addressing the gathering, outgoing SSP expressed heartfelt gratitude to the District Administration, Budgam Police, and all stakeholders for their cooperation and support throughout his tenure. He acknowledged the collective efforts of the police personnel and civil administration in maintaining peace and serving the people effectively. He also thanked the people of Budgam for their trust and cooperation, stating that his tenure in the district would remain a memorable and enriching experience.

ADC Handwara reviews flood preparedness, issues directions for Disaster Management

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

HANDWARA: In view of the prevailing inclement weather conditions and the likelihood of heavy rainfall leading to floods, the Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi today chaired a meeting to review flood preparedness and disaster management measures across the sub-division. During the meeting, the ADC issued important directions to ensure prompt and effective response to any emergency situation. All field functionaries were directed to remain on high alert, particularly in flood-prone areas, and to maintain close coordination with concerned departments. Tehsildars and Block Development



Officers (BDOs) were instructed to ensure the readiness of emergency response teams and to keep essential resources, including rescue equipment, food supplies, available. They were also directed to identify vulnerable locations and take preventive measures to minimize risks. The ADC emphasized the impor-

tance of timely communication, public awareness, and swift action in mitigating the impact of any potential flood situation. He urged all officers to remain vigilant and responsive to safeguard lives and property. The meeting was attended by Tehsildars, BDOs and other concerned officials.

Kendriya Vidyalaya Barakpora reopens

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SRINAGAR: On the strong demand of local residents and former students, Kendriya Vidyalaya Barakpora, Anantnag has reopened this year, bringing great joy and excitement to the entire community. As the news of reopening spread, a wave of happiness was seen among parents and alumni who had been eagerly waiting for this moment. The school is now inviting fresh admissions for the academic session 2026-27, from Balvatika-III (UKG) to Class 8th. With a focus on quality education, a disciplined environment, and the use of modern



technology for the overall development of children, the school warmly welcomes all parents to enroll their wards at the earliest. Admissions are current-

ly open, and the last date to apply is 8 April 2026. Don't miss this valuable opportunity to be a part of a trusted and reputed institution.

Director SEK conducts surprise visits across several Schools in Srinagar

SRINAGAR: Director of School Education Kashmir (SEK), Naseer Ahmad Wani, today conducted a series of early morning surprise inspections across several schools in Srinagar within the first half hour of their opening, with a focus on ensuring punctuality, discipline, and institutional accountability. During the visits, the Director SEK, closely monitored the attendance of teaching staff and assessed the overall functioning of schools during the crucial opening period. He visited Government Middle School Aloochoi Bagh at around, where he personally verified staff attendance and later joined.

NC welcomes magisterial probe into Ganderbal killing

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The National Conference Friday welcomed the decision of LG Jammu and Kashmir to order a magisterial inquiry into the killing of a local resident in an encounter at Arhama, Ganderbal. In a statement issued from party headquarters Nawa-e-Subha, party's State Spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar commends the prompt action taken by LG Manoj Sinha ordering a time bound inquiry following concerns raised by Hon'ble CM Omar Abdullah and the family of the deceased, who have disputed the militant label and sought a thorough investigation. Imran said, "We welcome this magisterial probe as a positive and necessary step towards establishing the facts and delivering justice. The inquiry must be time-bound, impartial and its findings made public at the earliest." The National Conference reiterates its commitment to upholding the rule of law and protecting the rights and dignity of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Land Grants Bill a game-changer for J&K, PDP's opposition exposes its double speak: Showkat Mir

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial President, Kashmir, Showkat Ahmad Mir Friday said the Land Grants Bill marks a decisive shift toward justice, economic security, and protection of local rights in Jammu and Kashmir. He asserted that the CM Omar led government is not only undoing the damage

caused by past anti-people decisions but is also laying the foundation for a fair and people-centric governance model. Calling the bill presented by Party's Chief Spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq a "long-overdue corrective step," Mir said its introduction in the Assembly reflects both political will and commitment to restoring dignity and rights of the people. "This is not just legislation, it is course correction," he re-

marked. Addressing a gathering in Shakawari, Baramulla, Mir emphasized that the bill protects lawful occupants, prioritizes locals, and brings back a clear, transparent legal framework rooted in public interest. "For years, people lived under uncertainty. This bill replaces fear with security," he said. Highlighting its wider impact, Mir noted that the issue is not confined to tourist hotspots like Gulmarg but



stretches from Lakhanpur to Kupwara, affecting thou-

sands of families, traders and entrepreneurs. "This legisla-

tion secures livelihoods and restores confidence among those who built their lives on these lands," he added. Taking a dig at opposition parties, Mir accused PDP of indulging in selective outrage and questioned its intent. "By opposing a bill that protects locals, the PDP has once again exposed its political duplicity. The people deserve to know whose interests they are really defending?" he asked. He reiterated that the

NC government will not allow wealth-driven land grabs by outsiders at the cost of local stakeholders. "This bill draws a clear line that J&K's land is for its people," he asserted. Mir also described the provision requiring legislative approval for land allocation to non-locals as a historic safeguard and welcomed the proposal to provide five marlas of land to landless families as a step toward social justice.

DLSA Budgam conducts awareness programme on dowry, allied social evils

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, in collaboration with the Boys Higher Secondary School, Khan Sahib, under its Legal Literacy Club (LLC), organized an awareness programme on the issue of dowry and allied social evils. The programme also incorporated an important session on the rights, protection, welfare, and entitlements of senior citizens, emphasizing the need to ensure dignity, security, and legal protection for the elderly in society. Participants were sensitized to the challenges faced by senior citizens and the legal safeguards available to them under existing laws. The primary objective of the programme was to create awareness among students and par-

ticipants regarding the serious social and legal consequences of the dowry system, while also educating them about the legal mechanisms in place to curb such practices. The initiative further aimed at fostering a sense of responsibility among the youth to stand against social evils and uphold the values of equality, respect, and justice. They emphasized that what was once considered a voluntary exchange of gifts has now transformed into a coercive and exploitative practice, often leading to harassment, cruelty, domestic violence, and even dowry-related deaths. They further underscored the importance of the landmark judgment of the Supreme Court in State of Uttar Pradesh vs. Ajmal Beg, wherein the Court called for strict enforcement of laws relating to dowry and

stressed the urgent need to spread legal awareness to effectively combat such social evils. In addition, the speakers highlighted the legal rights of senior citizens, stressing the duty of society and family members to ensure their well-being and protection. The participants were informed about the legal remedies available to senior citizens in cases of neglect, abuse, or abandonment. Through such awareness programmes, the Legal Literacy Club continues its endeavour to empower young individuals with knowledge of their legal rights and responsibilities. These initiatives play a vital role in shaping socially conscious citizens who can contribute towards the eradication of harmful practices and the promotion of a just and equitable society. The session witnessed enthu-

siastic participation from students and faculty members, who actively engaged with the resource persons through interactive discussions and queries. The programme provided a platform for meaningful dialogue, enabling participants to better understand the social realities and legal implications associated with dowry and the neglect of senior citizens. On the occasion Resource Persons delivered comprehensive and insightful lectures highlighting the multifaceted nature of the dowry system and its adverse impact on society. The resource persons elaborated on the provisions of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, explaining that the Act strictly prohibits the giving, taking, or demanding of dowry and prescribes stringent penalties for those found guilty of such offences. They

emphasized that what was once considered a voluntary exchange of gifts has now transformed into a coercive and exploitative practice, often leading to harassment, cruelty, domestic violence, and even dowry-related deaths. They further underscored the importance of the landmark judgment of the Supreme Court in State of Uttar Pradesh vs. Ajmal Beg, wherein the Court called for strict enforcement of laws relating to dowry and stressed the urgent need to spread legal awareness to effectively combat such social evils. In addition, the speakers highlighted the legal rights of senior citizens, stressing the duty of society and family members to ensure their well-being and protection. The participants were informed about the legal remedies available to senior citizens

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