

First-of-its-kind Advanced School of Antenna 2026 concludes at KU

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SRINAGAR: A first-of-its-kind three-day Advanced School of Antenna (ASA) 2026 concluded at the University of Kashmir (KU). The programme was organised by KU in collaboration with the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, IEEE AP-S/CRFID Delhi Chapter and IEEE AP-S/MTT-S, Kolkata Chapter, on the theme "Antennas in Biomedical and Biotelemetry Devices."

The three-day programme aimed to promote knowledge exchange and advance research at the intersection of antenna engineering and healthcare technologies by bringing together leading experts, researchers, faculty members and students from across the country.

Speaking at the valedictory session, Vice-Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, congratulated the organisers



for bringing the prestigious international programme to the University and highlighted the growing importance of interdisciplinary research in addressing contemporary healthcare and technological challenges.

"ASA 2026 provided an excellent platform for researchers, faculty members and students to engage with leading experts and emerging innovations in antenna technologies and biomedical applications," she said.

Dean, School of Engineering KU, Prof. Mohammad Tariq Bandy, and Incharge Director, NIT Srinagar, Prof. Roohie Naaz, emphasized

the importance of collaborative research and academic partnerships in advancing emerging technologies and fostering innovation-driven learning.

Head, Department of Electronics & Instrumentation Technology, KU, Dr. Farooq Ahmad Khanday, said that the event created valuable opportunities for participants to interact with internationally renowned experts and gain insights into contemporary developments in antenna design and biomedical applications.

Prof. Omar Ramahi, University of Waterloo, Canada, and Prof. Mahesh Abegaonkar,

IIT Delhi and Chairman, IEEE AP-S Delhi Chapter, spoke on the recent advances in antenna technologies and stressed on the need for sustained research efforts to address emerging challenges in biomedical and wireless communication systems.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Organising Secretary Dr. Javaid Ahmad Sheikh, faculty at the Department of Electronics & Instrumentation Technology, KU, outlined the objectives of the programme and highlighted its focus on bridging fundamental research with real-world healthcare applications.

The three-day programme featured keynote lectures, technical sessions and expert discussions on various dimensions of antenna engineering, biomedical devices, biotelemetry systems and emerging wireless technologies.

The proceedings of the valedictory session were conducted by Organising Secretary Dr. Javaid Ahmad Sheikh.

Earlier the inaugural session, held at the Ibn-e-Khaldun Auditorium, was attended by Dean Academic Affairs KU, Prof. Shariefuddin Pirzada; Registrar KU, Prof. Naseer Iqbal; Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar; Prof. Omar Ramahi, University of Waterloo, Canada; Prof. Mahesh Abegaonkar, Chairman, IEEE AP-S Delhi Chapter; Dean, School of Engineering KU, Prof. Mohammad Tariq Bandy; besides heads of departments, faculty members, researchers and students from KU and NIT Srinagar.

DIPR Bids emotional farewell to Information Officer Syed Jeelani Qadri

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SRINAGAR: The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) today accorded a warm and emotional farewell to Information Officer, Syed Jeelani Qadri on his superannuation after rendering dedicated and distinguished service to the department.

A grand farewell function was organized by the DIPR in honour of the retiring officer, which was presided over by Director Information, Shreya Singhal.

Joint Director Information (Hqrs), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari; Deputy Director Information (PR/AV), Javid Ahmad Rather; Deputy Director (PR) Srinagar, Rafiq Ahmad; Deputy Director (Hqr) Kashmir, Zubair Ahmad; other officers and officials of DIPR were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion,



Director Information highlighted the invaluable contributions, commitment, and professionalism of Syed Jeelani throughout his illustrious career. She recalled his sincerity, work ethic and amiable personality that earned him widespread respect across the department.

Addressing the gathering, Joint Director, Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina highlighted Qadri's unwavering dedication and significant role in strengthening the department's communication and public outreach initiatives 24x7. He lauded his exemplary service record and wished him a healthy, hap-

py and fulfilling post-retirement life.

Deputy Director Information (PR/AV), Javid Ahmad Rather in his address described him as a dependable and compassionate professional whose guidance and cooperative spirit inspired many during his tenure.

In his farewell address, Syed Jeelani Qadri expressed heartfelt thanks to the department's leadership and his colleagues for their support, cooperation, and camaraderie over the years. He described his tenure in DIPR as a rewarding journey filled with learning, growth, and cherished memories.

DC Bandipora, MD JKLF review implementation of Vibrant Village Programme-II in Bandipora

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BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib and Managing Director JKLF, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, who has been assigned the charge to oversee the implementation of Vibrant Village Programme-II (VVP-II) in Kanzalwan and Kilshay villages of Bandipora district, on Wednesday reviewed the progress and departmental proposals under the programme, during a meeting held at Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The meeting was attended by district and sectoral officers who presented department-wise progress, action plans and status reports regarding implementation of the programme in border villages of the district.

During the meeting, officers briefed the chair about the implementation of VVP-II in Kanzalwan Nayle, Neeru, Kilshay and Purana Tulail villages falling in Bagtore

and Tulail blocks respectively.

It was informed that 28 villages across two border blocks of Bandipora have been identified under the programme, including four strategically selected villages namely Kanzalwan Nayle, Neeru, Kilshay and Purana Tulail.

The meeting reviewed progress under various thematic areas including all-weather road connectivity under PMGSY-IV, telecom connectivity under Digital Bharat Nidhi, television connectivity under BIND scheme and electrification under RDSS.

During the meeting, the duo directed all concerned departments to ensure time-bound completion of works and timely submission of proposals under the programme.

Managing Director JKLF, emphasized effective implementation of Vibrant Village Programme-II in the identified border vil-

lages and stressed upon timely execution of developmental works under the programme. He directed the concerned departments to ensure saturation of key thematic areas including road connectivity, telecom services, electrification and television connectivity in the identified villages. He also called for improved inter-departmental coordination, proper monitoring and timely submission of village profiles and project proposals to ensure holistic development of the border villages under VVP-II.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of practical, sustainable and community-oriented project planning under the programme. She directed departments to ensure proper convergence, avoid duplication of works and prioritize projects that directly benefit the local population while improving essential services in remote border areas.

DC Srinagar reviews progress of upgradation projects, traffic decongestion measures at SKIMS, Associated Hospitals

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SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at Meeting hall of the DC Office Complex to assess the progress of healthcare infrastructure projects and traffic decongestion measures being executed by multiple departments at Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura and Associated hospitals under Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar.

The meeting was attended by the Administrator Associated Hospitals GMC Srinagar, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Superintending Engineers of various departments, Additional CEO and Chief Engineer of Srinagar Smart City Limited, Medical Superintendent SKIMS Soura, Executive Engineers of R&B, Mechanical and Hospital Divisions, representatives from Police Housing Corporation, KPDC, Water Works Division, District Youth Services & Sports Department, Traffic Police, Revenue Department and other concerned officers.

During the review, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of several key initiatives relating to the



expansion of healthcare infrastructure, implementation of traffic decongestion measures, enhancement of access to SKIMS Soura through road widening, and identification of land for the proposed new OPD block of the institute.

The DC also reviewed progress on projects aimed at improving sports and recreational infrastructure, library and smart classroom facilities, sanitation and civic services, hostel amenities, landscaping, and overall campus development at GMC Srinagar.

Emphasizing the need for coordinated efforts among all stakeholder departments, the Deputy Commissioner directed the executing agencies to ensure the timely completion of all approved proj-

ects. He underscored that the initiatives are important for making healthcare institutions under GMC Srinagar and SKIMS Soura more patient-friendly.

On the occasion, the DC stressed the importance of prioritizing traffic decongestion measures ensuring hassle-free movement of patients, attendants and emergency vehicles within and around the major healthcare facilities. He called for enhanced inter-departmental coordination and regular monitoring to remove bottlenecks and facilitate the swift execution of projects aimed at strengthening healthcare infrastructure and improving public service delivery.

The DC further underscored the need for sustained efforts towards enhancing healthcare and educational infrastructure, stating that these projects will contribute substantially to improving facilities for medical students, healthcare professionals, patients and the general public.

The meeting was informed that administrative approval has been accorded for the development of a badminton court, basketball court, gymnasium, and reading room at the Girls Hostel of GMC Srinagar. In addition, projects for the es-

tablishment of a Reading-cum-IT Room and Indoor Sports Hall at the Nursing Hostel, as well as a jogging walkway, gym and Reading-cum-IT Room at the Boys Hostel, have also been approved. Installation of proper signage across the GMC campus is being undertaken to improve accessibility and navigation.

Progress on the development of lawns at SMHS Hospital and GMC Srinagar, as well as macadamization of internal roads within the College premises was also reviewed. The DC was informed that Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) pertaining to the proposed corridor connecting SMHS Hospital with the Super Specialty Hospital, Shreen Bagh and the establishment of a multi-purpose parking facility have been submitted to the competent authorities for further action.

Reviewing the status of developmental works at SKIMS Soura, the meeting was informed that substantial progress has been achieved in land assessment and demarcation for the proposed Trauma Centre and hostel facilities. Significant headway has also been made in the development of green spaces, a jogging park, an alternative entry gate and the proposed underpass within the SKIMS campus.

DC Kulgam Shahzad reviews progress under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

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KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in the district and directed officials to intensify awareness and outreach activities for greater public participation.

During the meeting, the DC stressed the importance of educating people about the benefits of installing rooftop solar systems under the scheme. He said that the initiative not only promotes the use of renewable energy but also helps households substantially reduce their electricity expenses. The DC encouraged consumers to register under the scheme and avail the government subsidy for rooftop solar installations. He empha-



sized that widespread adoption of solar energy can contribute significantly to sustainable development and energy self-reliance. All field functionaries were instructed to undertake focused awareness campaigns and motivate eligible beneficiaries to take advantage.

Awareness activities intensified across Budgam under NMBA

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BUDGAM: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), a series of awareness, outreach and community engagement programmes were organized across District Budgam to strengthen the fight against drug abuse and promote the vision of a healthy and drug-free society.

The Excise Department conducted awareness and outreach activities in the villages of Kanihama and Mazhama in Tehsil Magam. During the programme, local residents and farmers were sensitized about the harmful effects of drug abuse, the importance of staying away from illicit

activities, and the need for collective community participation in eliminating the drug menace. Posters carrying anti-drug messages were displayed and distributed among the public to further spread awareness.

In the education sector, Environmental Week activities commenced at Government Degree College Khansahib under the banner of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan. The initiative seeks to promote environmental consciousness alongside the message of healthy living and a drug-free lifestyle among students and the wider community.

The School Education Department also organized awareness activities under NMBA in Zone Zanigam,

focusing on educating students and community members about the adverse consequences of substance abuse and encouraging them to become ambassadors of a drug-free society.

As part of the campaign, Doodganga Range of Pir Panjal Forest Division organized an awareness programme at High School Wassamarg. Students were sensitized about the social, health and economic impacts of drug addiction and motivated to contribute towards building a responsible and drug-free community.

In another initiative under the theme "Ek Ped Nashe Ke Virudh", a plantation drive was conducted at Government Primary School

Wassamarg in collaboration with the school. The programme combined environmental conservation with the anti-drug message, highlighting the role of youth and communities in fostering a healthier and greener future.

The programmes witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, officials and local residents, reflecting growing public support for the objectives of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

The district administration budgam reiterates their commitment towards sustainable awareness efforts and strengthening community engagement in the collective fight against drug abuse.

DC Shahzad reviews functioning of MC Kulgam

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam today chaired a review meeting to assess the functioning of Municipal Council (MC) Kulgam and discussed various measures aimed at improving urban services, sanitation and infrastructure development.

During the meeting, a detailed review was held regarding the operationalization of parks and newly constructed shops under Municipal Council Kulgam. The DC emphasized the need for timely utilization of these assets to ensure public benefit and enhance revenue generation.

The meeting also discussed engagement of manpower for maintaining cleanliness across the town and reviewed the operationalization of the Trammel machine for efficient waste management. Directions were issued to strengthen sanitation measures and ensure effective solid waste.

National conference on technological integrations in agriculture begins at SKUAST-K

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SRINAGAR: A three-day national conference on "Technological Integrations in Agriculture, Veterinary and Ecological Sciences for Viksit Bharat (TIC-2026)" today commenced at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, Shalimar campus.

The conference, organised in association with the Society for Integrated Development of Agriculture, Veterinary and Ecological Sciences (SIDAVES), aims to serve as a national platform for deliberations on emerging challenges and opportunities in agriculture, horticulture, livestock, fisheries, veterinary

sciences, and ecological sustainability.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, who was the chief guest at the inaugural session, emphasised that technological integration is crucial for transforming India's agricultural landscape and achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. He described the conference theme as both timely and highly relevant in the current agricultural and ecological context, noting that SKUAST-K has long served as a hub for interdisciplinary research and technological innovation in agriculture and allied sciences.

Prof. Ganai highlighted the transformative potential



of digital agriculture, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, precision farming, climate-smart technologies, and entrepreneurship in elevating Indian agriculture and realising the vision of Viksit Bharat

2047. He further underscored the need for stronger collaboration among researchers, policymakers, industry stakeholders, and farmers to ensure sustainable agricultural growth and food security.

Director Extension, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, who delivered the inaugural address, outlined the objectives of the conference and its significance in promoting innovation-driven agricultural development

through interdisciplinary collaboration and technological advancement. The inaugural was also attended by Director Education, Prof. Mohammad Altaf Bhat; Registrar, SKUAST-K, Prof. Azmat Alam Khan; and Prof. Jag Paul (JP) Sharma, Founder President of SIDAVES.

The event witnessed participation from eminent scientists, academicians, policymakers, industry representatives, and delegates from leading agricultural institutions and allied organizations across the country, including ICAR institutes, State Agricultural Universities, research organizations, and extension agencies.

Over the course of three

days, experts will participate in eight technical sessions focusing on precision agriculture, nanotechnology, machine learning, genetic resource management, regenerative agriculture, post-harvest technologies, biodiversity conservation, and climate change management.

A special lecture on "Speed Breeding" is scheduled to be delivered by Prof. Vikas K Singh, Director and Lead South Asia at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). These deliberations are expected to generate innovative solutions and policy recommendations to shape future strategies for sustainable agricultural development.

More than 250 delegates from across the country are participating in the conference to present research findings, exchange ideas, and engage in meaningful discussions on contemporary challenges confronting the agricultural sector. A dedicated panel discussion has also been incorporated into the program to formulate actionable recommendations for the benefit of the farming community.

Through its multidisciplinary deliberations and collaborative approach, TIC-2026 aims to contribute significantly to the national mission of building a developed, self-reliant, and sustainable India by 2047.