

Sakeena Itoo lays e-foundation stone of Teachers Quarters at GHSS Khull, DH Pora Kulgam

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SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today laid the e-foundation stone for the construction of Teachers Quarters at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Khull in DH Pora area of district Kulgam.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said the initiative will go a long way in improving the academic atmosphere by ensuring proper accommodation facilities for teachers. She added that the move will help enhance the overall educational standards in the area,



while also boosting morale of the teaching staff posted in far-flung regions.

"By providing proper accommodation for teachers,

Government is ensuring their presence, stability, and motivation to serve in far-flung areas. This step will directly contribute to raising the standard of education in Khull and nearby regions", the Minister stated.

The Education Minister further emphasized that improving the academic atmosphere in rural schools is a top priority of the Government, highlighting that adequate infrastructure, ranging from school buildings, laboratories and digital learning facilities, to residential quarters for staff, is essential to strengthen the education system.

"Education is the corner-

stone of progress and social transformation. Omar Abdullah led Government is committed to extending quality education to every child, regardless of geography. Initiatives like these will not only improve teaching standards but also encourage talented teachers to willingly serve in rural and far-flung areas," she said.

On the occasion, several locals also interacted with the Education Minister virtually. They expressed gratitude for the project, terming it a long-awaited demand that will ease hardships faced by teachers posted in the area. The locals highlighted that this move of Government will signifi-

cantly help in ensuring regularity of classes and strengthen teacher-student engagement.

While interacting with the locals, Minister Sakeena reiterated that Omar Abdullah led Government is committed towards strengthening educational infrastructure in rural and remote areas, emphasizing that quality education is the foundation of socio-economic development.

Director School Education Kashmir, Director Health Services Kashmir, CEO Kulgam, senior officers of district administration, sectoral officers of various line departments and large number of locals participated in the programme.

5 drug peddlers apprehended in Baramulla & Kulgam

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from society, J&K Police have arrested 05 drug peddlers in Baramulla & Kulgam and recovered contraband substances from their possession.

In Baramulla, a police party of Police Station Tangmarg headed by SHO Police Station Tangmarg, at a checkpoint established at Drung crossing, intercepted 03 suspicious individuals. They have been identified as Altaf Ahmad Hajam son of Mohd Abdullah Hajam, Suhail Ahmad Lone son of Mohd Maqbool Lone and Mudasar Ahmad Lone son of Gh Nabi Lone, all are residents of Waniloo Hajibal. During their search, 20 grams of brown sugar like contraband substance was recovered from their possession. They have been arrested and accordingly, a case FIR No. 67/2025 under relevant sections of law has been registered at Police Station Tangmarg and investigation has been initiated.

In Kulgam, acting on specific inputs, a police party from Police Station Qazigund at a checkpoint established at Sesman Damjan intercepted two suspicious persons. During search, 3.289 kg of poppy straw like contraband was recovered from their possession. They have been identified as Nisar Ahmad Dar, son of Abdul Rehman Dar, resident of Sesman Bonigam, and Anayat Bashir, son of Bashir Ahmad Ganie, resident of Nassu Badragund. They have been arrested and a case FIR No. 175/2025 under relevant sections of law stands registered at Police Station Qazigund, and further investigation has been initiated. We urge the general public that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime in your locality, kindly contact the nearest police establishment or dial 112.

YNC holds meeting in Baramulla

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SRINAGAR: Meeting of the YNC North Zone was held today in Baramulla to discuss key issues and initiatives aimed at strengthening the party's grassroots in the north zone.

The meeting was organized under the leadership of Provincial President YNC Mir Mushtaq and was coordinated by YNC North Zone Zahid Mughal.

The event witnessed the presence of Hon'ble MLA Baramulla Javid Hussain Beigh, Mohd Yaqoob Wani (IC Wagoora/Joint Secretary), Shahid Ali Shah (District President Baramulla), Adv. Nelofer Masood (District President Baramulla WW), Salman Matoo (Vice President YNC), Sheikh Owaise (Secretary YNC),



Bilal Ganie (Joint Secretary YNC), Iqbal Nabi (North Zone VP YNC), and Mehraj Dar, who all shared their invaluable insights, motivating the youth to actively participate in the region's development.

On the occasion MLA Baramulla Javid Hussain Beigh announced an allocation of ₹50 Lakh for the Youth Wing of Baramulla.

The fund will be dedicated to developmental works that focus on empowering the local youth and providing them with the resources to contribute to the betterment of youth. This major announcement was received with enthusiasm and optimism, as it marks a key step in reinforcing youth-led initiatives and encouraging grassroots progress. The youth participants

expressed their eagerness to make meaningful contributions towards the region's development and reiterated their commitment to being active agents of change. The meeting concluded with a renewed spirit of unity and purpose among the youth, who pledged to work together for the collective betterment of the region and its people.

IEC campaigns against drug abuse organised at Bandipora

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BANDIPORA: As part of Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, district administration Bandipora on Monday held a series of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) programmes across different panchayats of the district.

Awareness events were organised at Turkpora, Pazalpora-A and Putushay panchayats, drawing enthusiastic participation from community members. Resource persons highlighted the ill effects of drug abuse on physical and mental health and its social consequences, while also stressing prevention, rehabilitation and enforcement measures.

Speakers urged the youth to remain vigilant, spread awareness within their peer groups, and contribute towards creating a drug-free society. Participants were also informed about helplines, support services and rehabilitation facilities available for those in need.



District administration affirmed that similar campaigns will continue to be organized in coming days to

strengthen community-level awareness and collective action against drug menace in Bandipora.

Div Com Kashmir reviews status of Srinagar Smart City projects

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SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg reviewed the physical & financial status of Srinagar Smart City projects in a meeting held here, today.

Besides, Commissioner SMC Fazul Haseeb, the meeting was attended by Chief Engineers of I&FC, KPDCCL, PWD R&B, SSCL, Joint Commissioner SMC, General Manager Finance, SSCL, General Manager P&UD, SSCL, Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineer Srinagar Smart City Limited and other officers. At the outset, Commissioner SMC gave a detailed powerpoint presentation of the developmental and beautification projects executed by SSCL across City including Jhelum Waterfront Development & Water Transport, Urban Rejuvenation & Lake-

front Development, Heritage Conservation & Downtown Renewal, Central Business District Upgradation, Urban Mobility, Street & Intersection Development, Information Technology, City Beautification & Urban Art, Green & Resilient Srinagar.

It was stated that out of 161 sanctioned projects, 153 projects have been completed while the work on the remaining 8 projects is currently in progress. Addressing the officers, Div Com stated that the aim of Smart City Projects is to improve the public services and emphasized to ensure that all the planned services are delivered on time.

He highlighted that as the time is progressing gradually the deadline for the Smart City Projects is also approaching and stressed on the executing agencies to expedite the works to meet stipulated timelines.

3 RR Extends Drinking Water Assistance to Pushkeri, Vidai Villages in Anantnag

■ SHAHID HASSAN

ANANTNAG: For the past three days, residents of Pushkeri and Vidai villages in Anantnag district had been facing a severe shortage of drinking water, causing major inconvenience to local families. Responding swiftly to the crisis, the Sirhama Company of 3 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) provided timely assistance after receiving an appeal from village Muqdamas.

Locals said the scarcity of potable water had disrupted daily life, forcing many to travel long distances in search of safe drinking water.

On learning about the problem, 3 RR stepped in and arranged water supply to meet the immediate needs of the affected households.

Officials said the assistance was provided as a humanitarian measure while the concerned departments work to restore the regular water supply.

Villagers have expressed their gratitude to the Army for addressing their urgent requirement at short



notice.

Community elders appreciated the Army's prompt response and

urged the authorities to find a permanent solution to recurring water shortages in the region.

GCoe (IASE) Srinagar celebrates 'National Sports Day'

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SRINAGAR: Government College of Education (IASE), M. A. Road, Srinagar marked its National Sports Day with a spirited two-day sports extravaganza, bringing together both students and staff in a series of thrilling competitions.

The event saw enthusiastic participation across multiple sports, showcasing teamwork, athleticism, and camaraderie among all participants.

On the directions of Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz, Principal of the College, the event kicked off with a series of high-energy activities, including classic games like Tug of War, where teams from both staff and students competed fiercely for victory. The excitement continued with fast-paced matches in Table Tennis, where participants demonstrated precision and quick reflexes, while the Volleyball and Badminton tour-

naments added even more action and drama to the festivities.

The sports day not only fostered healthy competition but also emphasized the importance of physical fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

Both students and staff worked together to create a lively and positive atmosphere, building community spirit across the campus.

Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz extended her congratulations and appreciation to the College Sports Committee, and others, for successfully organizing such a well-coordinated and energetic event. She noted that events like these play a key role in holistic development and building a strong college culture.

The two-day event concluded with a grand ceremony where the winners of each sport were recognized and awarded medals.

Police holds medical awareness camps on drug abuse

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SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts to curb the menace of drug abuse, J&K Police, under the Civic Action Programme 2024-25, organized medical awareness camps at Community Health Centre Yaripora and Primary Health Centre Devsar. The initiative was aimed at sensitizing the public about the harmful effects of substance abuse and encouraging a collective response to this

growing challenge.

The camps witnessed enthusiastic participation from medical professionals, police personnel, and local residents. Expert doctors delivered informative sessions on the causes, symptoms, and treatment of drug addiction, while also stressing the need for early intervention and sustained community support.

Speaking on the occasion, DySP DAR Kulgam, along with health profes-

sionals, highlighted preventive measures against drug abuse. They emphasized that awareness, education, and active community engagement are vital to protecting youth and society from the dangers of drugs.

J&K Police reaffirmed its commitment to intensifying awareness campaigns and community outreach programmes, with the goal of fostering a healthier, safer, and drug-free society.

DC Bandipora orders phase-wise action plan on traffic management



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BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib on Monday chaired a meeting of officers to review traffic management in Bandipora town.

On the occasion, DC directed strict enforcement of traffic rules, regulation of peak-hour movement, and coordinated efforts of police, transport, and municipal authorities to ease

congestion.

She instructed that route permits be checked, vehicles must ply only on designated routes, and stock vehicles be allowed during early morning or late evening hours.

DC reiterated that due to innate challenges, traffic management in Bandipora town requires a phased approach, ensuring every initiative gets proper time and space to take effect. She emphasized that such a phased

manner will suit long-term goals and help in removing public inconvenience.

In the first phase, the Nowpora-Gulshan Chowk road will be bifurcated, street vendors choking turning points will be relocated to alternative areas, and no hawkers will be allowed at Gulshan Chowk. DC added that once Phase 1 is implemented successfully, Phase 2 will be rolled out shortly with further interventions.

Director Agri. Kmr emphasizes timely execution & fund utilisation under all HADP projects

SRINAGAR: In order to take stock of the physical and financial achievements under all projects of Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), CAPEX, CSSs and NABARD, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah today convened a meeting of officers of the department at Agriculture Complex Lalmandi, Srinagar.

The meeting in detail discussed the implementation of projects under the HADP, besides centrally sponsored schemes being implemented by the department were also discussed threadbare.

Addressing the meeting, Director highlighted the importance of expeditious and judicious expenditure of funds under different projects of HADP, CAPEX and CSSs. He asked the officers that funds allocated under HADP projects and under different components of centrally sponsored schemes must be expended in a time bound manner.

He reiterated the importance of maintaining the highest level of transparency and accountability during all the expenditures.

He directed the officers to reach out to the farmers and make them aware about HADP and latest farmer friendly technologies in agriculture and allied activities. He also asked them to work in collaboration with the farmer communities for the successful implementation of different projects at grass root level. Earlier through a powerpoint presentation progress under different HADP projects, CSS, CAPEX and NABARD was highlighted. Joint Directors, Chief Agriculture Officers, provincial heads, scheme heads and sectoral officers attended the meeting.

ADC B'pora flags-off farmers for exposure visit to SKUAST-K

BANDIPORA: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl in presence of Chief Horticulture Officer Bandipora, Farooq Ahmad Tantray, today flagged-off a group of 100 progressive farmers for a one-day exposure visit-cum-awareness programme at SKUAST-K Shalimar, Srinagar.

The visit has been organized by the Horticulture department, Bandipora under the CAPEX scheme (Promotion and Information Dissemination) 2025-26.

Farmers were drawn from four horticulture zones of the district viz. Aloosa (25), Bandipora (25), Hajin (25), and Sumbal (25) are scheduled to participate in a training session on Orchard Management and Reduction of Pesticides in Fruit Crops grown in the Kashmir Valley at SKUAST-K Shalimar. Speaking on the occasion, ADC appreciated the efforts of the Horticulture department for facilitating such programmes, which play a key role in capacity building and knowledge dissemination among orchardists.

Dr. Farooq visits Nowhatta, offers condolences with family of Late Irfan Ahmed Koul

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah Monday visited the bereaved family of renowned cricketer Irfan Ahmed Koul at Khoja Bazar, Nowhatta Srinagar to express his sympathies with the bereaved. He was accompanied by the Party's Publicity Secretary Mir G.M. Saqi, along with local unit functionaries.

During the visit, Dr. Farooq offered Fatiha for the departed soul and conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the grief-stricken family, offering words of comfort during this time of sorrow. Earlier, Provincial Vice President and MLA Hazratbal Salman Ali Sagar attended the Namaz-e-Janaza of the deceased and stood in solidarity with the bereaved family in mourning the loss. Among others Party's Chief Spokesperson, MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq also stands united in expressing profound grief over the passing of Irfan Ahmed Koul, who was admired not only for his sporting talent but also for his humility