

MLA Kupwara presides over Public Darbar at Kalaroos; listens to public issues

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KUPWARA: In an effort to engage directly with the public and address their concerns, Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Kupwara, Mir Mohammad Fayaz Friday presided over a Public Darbar at Nagsari panchayat of Block Kalaroos. The event provided a platform for local residents to voice their grievances and seek resolutions to pressing issues affecting their daily lives. Several officers and officials from line departments were present at the Public Darbar, besides local delegations and individuals also attended the Darbar. The residents of Kalaroos raised several key issues, including the lack of transport services, insufficient electricity and inadequate water facilities in the area. MLA assured the public that



every effort would be made to address these concerns and improve the living conditions of the people of the area. Addressing the gathering, MLA said that the primary objective of the Public Darbar was to assess the availability of essential services, evaluate ongoing develop-

ment works, and address the concerns of the public. He emphasized that the Government is committed to ensuring the voices of the people are heard and all genuine issues are resolved promptly. He urged officers to prioritize the needs of the public and ensure timely action on all pending matters.

The residents of Kalaroos raised several key issues, including the lack of transport services, insufficient electricity and inadequate water facilities in the area. As part of the event, baby care kits were distributed to the mothers of new born babies under the BBBP scheme.

DLRC meeting; DDC Baramulla stresses on resolving pendencies, improving disbursements

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BARAMULLA: In order to review the achievements under the Annual District Credit Plan (DCP) 2024-25, a meeting of District Level Review Committee (DLRC) for the quarter ending September 2024 was today held under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa at Dak Bungalow, here. The meeting took note of the concerns regarding pending cases, and discussed strategies to enhance disbursements. During the meeting, the DDC expressed concerns over the significant pendency of cases under PMEGP, Vishwakarma scheme, Mission Youth programs, and the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) in different banks. He directed banks to prioritize the clearance of



these cases, and emphasized the need to achieve 100% saturation under these schemes to strengthen the district's socio-economic development. The Lead District Manager, Mushtaq Ahmad Marazi, informed the house that the district had achieved disbursements amounting to Rs.2257.46 Crore under the Annual DCP 2024-25, representing 53% of the target of Rs.4272.53 Crore. Of this, Rs.1284.79 Crore was disbursed under the Priority Sector against the target

of Rs.3567.27 Crore, and Rs.972.67 Crore was disbursed under the Non-Priority Sector against the target of Rs.705.26 Crore. A total of 75,782 beneficiaries have received assistance under various schemes as of September 30, 2024. To address bottlenecks in pending cases, the DDC directed the Chief Planning Officer to convene a special meeting on a bank holiday, involving branch managers with the highest pendencies and concerned beneficiaries.

This initiative aims to identify and resolve bottlenecks in the processing of cases to ensure smoother and faster disbursements. The DDC also urged financial institutions to conduct frequent outreach programs and awareness campaigns, ensuring beneficiaries are well-informed about the available government schemes. He reiterated the need for collaboration between stakeholders to achieve the district's development targets and improve financial inclusion.

Meeting held on traffic management, de-congestion measures held in Shopian

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SHOPIAN: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Mohammad Shahid Saleem Dar today chaired a meeting of officers at Mini Secretariat, Shopian in order to discuss traffic management and de-congestion measures being taken in Shopian town. The meeting aimed to address the growing traffic concerns in the town and deliberate on finding solutions to ease congestion. Some of the major changes for regulating the traffic for promoting easy access to healthcare and market



utilities in the town have been taken by the Municipal Council in coordination with other stakeholders, upon the directions of Deputy Commissioner.

These changes include shifting the Sumo stand, old bus stand to Kanipora area, ban on movement of heavy vehicles during day time, creating at least three parking

spaces in busiest areas of town for facilitating parking and to arrest the roadside parking menace. Shahid emphasized the need for strict implementation of

recent measures to decongest traffic in the town. He directed officers to figure out other necessary steps to ensure smooth traffic flow and minimize congestion. The DC also took a review of sanitation issues of the town and directed for making some new interventions for the convenience of the public including provision of portable toilets. ADDC Shopian, Dr.Nasir Ahmad Lone; ADC, Dr.Zakir Hussain Faaz, DIO and other concerned officers from Traffic, Police, Municipal Council, Motor Vehicles Department attended the meeting.

District Valuation Committee meet held at Kulgam

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KULGAM: To finalise stamp duty/ market value and rate structure of land and property for district Kulgam, a meeting of District Valuation Committee was held today under the chairmanship of District Collector Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan at Mini Secretariat, here. During the meeting, the committee fixed rates, and it was informed that for land and property in the district the value list shall be submitted to



the Divisional Valuation Committee for final approval. The meeting was attended by committee mem-

bers including ADC, ACR, SDM, ACP, GM Industries DPO, Executive Engineer R&B, DFO, EO MC Kulgam and other members.

NTCP, COTPA implementation reviewed at Kupwara

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KUPWARA: A meeting of District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) was held on Friday at Kupwara to review the implementation of National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) and COTPA in the district. On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, the meeting was convened by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, M Rouf Rehman. The meeting threadbare discussed the constitution of the enforcement squad and designated committees for verification of claims regarding Tobacco Free Education Institutions, besides inter departmental coordination mechanism and challenges of implementation of NTCP in the district. Addressing the meeting, the ADC asked the officers to join their heads and hands to ensure proper implementation of provisions of NTCP and COTPA regulations to save the young generation from becoming the victim of tobac-



co products. He enjoined upon the officers to ensure no smoking at hospitals, schools, government offices, food establishments, bus stands, public transport, shopping complexes, saloons, public parks and playgrounds. The officers were directed to ensure that no sale of tobacco products is allowed within 100 yards of educational institutions. The ADC put emphasis on the need for

awareness across blocks, villages and panchayat levels regarding the ill effects of consuming tobacco to eliminate the menace from the region. To ensure prohibition of smoking in minors, it was given out that the sale of tobacco products to a minor will invite a penalty of Rs.10000 on the seller. ASP Handwara, Dy. SP Kupwara, Nodal Officer DTCC, AC Food Safety and other concerned officers and officials attended the meeting.

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DHEW Kulgam organises Awareness programme & Pledge Ceremony at Tangmarg Watoo

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KULGAM: The District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW), Kulgam, today organized an awareness programme and pledge ceremony under the theme 'Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat' (Child Marriage-Free India) in the tribal community of Tangmarg Watoo. The programme aimed to raise awareness about critical issues such as child marriage, child labour, and child abuse among the community. Participants included Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), local tribal women, panchayat representatives, and adolescent girls. During the event, key messages about the negative



consequences of child marriage and the importance of safeguarding children's rights were disseminated. Participants were encouraged to pledge their commitment to creating a child

marriage-free society. As part of the outreach, sanitary napkins were distributed among adolescent tribal girls to promote menstrual hygiene and health awareness.

Power Shutdown

SRINAGAR: According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDC, in order to carry out shifting of 33KV line near BDC building at Gund, the shutdown of 33KV Kangan-Surfraw line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations viz. Gaganger, Sonmarg, Gund, Fraw and Ganiwan shall remain off which will subsequently affect power supply to Surfraw and Gaganger areas from 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM on 03 December, 2024.

Helmets non-negotiable, mandatory for riders, pillion: RTO Kashmir

SRINAGAR: Amidst the ongoing massive enforcement drive to check on underage driving and traffic violators across the valley, the Regional Transport Officer (RTO) of Kashmir has urged those using two wheelers including pillion riders to make helmets a 'non-negotiable' habit.

RTO Kashmir said while highlighting the critical importance of helmet use, pillion rider safety was often-overlooked. In an appeal, the RTO has highlighted the mandatory use of helmets under Section 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, warning that violations could result in penalties under Section 194D of the Act. "Safety is paramount on our roads, and protecting lives begins with adopting responsible driving practices. One critical aspect of road safety is the proper use of helmets, not just for riders but also for pillion passengers," RTO Kashmir said. He said the pillion riders were equally at risk during accidents and were required by law to wear helmets conforming to Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) norms. "Under Section 129 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, it is mandatory for every person driving or riding a two-wheeler to wear a helmet conforming to Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) norms. This rule applies to both the rider and the pillion passenger. Violating this provision can lead to penalties under Section 194D of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, which prescribes fines for non-compliance.

Cyber Police Kashmir cracks Rs 21 Lakh digital fraud case; 3 arrested, Rs 4 Lakh Recovered

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SRINAGAR: The Cyber Police Kashmir today cracked the Rs 21 lakh digital fraud case, arresting three individuals and recovering Rs 4.13 lakh from the accused. Addressing a press conference here, SSP Srinagar said the scam came to light after a senior citizen from Srinagar filed a complaint, reporting that he was defrauded by scammers impersonating officials from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). "The fraudsters accused the victim of being involved in a fabricated money launder-

ing case amounting to Rs 6.8 crores. To intimidate him, they issued fake arrest warrants and penalties, declaring the conversations a "national secret" and instructing the victim to lock his house and avoid any communication with others," the SSP said. "Under this pressure, the victim prematurely closed his fixed deposits and transferred Rs 21 lakh to a fraudulent HDFC Bank account, falsely assured that the funds would be refunded within hours." An FIR was registered under number. 26/2024 and police launched a detailed investigation using advanced technical tools. "Teams were dispatched to Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, and Punjab,

leading to the arrest of Gaurav Kumar from Shamli (UP), Gurpreet Singh from Patiala (Punjab), and Ujjawal Chauhan, also from Patiala," the SSP said. He said during the operation, the police seized 4 mobile phones, a MacBook, 13 SIM cards, 24 debit cards, 20 cheque books, 10 passbooks, and other incriminating materials. An amount of Rs 4.13 lakh has already been released back to the complainant's account. SSP Srinagar said that further investigations are ongoing to uncover other conspirators and dismantle the larger network behind this scam. The police have issued a public advisory urging citizens to exercise caution while sharing



sensitive financial information and warned against falling prey to such schemes. "Legitimate government agencies will never demand payments, conduct investigations over

or request sensitive data online. Citizens are advised to verify the authenticity of such claims and report suspicious activities immediately to the nearest Cyber Police station or helpline," the SSP said.

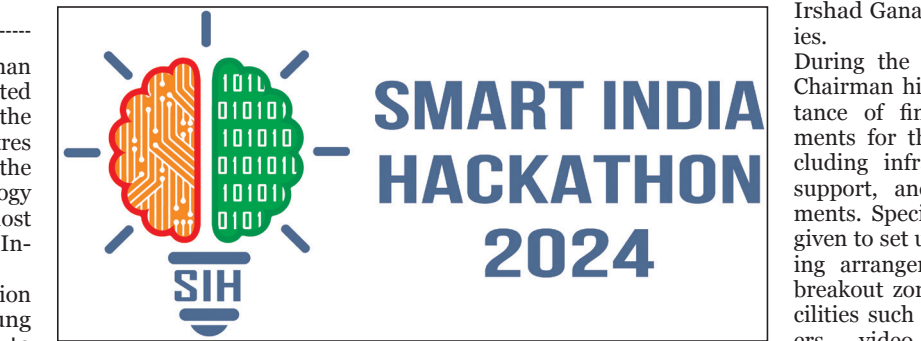
PDP Leader Mohammad Khursheed Alam calls for grassroots unity at Habba Kadal Meeting

SRINAGAR: In a pivotal meeting aimed at reinvigorating party activities, senior PDP leader Mohammad Khursheed Alam chaired a significant gathering of the Kamimaz zone at Habba Kadal. The meeting brought together key party figures and local office bearers to strategize on fortifying the party's grassroots presence and addressing pressing public concerns in the region. Prominent leaders in attendance included Habba Kadal Incharge Arif Laigaro, Abdul Qayoom Bhat, Dr. Ali Mohammad, Mohammad Altaf Bhat, Ishfaq Khan, Lateef Ahmad, and Bilal Ahmad, alongside local office bearers from the constituency. Addressing the gathering, Mohammad Khursheed Alam underscored the importance of unwavering dedication to the party's vision.

AICTE Chairman reviews preparations for SIH 2024 Grand finale at NIT Srinagar

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SRINAGAR: AICTE Chairman Prof. T.G. Sitharam conducted a comprehensive review of the preparations at 51 Nodal Centres in a virtual meeting, including the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, which will host the Grand Finale of the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2024. SIH, India's largest innovation challenge, unites top young minds from across the country to develop solutions for real-world problems. This year marks a significant milestone for NIT Srinagar, which will serve as a key nodal center for the seventh edition of SIH, a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Education.



The preparations at NIT Srinagar are being overseen by its Director, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanujiya. The virtual review meeting hosted by the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell was attended by In-charge Di-

rector Prof. Roohi Naz, Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman, Dean of Students Welfare Prof. Abdul Laman, SPOS- SIH-2024 Dr. H.S. Pali, Chairman Core Committee SIH 2024 Prof. GA Harmain, Deputy Registrar Admin Faisal

Irshad Ganai, and other dignitaries. During the meeting, the AICTE Chairman highlighted the importance of finalizing all arrangements for the Grand Finale, including infrastructure, technical support, and logistical requirements. Specific instructions were given to set up hosting halls, seating arrangements, workstations, breakout zones, and essential facilities such as projectors, speakers, video-conferencing tools, power backup, medical kits, and fire extinguishers. He said the seventh edition of SIH is expected to be larger than ever, with over 55,000 ideas submitted by 49,000 teams from 2,600 higher education institutions. Internal

hackathons held at these institutions shortlisted 149,380 teams, showcasing the growing enthusiasm for innovation among Indian youth. The categories and themes for SIH 2024 align with the Prime Minister's vision of promoting hackathons, innovation challenges, and start-ups as part of building a "New India." Prof. Sitharam highlighted the impact of SIH, noting that over 1,000 winners from previous editions have gone on to establish start-ups or secure roles in government and multinational corporations, reflecting the event's transformative potential. Dr. H.S. Pali, Nodal Officer for SIH-2024 at NIT Srinagar, con-

firmed that the Grand Finale will take place from December 11 to 15, 2024. He highlighted the success of previous editions in fostering innovative thinking among students from higher education institutions across India. In-charge Director Prof. Roohi Naz and Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman assured the AICTE Chairman that all arrangements, including accommodation, IT infrastructure, travel, and food for judges and participants, would be completed on time. Meanwhile SIH Grand Finale will be hosted across 51 nodal centers nationwide, with NIT Srinagar playing a pivotal role in the successful execution of this prestigious event.