

Swachhta 50-50 Campaign gains momentum in Bandipora

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA: As part of the ongoing Swachhta 50-50 campaign, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, visited Sonerwani and reviewed the field-level implementation of the campaign, including the baseline survey and cleanliness activities being undertaken with active community participation. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner took an on-the-spot review of the QR code-based baseline survey being conducted by Anganwadi workers and educational institutions under the campaign. She interacted with Anganwadi workers and reviewed the process of collecting household-level information to assess existing waste management practices and support effective plan-



ning and monitoring of the initiative. The DC also personally participated in a cleanliness and waste-removal drive in Sonerwani, along with Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Bandipora Aijaz Ali, Rural Development Department officials, Anganwadi workers, local residents and shopkeepers. She joined

the participants in removing waste from the site and stressed the importance of sustained efforts to prevent open dumping. At Government Middle School Sonerwani, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with local residents, shopkeepers, Anganwadi workers and students and emphasised that cleanliness cannot

be achieved through government efforts alone, calling for active participation of every citizen. The DC highlighted that the Swachhta 50-50 initiative is based on the principle of 50 percent Government and 50 percent public participation, with the objective of bringing behavioural change at the household and community level through source segregation, home composting, scientific waste disposal, responsible use of resources and reduction of single-use plastic. She informed the public that wet waste will not be picked up from households from September 1, 2026, and urged residents to ensure proper segregation and management of wet waste at source, including through home composting. She stressed that citizens must adopt

responsible waste management practices to make the initiative sustainable. The Deputy Commissioner urged citizens to cooperate with the field functionaries undertaking the baseline survey and awareness activities and encouraged households and shopkeepers to adopt proper waste segregation and disposal practices. She stressed that collective responsibility and sustained community participation were essential for making the campaign successful and ensuring a cleaner and healthier Bandipora. District Programme Officer ICDS Bandipora Yaar Ali Khan and Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Aijaz Ali, besides RDD officials, Anganwadi workers, local residents, shopkeepers and students, were present on the occasion.

DC Bandipora leads Plantation, Swachhta 50-50 Drives across Sumbal

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA: On the eve of Independence Day, and as part of the Swachhta 50-50 campaign, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today led plantation drives at Wangipora and Niyabat Shadipora, promoting environmental conservation, cleanliness and community participation. A mega plantation drive was carried out at the playground in Wangipora in collaboration with Government Middle School Wangipora. The drive was attended by Sub-Divisional Magistrate Sumbal Murtaza Ahmad Sheikh, Range Officer Ajas, forest department officials, students, teaching staff and concerned field staff. A similar plantation drive was held at Niyabat Shadipora around the irrigation canal as part of a compensatory plantation drive to com-



pensate for the cutting of trees necessitated by works of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). The programme was attended by the SDM Sumbal and concerned field staff. As part of the Swachhta 50-50 campaign, cleanliness and sanitation activities were also reviewed, with emphasis on maintaining clean public spaces, proper waste management and sustained

community participation. On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of collective efforts towards cleanliness and environmental conservation, particularly at the eve of Independence Day celebrations. It was informed that more plantation drives would be undertaken in the future to further improve the environment and enhance green cover in the area.

150 Years of Vande Mataram: Partition Horrors Remembrance Day observed in Kulgam

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM: District Administration Kulgam, in collaboration with DIPR, NIC, Education and other departments today observed Partition Horrors Remembrance Day in the district. The solemn observance was chaired by the Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, who paid tribute to the countless individuals who endured unimaginable suffering during the Partition of 1947. In his address, the DC called upon citizens to draw strength from that painful chapter of history and to uphold the core values of compassion, unity and brotherhood that form the foundation of our nation and emphasized that

remembering the horrors of Partition is not about reopening old wounds, but about reaffirming our collective commitment to harmony and to ensuring that such divisions never find space in our society again. Additional Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, Vikar Ahmad Giri also addressed the gathering and spoke on the important lessons to be learnt from the Partition Horrors and urged the younger generation to carry forward the message of peace, tolerance and national integration. The event saw active participation from district officers and officials, students, civil society members and citizens from diverse communities. Department of Informa-

tion and Public Relations, Kulgam in association with District Informatics Office, Kulgam curated a moving photo and document exhibition depicting the human stories, resilience and sacrifices of 1947. A short film on the Partition was screened to sensitize the audience about the cost of division and the value of unity. A student troupe from the Education Department and artists of DIPR Kulgam presented soulful patriotic songs and cultural performances that filled the venue with the spirit of patriotism. DIPR Kulgam and Municipal Council Kulgam installed dedicated selfie points with tricolor backdrops. Citizens gathered to take selfies, express love

for the nation and mark their participation in the Independence Day celebrations. The collaborative effort by departments ensured wide outreach and meaningful engagement across age groups. In the second session, screening of movie on the Horrors of Partition was witnessed by DC Kulgam, ADC, Kulgam, district officers and officials alongwith good gathering of collage and higher secondary students, faculty members and citizens. The event was also attended by ADDC, Altaf Ahmad Khan, ACR, Reyaz Ahmad Shah, CPO, Malik Suhail, DIO, Showkat Hussain Ganie, CEO, Fayaz Ahmad, CEO MC, LDM, and other district officers.

JKLCMA Vice Chairman reviews conservation, dredging works in Gilsar

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Vice Chairman, J&K Lake Conservation & Management Authority (JKLCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, today conducted a comprehensive field inspection of Gilsar to review the ongoing conservation, restoration and navigational channel cleaning works. He was accompanied by Collector, Executive Engineer, Lake Division Ist /2nd /Mechanical, AEEs and other field staff of the Authority. During the inspection, the Vice Chairman reviewed the progress of dredging and cleaning of navigational channels in both water bodies. He was informed that dredging of two major channels



from Saidapora Bridge towards Firdousa Abad and Sazgaripora have been completed. Work on opening and cleaning the remaining interior channels is currently underway. The Vice Chairman also inspected the Watermaster recently deployed in the area and reviewed its

utilization for cleaning, opening and maintaining navigational channels. The concerned officers briefed the Vice Chairman on the progress achieved so far, the challenges encountered during execution and the measures being taken to ensure timely completion of the remaining works.

The Vice Chairman directed the concerned officers and field staff to ensure that all ongoing works are executed efficiently and within the stipulated timelines. He stressed the importance of regular field monitoring, optimum utilization of available machinery and close coordination among the field teams to restore navigational connectivity and improve water circulation in Khushalsar and Gilsar. He further emphasized that all conservation and restoration interventions must be carried out with due care to safeguard the ecological health of the water bodies while ensuring improved navigation, water flow and overall functionality of the inter-connected water bodies.

Tiranga rides high at LOC: Grand Motorcycle Rally held from Kaman Post Aman Setu



EARTH NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA: The spirit of patriotism resonated along the Line of Control as a vibrant Tiranga Motorcycle Rally commenced today from LOC Kaman Post, Aman Setu, as part of the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga campaign and celebrations of the 80th Independence Day. The rally was led by SDM

Uri, Prince Kumar, along with SDPO Uri, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers, officials and citizens. Participants rode motorcycles proudly carrying the Tricolour, creating a spectacular display of national pride and patriotic fervour. The rally aimed to inspire greater public participation in the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign and reinforce the

message of unity, patriotism and national pride. The sight of the Tricolour fluttering at the LOC added a distinctive and inspiring dimension to the Independence Day celebrations. The enthusiastic participation of citizens and officials reflected the collective spirit of Uri and their shared commitment to celebrating the nation's 80th Independence Day with pride, unity and patriotic fervour.

SKUAST-K, NIFT Srinagar sign MoU to strengthen Collaborative Research, Innovation and Academic Exchange

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) and the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Srinagar, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen collaborative research, innovation, product development and academic exchange, with a special focus on adding value to Jammu and Kashmir's rich fibre resources. The agreement was signed at SKUAST-K, Shalimar, in the presence of Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, and Prof. Monica Gupta, Director, NIFT Srinagar, along with senior university officials, faculty members and representatives of both institutions. The collaboration seeks to combine the scien-

tific and technical expertise of SKUAST-K with NIFT Srinagar's strengths in design, fashion technology, product development, and market-oriented innovation to develop value-added, commercially viable products. A key outcome of the partnership will be the formulation of a collaborative research program on the value addition of J&K's fiber resources including wool, pashmina and silk, with a focus on the fiber-to-fabric value chain. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai said the partnership should translate institutional expertise into tangible outcomes for local resources and communities. He directed the relevant faculty and officers to develop a focused, collaborative research program to improve value realization from the region's fiber resources.

The Vice Chancellor emphasized that such institutional partnerships should go beyond conventional academic collaboration to yield new technologies, innovative products, livelihood opportunities, and greater economic value for local stakeholders. Director, NIFT Srinagar, said the collaboration offered significant potential for integrating NIFT Srinagar's expertise in design and product innovation with SKUAST-K's scientific and technical capabilities. She expressed confidence that the partnership would generate meaningful outcomes in value-added products and market-oriented innovation. Dr. Asif Hassan, Head, Division of Livestock Products Technology (LPT), SKUAST-K, outlined the objectives of the MoU and said it would provide a broader framework for joint research

and development, faculty and student exchange, collaborative academic programmes, sharing of research facilities, and joint seminars and workshops. Earlier, Prof. Monica Gupta visited the SKUAST-K Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (SKIE) Centre, where she interacted with Dr. Naveed, CEO, SKIE Centre, and his team. Discussions explored opportunities for joint work to strengthen the innovation ecosystem, promote student-led enterprises, support start-ups, and facilitate the commercialization of technologies and products. The MoU marks a step towards building stronger institutional linkages between science, design, technology and entrepreneurship, with the potential to create new value chains around Jammu and Kashmir's indigenous fibre resources.

SWD Srinagar organizes Vocational Training Programme

SRINAGAR: Social Welfare Department (SWD), through SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, organised a vocational training and entrepreneurship orientation programme at Amar Singh College, Srinagar, with the objective of sensitising and empowering participants regarding opportunities in skill development, entrepreneurship and self-employment. The programme witnessed the participation of resource persons from the District Industries Centre (DIC), Srinagar, and the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Srinagar, who engaged with the participants and provided valuable guidance on various avenues for enterprise development and sustainable livelihoods. During the programme, the resource persons apprised the participants about various Government schemes, programmes and institutional support mechanisms available for promoting entrepreneurship, skill development and self-employment. They provided insights into opportunities for establishing small enterprises, accessing financial and technical assistance, and availing benefits under different government-sponsored initiatives. The session also focused on developing entrepreneurial skills, identifying viable livelihood opportunities and encouraging participants to become self-reliant. The resource persons explained the procedures involved in accessing support from DIC Srinagar and JKEDI and addressed queries raised by the participants, providing practical guidance on the available schemes and assistance mechanisms.

DLSA Budgam observes World Tribal Day, International Youth Day

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam organised an awareness programme in collaboration with Tehsil Legal Services Committee Charar-i-Sharifat at Government High School, Nagbal, Yousmarg, in observance of World Tribal Day and International Youth Day. The programme was attended by the Secretary, DLSA Budgam, Chairperson, Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC), Charar-i-Sharif, officials and staff of DLSA/TLSC, Defense Counsels, Social Activists, respectable persons from the area, Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs), teaching, non-teaching staff and students of the school. Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary, DLSA Budgam, highlighted the importance

of creating awareness among students and young people regarding their legal rights, duties, access to justice and the various legal services available to vulnerable and marginalised sections of society. The significance of World Tribal Day and International Youth Day was also explained, with emphasis on the empowerment of tribal communities and the meaningful participation of youth in nation-building. Meanwhile, awareness was also generated about legal rights as envisaged in the SAMVAD scheme. Aiman Amin, Chairperson TLSC Charar-i-Sharif briefed the audience about their legal rights under the scheme. She further apprised them that the community members shall approach either District Legal Services Authority Budgam or Tehsil Legal

Services Committee Charar-i-Sharif in case they are in need of any legal guidance or advice. She emphasized upon the students to concentrate upon their studies and get themselves engaged in good competitive exams in future and secure their jobs in government as well as private sector through their reservation. Among other speakers, Lateef Ahmad Khan, Chief LADC Budgam and Nazeer Ahmad, Deputy LADC and Reyaz Ahmad Badana also spoke on the occasion and the participants were sensitised about the objectives of the NALSA SAMVAD initiative and the Jagriti Scheme, particularly the role of legal services institutions in spreading legal literacy and ensuring access to justice for all. The students were encouraged to become aware of their rights and responsibilities and to act

as responsible citizens. The programme concluded with an interaction between the students, school staff and the representatives of DLSA/TLSC, during which various issues relating to legal awareness, education, youth empowerment and access to legal aid were discussed. The programme was appreciated by the school administration, which expressed gratitude to DLSA Budgam and TLSC Charar-i-Sharif for organising the awareness programme and for taking legal literacy and awareness initiatives to the students at the grassroots level. At the outset of the programme, Secretary DLSA Budgam along with the Chairperson TLSC Charar-i-Sharif visited the Legal Aid Clinic and conducted the inspection and checked the work culture of the clinic.

DC Srinagar presides over Valedictory Ceremony of Inter-College Patriotic Singing and Painting Competition at GCoE

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: As part of the celebrations marking the 80th Independence Day, a Divisional-Level Competition-cum-Valedictory Function was organised today at Government College of Education (GCoE), M.A. Road, Srinagar, bringing together talented students and participants from Schools, Colleges from across Kashmir Division. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, presided over the valedictory function as the Chief Guest. While Nodal Principal Colleges Kashmir Division, Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Aadil Fareed, IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas, Principals of various City Colleges and large number of students,



participants from different parts of the Kashmir Division and faculty members of GCOE attended the event. Addressing the gathering, the DC congratulated all the participants for their enthusiastic participation and commended the organisers, institutions for creating a meaningful platform to nurture and showcase young talent and creativity with the spirit of patriotism. The DC urged the students to utilise their skills,

knowledge and creativity for the greater good of society, emphasising that the youth have a vital role to play in nation-building. He encouraged them to pursue excellence in their respective fields while remaining committed to social responsibility, discipline and the spirit of patriotism. The DC further called upon the students to use their talent as a means of giving back to society and contributing positively to the nation.