

# NIT Srinagar bags two MSME grants at Hackathon 5.0

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has achieved a significant milestone with the selection of two innovative ideas under the Ministry of MSME Innovative Scheme during the prestigious MSME Hackathon 5.0 conducted at the national level.



Serving as the host institute and implementing agency for the MSME Innovative and Design Schemes in Jammu & Kashmir, NIT Srinagar continues to play a key role in promoting innovation-driven entrepreneurship in the region.

Each of the selected projects has been awarded a grant of Rs 15 lakh (75% share from Ministry and 25% incubatee) to support the development and commercialisation of cutting-edge technologies.

Earlier achievements under the MSME Innovative Scheme. Previously, four technologies were selected and supported with grants for incubation.

Notably, three impactful prototypes have already been successfully developed and are progressing towards commercialisation.

These include a Saffron Processing Machine developed by Dr Tariq Ahmad, a Seed Sowing Machine by Er Abdul Naik Qayoum, and a Water Cycle Innovation by Dr Dinesh Kumar Rajendra. All these technologies were developed in-house at NIT Srinagar with financial assistance under the MSME scheme, reflecting the institute's strong innovation ecosystem.

The fifth edition of MSME Hackathon witnessed participation from across the country, with 45 innovative ideas received at the MSME Innovative portal of NIT Srinagar,

competing at the national level. Following a rigorous filtration and evaluation process by NIT experts, followed by an expert panel at the national level, only two promising ideas from Jammu & Kashmir were selected, both supported and incubated at NIT Srinagar as Host Institute.

The first idea, titled "IoT-Based Vermicompost Machine (IDEA-JK032175)", has been proposed by Mohammad Muzamil of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKAUST).

It focuses on developing an IoT-enabled intelligent system for vermicompost preparation using bio-degradable waste. The innovation aims to promote sustainable waste management, strengthen organic farming practices, and enable efficient compost production through smart technology.

The second project, "Utilising Low-Cost Multispectral Drone Imaging for Detection of Corona Discharges, Structural Anomalies, Insulation Defects, and Surface Damage in Power Infrastructure (IDEA-JK033470)", has been proposed by Rutba Majeed

This technology is expected to significantly improve inspection and monitoring of power infrastructure, reduce maintenance costs, and enhance overall safety and reliability. The success of these projects has been widely attributed to the leadership and vision of Dr Saad Parvez, Chairman of the MSME Innovative Scheme, whose efforts have fostered a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the region. Dr Noor Zaman Khan, Incubation In-charge, also played a crucial role in mentoring and guiding the

projects through various stages of development.

In his message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, and Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman congratulated the MSME team, including Dr Saad Parvez, Dr Noor Zaman Khan, and Dr Dinesh Kumar, for their consistent achievements under the MSME Innovative and Design Schemes.

They noted that such initiatives provide an important platform for students and innovators across the region to showcase their ingenuity, transform concepts into viable technologies, and access financial support from the Ministry of MSME.

Dr Mohammad Hanief, Head Department of Mechanical Engineering, and Prof Roohie Naaz, Dean (Research & Consultancy), whose encouragement has further strengthened the innovation ecosystem at NIT Srinagar.

They said consistent success in national-level platforms like MSME Hackathon 5.0, NIT Srinagar, is steadily emerging as a hub of research-driven technological development.

# DC Shahzad for timely completion of projects in Kulgam



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**KULGAM:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today chaired a review meeting at the DC Office Kulgam to assess the progress of various ongoing construction projects across the district.

The meeting was attended by the Superintending Engineer PW(R&B) Circle Kulgam, Executive Engineers of the Mechanical Division, R&B Electric Division, KPDC, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Kulgam/Qazigund, and the District Mineral Officer Kulgam, among other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the DC conducted a comprehensive review of several key infrastructure projects, including Transit Accommodations at Mirhama, Chowgam and Vessu; Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Qaimoh; Government Degree College (GDC) Frisal; Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) Tangmarg; Multipurpose Sports Hall at GDC Kilam; SMD Office D.H. Pora; Tehsil Office Pahlloo; PHC Pahlloo; Solid Waste Management Sites at Kulgam and Yaripora; Material Recovery Facility (MRF)

Kulgam; DDC Quarters, and ADDC Quarter at Lirrow.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the physical and financial progress of each project and sought detailed updates from the concerned executing agencies regarding timelines, bottlenecks and the overall status of execution.

Emphasizing the importance of timely completion of these vital infrastructure projects, the DC directed all executing agencies to expedite the pace of work and strictly adhere to the prescribed timelines.

He instructed officers to closely monitor the progress on the ground and ensure that any issues hindering the execution of works are addressed promptly.

The DC further stressed the need for effective inter-departmental coordination to ensure smooth implementation of projects aimed at strengthening public infrastructure and improving service delivery in the district. He also directed the concerned officers to submit updated progress reports and ensure regular monitoring so that all projects are completed within the stipulated timeframe.

# Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Wani meets several delegations at Raabita

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**SRINAGAR:** Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani today met several delegations and individuals at the Chief Minister's Public Outreach Office, 'Raabita' and listened to the issues and demands raised by them. Delegations from Ganderbal, Pattan, and Budgam called on the Advisor and apprised him of various public concerns and developmental is-

ssues of their respective areas. In addition, several individuals from across the Kashmir valley also met the Advisor Wani to highlight issues related to local development works and other community matters. The Advisor patiently listened to all delegations and individuals, assuring them that their genuine concerns would be examined and forwarded to the concerned departments for appropriate action.

# DC Indu interacts with G&B hostel students

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**BANDIPORA:** Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, visited the Gujjar and Bakarwal Boys Hostel Bandipora and held an engaging interactive session with students of Classes 10th, 11th, and 12th. During the session, the Deputy Commissioner welcomed open questions from students and spoke at length on career pathways, leadership, and ethics, drawing from her own academic and professional journey to inspire young minds to pursue their aspi-



rations with dedication and integrity. She underscored the importance of balancing sports and physical activity with academics for holistic de-

velopment, and stressed the need for regular mental health sessions within the hostel to nurture students' overall well-being. On the occasion, 13 meri-

torious students were felicitated for their outstanding performance in the recently concluded Annual Examinations.

The session was attended by Bashir Ahmad Khan, Warden; Munawar Hussain Lone, Assistant Warden; and Altaf Ahmad Mir, Tutor, who also served as Anchor and Moderator for the proceedings. Students and hostel staff expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner for her visit and for the encouragement and motivation she brought to the young scholars of the hostel.

# Power Shutdown by KPDC

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDC has informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV Arampora-Bandipora will be observed due to which power supply to Douru, Danganpora, Shiva, Mundji, Watlab, Kunusa, Botingoo, Hathlangoo, Tuijar, Harwan and adjoining areas will be affected on 11 April 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Kanipora-Pinjora Line will be observed due to which power supply to Arhama, Town, Bongam, Shopian, Pinjora, Pahnoo, Killora, Imamsahib, Vehil, Nowgam, Reshinagri, Kachdoora and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03:30 PM on 12, 15 & 18 April 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Budgam SIDCO Tapline will be observed due to which power supply to Ompora, Housing Colony, NIPT, SIDCO, Mohanpora, Sheikhpura, and adjoining areas will be affected from 10 AM to 03 PM on 12 April 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 132 kV, 100 MVA GIS Khanar will be observed due to which power supply to Industrial Estate-BAMK, Raja colony, Nowshera, Zaidib, Hawal, Botakadal, BSNL, Gil kadal, athi-Darwaza Rainawari, psychiatric Hospital, PHE, Central jail, Saida Kadal, and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 12 & 13 April 2026.

Meanwhile, Executive Engineer Load Dispatch Centre Division Bemina has informed that the Shutdown of 33 kV Achabal Cherpora tapline will be observed due to which power supply to Achabal, Shangus, Nowgam, Cherpora and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 11 April 2026.

Similarly, shutdown of 33 kV Arampora- Bandipora line will be observed due to which power supply to Douru Danganpora, Shiva, Mundji, Watlab, Kunusa, Botingoo, Hathlangoo, Tuijar, and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 11 April 2026.

Likewise, shutdown of 33 kV Kanipora- Pinjora line will be observed due to which power supply to Aarhama, Town, Bongam, Shopian, Pinjora, Pahnoo, Killora, Imamsahib, Vehil, Nowgam, Reshinagri, Kach doora and adjoining areas will be affected from 09 AM to 03 PM on 12, 15 & 18 April 2026.

# AHD Shopian drives livestock growth

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SHOPIAN:** Animal Husbandry Department (AHD) Shopian has registered notable achievements under various government initiatives, significantly strengthening livestock-based livelihoods and rural economy in the district.

Under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), focused interventions in dairy, poultry, and fodder development have yielded tangible outcomes both in physical and financial terms.

Under Dairy Development, the department established two Satellite Heifer Units, one Milk Value Addition Unit, and five Automatic Milk Collection Units (AMCU) with cost of Rs 104.29 lakh. Similarly, under the Roadmap for Poultry Development, 17 Free Range Units were established with an investment of Rs 17 lakh, providing sustainable livelihood opportunities to beneficiaries.

In the fodder sector, significant progress was achieved under Project 28 with the



establishment of three Silage Making Units, three Hydroponic Units, distribution of four Chaff Cutters, development of 18 fodder demonstration plots, and distribution of 35 seed kits. Under the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme, 44 Dairy Units, three Milking Machines, and two Vermicompost Units were established with a financial achievement of Rs 75.772 lakh, further strengthening dairy infrastructure in the district.

The department also recorded major physical achievements during 2025-26, with milk production reaching 75.633 thousand tons

and egg production touching 5.356 million. In the breeding sector, 34,810 artificial inseminations were carried out and 9,972 births were recorded, indicating steady genetic improvement in livestock. Animal healthcare services were significantly expanded, with 2.29276 lakh doses administered for cattle vaccination, 0.558 lakh doses for poultry vaccination, and 1.77728 lakh doses under deworming programmes, while 67,619 cases were treated across the district.

In addition, 121 awareness camps were organized to educate farmers on scientific livestock management

practices. Under DAJGUA-NLM, the department facilitated the establishment of three poultry units (100 birds each) with a financial support of Rs 0.75 lakh, promoting backyard poultry and supplementary income generation.

Under the NLM Scheme, 442 dairy animals were insured to cover risk due to death. Further, 674 equines were also registered and provided insurance cover for SANJY 2025-26.

To provide, doorstep facilities to farmers, two Mobile Veterinary Units are operational in the district manned by two Paravets and One qualified Vet. The MVUs provide facilities like free medicine including deworming, besides arranging awareness camps across all Panchayats of the district. These achievements reflect the department's sustained efforts in improving productivity, enhancing farmer income, and ensuring sustainable livestock development in Shopian, thereby contributing significantly to the district's rural economy.

# JKEDI Shopian concludes 20-day ESDP batch at GDC Shopian



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SHOPIAN:** Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) Shopian today concluded the second batch of its 20 day Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme (ESDP) under the RAMP initiative at GDC Shopian. The valedictory session was presided over by Principal GDC Shopian, Prof. Tariq Hussain Mir.

Addressing the participants, the Principal commended JKEDI for organizing impactful programmes and stressed the need for sustained initiatives to promote entrepreneurship and self-employment among youth.

On the occasion, JKEDI District Nodal Officer presented a comprehensive overview of the programme. He highlighted its core components, including structured

classroom sessions, field exposure, group activities, business simulations, and interactions with successful entrepreneurs, aimed at enhancing practical skills and fostering an entrepreneurial mindset.

Participants shared positive feedback, expressing satisfaction with the training and acknowledging the value of mentorship and hands on learning experiences gained during the programme.

# Jibran Dar joins Apni Party along with his associates

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** Prominent political activist from Srinagar's Chanapora constituency, Jibran Dar, on Thursday formally joined Apni Party, along with his associates and supporters. Dar and his colleagues joined Apni Party during a special event held at the party headquarters in Srinagar, where the party leadership extended a warm welcome to the new entrants.

Apni Party President Altaf Bukhari, accompanied by senior party leaders, greeted Jibran Dar and his associates and expressed confidence that their inclusion would further strengthen the party at the grassroots level in the Chanapora constituency.

Addressing the gathering, Altaf Bukhari said it was a matter of great satisfaction for the party to welcome committed political activists who are dedicated to public service. "I warmly welcome Jibran Dar Sahib and his associates into the Apni Party. His induction will undoubtedly add

strength to the party's presence at the grassroots level in Chanapora," he said.

Bukhari assured the new members that the party would provide them with ample opportunities to serve the people and work for the development and welfare of their constituency. "Apni Party will remain a reliable platform for dedicated individuals who wish to contribute to the welfare of society and the development of their areas," he added.

On this occasion, addressing a press conference, Altaf Bukhari strongly urged Centre government to confidence-building measures (CBMs), including a meaningful dialogue process with the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the youth, to bridge the existing trust deficit between J&K and the Centre. Bukhari was addressing a press conference at the party headquarters in Srinagar today. On this occasion, the Apni Party President was flanked by his party colleagues. Reiterating his demands,

Apni Party President said, "We are not asking for anything new. The Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Home Minister have already promised to engage in dialogue with the people of Jammu and Kashmir. This is the right time to begin a meaningful dialogue to address the pressing problems faced by the people here. The people of J&K have chosen the path of peace and normalcy; now it is for the Centre to respond by initiating a sincere and meaningful dialogue." He went on to say, "Apni Party was established on March 8, 2020, to ensure that people's issues are addressed and their miseries are brought to an end, especially those that arose after the events of August 5, 2019. On that day, we lost our special status and several other rights. Jammu and Kashmir's statehood should be restored without any further delay. There should be an end to the arrests of youth, and police verification procedures for job seekers and passport applicants should

be eased." "Detainees must also be released. The Supreme Court recently gave us a ray of hope by granting bail to Shabir Ahmad Shah. Similarly, other detainees who have been under trial for years without their cases reaching any conclusion should also be granted bail so that they can live peacefully with their families," said Altaf Bukhari.

Taking a dig at the elected government he said, "In the Assembly elections, the Apni Party did not achieve success, and we accepted the public mandate, as that is how democracy works. "Why are they not addressing the reservation issue? How long will 70 percent of the population receive only 30 percent of the jobs? Reservations should be implemented on the basis of the population ratio, so that every community receives its fair and rightful share," he added.

He further said, "A recent report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has revealed that nearly Rs 7,000 crore of Jammu and

Kashmir's budget remained unspent. This is extremely concerning. On one hand, the government has lost an opportunity to utilize such a significant amount for development, infrastructure, and welfare of the people. On the other hand, this unspent amount will be deducted from the next budget, further affecting future development plans."

Talking about the horticulture sector, Altaf Bukhari said, "Over the past few years, we have repeatedly witnessed hailstorms damaging fruit crops and causing heavy losses to farmers. Unfortunately, instead of providing immediate and hassle-free compensation to the affected growers, the process is often made complicated and even politicised. I demand that in the event of such calamities, government officials should be immediately deployed to assess the losses and ensure timely relief for the affected farmers. Farmers should not have to wait while the process is delayed for political considerations."

# Police conduct 31 community outreach programmes in Baramulla

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

**SRINAGAR:** In a continued effort to foster stronger ties with the community and enhance public trust, J&K Police in Baramulla organised a series of outreach programmes across various parts of the district as part of its community policing initiative.

The programmes were conducted at 31 locations, including Whole Market Baramulla, Gujjar Sangri, Noorbagh, Zamzampora, Sangri Colony, Batpora, Jalsheri, Soni-un, Bilal Colony Malpora, Najar Mohalla, Alambal, Chanderhama, Kongam-dara, Shekoul, Frest-har, Bangdara, Rajpora, Managam, Chandilora, Chekaryandas, Kilwara, Gonipora, Butapathri, Pandoori, Azadpora, Sukad, Churunda, Korali, Noorkhah, Uroosa and Madiyan.

During these interactive sessions, officers engaged directly with local resi-

dents, providing a platform for the public to voice their concerns and suggestions. Key issues raised included water supply, erratic electricity, drainage challenges, road connectivity and macadamisation, verification procedures, cyber-crime awareness, and the growing concern of drug abuse. Police officials also conducted awareness sessions focusing on drug abuse prevention, cyber safety, public security measures, and the importance of timely reporting of incidents through Dial-112. Citizens were reassured that all genuine grievances would be addressed in coordination with the relevant departments.

The initiative saw enthusiastic participation from the public, who lauded the proactive and approachable role of Police in addressing grassroots-level issues and strengthening police-public cooperation.