

DC Indu emphasizes quality education and accountability

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BANDIPORA: In a continued effort to strengthen the quality of education and ensure institutional accountability, the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today conducted a surprise inspection of educational institutions in the Arin area, including Government Middle School Arin and Higher Secondary School Arin. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner undertook a comprehensive review of both academic and administrative functioning. She inspected classrooms, interacted with students during ongoing sessions, and assessed the overall learning environment. Stressing the need for discipline and consistency, she directed the



school authorities to ensure regular attendance of both students and staff, and to maintain a structured and engaging academic atmosphere. The DC also held detailed interactions with faculty members, seeking feedback on curriculum delivery, infrastructure gaps, and other operational requirements.

She assured that genuine concerns would be addressed in a time-bound manner to further enhance the quality of education.

While interacting with students, the Deputy Commissioner motivated them to remain committed to their studies and actively engage in co-curricular activities, underscoring their importance in holistic personality development. She encouraged students to set clear goals and work diligently towards achieving them. On the occasion, the DC emphasized that regular monitoring and surprise inspections will continue to ensure accountability, improve standards, and provide a conducive and inspiring learning environment for students across the district.

DC Shrikant launches plantation drive at BHSS Kupwara

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KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today inaugurated a Plantation Drive at Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Kupwara.

The initiative represents a significant step towards advancing environmental sustainability and fostering ecological consciousness among the student community.

The programme was launched in the presence of the Chief Education Officer Kupwara, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Kupwara, Principal, BHSS Kupwara, members of the teaching faculty, and students, who actively participated in the plantation activity. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the critical importance of tree plantation in preserving ecological balance and mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change. He observed that such initiatives not only contribute to the



creation of a cleaner and greener environment but also inculcate a sense of civic responsibility and environmental stewardship among the younger generation.

The Deputy Commissioner further announced that the plantation drive shall be extended to all education-

al institutions across the district in a phased manner, thereby ensuring broad-based participation of students and staff. He exhorted school authorities to adopt proactive measures for the upkeep of the planted saplings and to institutionalize similar awareness programmes on a regular basis.

Panchayat electoral roll revision-2026: DC Bilal flags off SVEEP IEC vans

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ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner (District Panchayat Election Officer), Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiud Din Bhat today flagged off SVEEP IEC Vans from the DC Office, to create mass awareness on Revision of Panchayat Electoral Roll 2026. Among others, DyDEO, ACD(E-RO), CEO (Nodal Officer SVEEP), DEPO and officials from Election Department, were present on the occasion.

The IEC vans will travel across all the blocks and Panchayat Halqas of the district to disseminate information about the ongoing revision process and educate citizens about the procedures for inclusion, deletion, correction and transposition in the Panchayat Electoral Roll. Speaking on the occasion, the DPEO emphasized the importance of maintaining accurate and updat-



ed electoral rolls for strengthening democracy at grassroot level. He urged eligible residents, particularly new voters who attained the age of 18 years on 01-04-2026, to verify their details for proper inclusion in the updated electoral rolls within the stipulated timeframe.

Notably, to facilitate greater public participation, Special Camp Days have already been notified at designated polling stations on 11, 12, 18,

19, 25 and 26 April, 2026; during which Panchayat Election Booth Officers (PEBOs) will be available to assist citizens in filing claims and objections.

To ensure timely registration, the concerned authorities appealed to all the eligible persons who have attained the age of 18 years or above as on 01-04-2026 to enroll themselves in the Panchayat Electoral Roll during the ongoing exercise.

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Over 30,000 saplings planted across Shopian

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SHOPIAN: In a significant initiative aimed at promoting environmental conservation and sustainable practices, a district-wide plantation drive was successfully conducted across all educational institutions of District Shopian today.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teaching staff, and education functionaries across the district.

The plantation drive was formally inaugurated by the Chief Education Officer (CEO) Shopian, Bashir Ahmad Shah, at Government High School Bohrihallan. The inaugural event was attended by the Dy.CEO Shopian, Headmaster of Government High School Bohrihallan, members of the teaching staff, and a large



number of students, who actively participated in the plantation of saplings within the school premises.

Speaking on the occasion, the CEO highlighted the vital importance of trees in sustaining life and maintaining ecological balance.

He emphasized that trees are indispensable for human

survival and stated that no life is possible without trees. He further urged students to take an active role in environmental protection and to ensure proper care and nurturing of the planted saplings.

Meanwhile, mega plantation drives were simultaneously organized across all 15 clus-

ters and at the zonal level throughout the district. The drives were led by Principals of Government Higher Secondary Schools and Zonal Education Officers, ensuring effective coordination and large scale participation. All 503 Government and Private schools of the district participated in the drive with remarkable enthusiasm. Students, in particular, displayed a high level of commitment and awareness towards environmental preservation, turning the initiative into a vibrant mass movement. As per preliminary estimates, around 32,000 saplings were planted across district Shopian during the drive, marking a substantial contribution towards enhancing green cover and promoting ecological sustainability in the region.

3-day training programme on census operations concludes at Kulgam



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KULGAM: Three-day training programme for officers associated with upcoming census operations concluded today at Kulgam.

The training sessions were conducted in phases on March 30, April 3 and April 6, with the participation of all concerned Charge Officers and officials.

The programme was organized to orient the officers with the procedures, guidelines and responsibilities re-

lated to the smooth conduct of census activities in the district.

During the sessions, officials were briefed in detail about the methodology, data collection procedures and coordination required for effective implementation of census operations.

The Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts and directed all officers to ensure meticulous planning

and preparedness for the smooth and successful conduct of the census in the district.

He urged the officers to carry out their responsibilities with dedication and ensure accurate and timely data collection, which is vital for planning and development. All concerned Charge Officers actively participated in the training programme and assured full cooperation in ensuring the smooth conduct of the census process across the district.

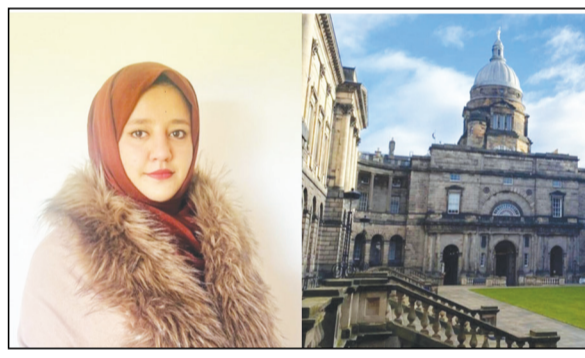
PhD graduate from NIT Srinagar joins University of Edinburgh as Postdoctoral researcher

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JAMMU: In a proud moment for the research community, Dr. Zarak Bhat, a PhD graduate from the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, has joined the University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom, as a Postdoctoral Researcher.

Dr. Zarak is the first PhD scholar from the Nanoelectronics Research and Development Group at NIT Srinagar, completed her doctoral studies under the supervision of Dr. Sheikh Aamir Ahsan in the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering.

She has been inducted into the APRIL AI Hub at the University of Edinburgh, where her research focuses on integrating artificial intelligence-driven methodologies into electron device design workflows. Her work aims to acceler-



ate optimisation processes, enhance performance prediction, and improve productivity in semiconductor innovation.

During her doctoral research, Dr. Zarak worked extensively on power Gallium Nitride (GaN) models. Her contributions, published in leading journals including IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices, played a key role in developing the NITSRI-GaN modeling framework. The research has drawn attention for bridging de-

vice-level physics with circuit-level simulations, particularly for next-generation power electronic systems.

Her appointment marks a major milestone for both the researcher and the institute, reflecting the growing global recognition of advanced semiconductor research being conducted at NIT Srinagar.

Dr. Ahsan, who leads the research group, expressed pride in this achievement, noting that such milestones highlight the group's com-

mitment to high-quality industry-relevant research.

"It is always a rewarding experience to see students grow and take on new challenges at leading global institutions," he said.

Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, congratulated Dr. Ahsan and Dr. Zarak. He termed it as a proud moment for the institute and the Kashmir valley.

"This achievement is a matter of immense pride for our institute and the entire Kashmir valley. Dr. Zarak's selection at a prestigious global institution reflects the high academic standards and research excellence nurtured at NIT Srinagar," he said.

Prof. Kanaujia added that NIT Srinagar is committed to fostering innovation and producing researchers who can contribute meaningfully to cutting-edge fields like semiconductor technology on the global stage.

Training programme on national manuscript survey held at Ganderbal

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GANDERBAL: A one-day workshop-cum-training programme for the 'Gyan Bharatam National Manuscript Survey' was today organized at the Conference Hall of Mini Secretariat, Ganderbal.

The workshop aimed at equipping local coordinators and surveyors with the necessary skills for the forthcoming nationwide survey focused on identification and documentation of ancient manuscripts. The programme was presided over by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Ganderbal, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, and attended by Assistant Commissioner Panchayat and other officers and officials.

Prof. Jehangir Ahmad, Head of the Department of Persian, University of Kashmir served as the expert resource person for the workshop.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADCDC underscored the cultural and historical significance of preserving ancient manuscripts, describing them



as invaluable repositories of heritage and traditional knowledge. He emphasized the need for a thorough and dedicated survey to ensure that no significant manuscript across the district remains undocumented. The workshop featured detailed technical sessions conducted by subject experts, who trained participants on identification of various manuscript types, standardised data collection formats, and methods of digital documentation to ensure accurate archiving.

Prof. Jehangir, the expert resource person delivered an in-depth session on the importance, classification, and

preservation of manuscripts. He also apprised the participants about the survey methodology, documentation protocols, and best practices to be followed during field work. The programme witnessed participation from district officers, field functionaries, surveyors, and representatives from various academic institutions, reflecting a coordinated effort towards safeguarding the district's rich manuscript heritage.

The workshop concluded with an interactive session, where participants raised queries and shared feedback regarding survey implementation and documentation procedures.

Infrastructure improvements on key bridges aimed to strengthen connectivity & public safety: DC Srinagar

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today conducted an on-site inspection of ongoing fencing and allied upgradation works on Gandbal Bridge and Aramwari Bridge to assess the progress and quality of the two projects.

The DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintendent Engineer R&B, Tathier Manzoor, Executive Engineer R&B Dalgate, Fareed Khan, Executive Engineer R&B Rajbagh, Khalid Mehmoed, Tehsildar South, Sajad Rasool Shah, Tehsildar Panthachowk, Muzamil Zaman and other concerned. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a thorough evaluation of the ongoing fencing and allied infrastructure upgradation works on



Gandbal Bridge and Aramwari Bridge and emphasized the importance of structural safety, durability and adherence to approved project timelines. The DC reviewed the status of fencing, approach improvements and other allied works being undertaken to enhance pedestrian safety on both the bridges. He instructed the executing agencies to expedite the remaining works at the earliest strictly adhering to quality standards.

On the occasion, the DC highlighted the significance of these pivotal links for local habitations and stressed that the upgraded infrastructure will improve connectivity, ensure public safety and facilitate smoother movement of the residents in the area. He underscored that the Gandbal Foot Bridge over the River Jhelum, connecting Gandbal Soiteng areas with the National Highway at Batwara and the Aramwari Suspension Foot Bridge, linking Rajbagh localities to the Sonwara area will significantly enhance accessibility and particularly benefit students, patients and residents across these densely populated areas.

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DC Kupwara reviews progress of RKCTC National Highway-701 Project

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today convened a meeting to review the progress of the Rafiabad-Kupwara-Chowkibal-Tangard-Chamkote (RKCTC) National Highway-701 project.

At the outset, OC 109 RCC BEACON apprised the Deputy Commissioner of the latest developments and milestones achieved under the project so far.

The DC underscored the strategic significance of the RKCTC road, noting its pivotal role in enhancing connectivity and catalysing economic growth across Kupwara district.

He directed all concerned departments to maintain seamless inter-departmental coordination and ensure the timely removal of impediments obstructing project execution.

The Deputy Commissioner further instructed the executing agencies to intensify the pace of work and adhere strictly to the stipulated timelines. He directed joint site inspections by all concerned officers to on-the-spot resolution of issues arising during the construction process.

Training programme for census concludes at Anantnag

ANANTNAG: Training Programme for census functionaries- District, Sub-district level officers and Clerical staff, organized by the Directorate of Census Operations, J&K, in two phases of three days each, in collaboration with District Administration, Anantnag, concluded today at Dak Bungalow, Khanabal. The programme was attended by the District Statistics & Evaluation Officer (DSEO), officers from DCO, Tehsildars, and Executive Officers of Municipal Council/Committees, among others.

On the last day, sub-district maps (Tehsils/Towns) were distributed among the Tehsildars and the Executive Officers for verification of villages/towns within their respective jurisdictions. They were advised to carefully examine the maps and identify discrepancies.