

# NIT Srinagar team 'Leak Busters' departs for SIH 2024 Grand Finale in Pune

## Institute ready to host 25 teams from 21 states: Chairman of Core Committee

### STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: A six-member team from National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, 'Leak Busters', departed on Saturday for Pune to participate in the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2024 Grand Finale at MIT World University.

Team member Lakshay Gandotra said that they are thrilled to be heading to the Grand Finale of the Smart India Hackathon 2024 (Hardware Edition) at MIT Art, Design & Technology University, Pune, Maharashtra. Over five exciting days, we will tackle a problem statement proposed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under the "Miscellaneous" theme, he added.

Gandotra said their goal is to design and develop a cutting-edge system that monitors the health of earthing systems and provides real-time alerts in case of malfunctions. This innovation aims to enhance safety and ensure the reliability of critical infrastructure, he added.

The other five team members include Palak Sharma, Ayman Makroo, Abhishek Kumar Gupta, Danish Mir and Sanchari Singh.

The 7th edition of SIH, a flagship nationwide initiative, will commence simultaneously on December 11, 2024, at 51 centers, including NIT Srinagar. The



six-member team from NIT Srinagar 'Leak Busters', departing for SIH 2024 finale.

event will be inaugurated by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. NIT Srinagar is among the nodal centers hosting the SIH 2024 Grand Finale, welcoming 25 teams from 21 states between December 9 and 10. Preparations at the Institute are being led by Director Prof. Binod Kumar Kanujiya, with oversight from Prof. Roohi Naz, In-charge Director.

At a recent review meeting chaired by Prof. Naz, she highlighted the importance of meticulous planning for the event's success. "Every detail is being reviewed and checked to ensure the Grand Finale of SIH2024 unfolds smoothly and successfully," she added.

The meeting was attended by Registrar Prof. Atikur Rehman, Dean of Students Welfare Prof. Abdul Liman, SPOS- SIH2024 Dr. H.S. Pali, Chairman Core Committee SIH 2024 Prof.

GA Harmain and other Coordinators of the SIH2024.

Chairman of Core Committee, Prof. G.A. Harmain said that almost all preparations have been finalized and it is an honor for NIT Srinagar to serve as a nodal center for this prestigious initiative.

"This event not only fosters innovation but also brings together the brightest minds nationwide. We aim to provide an environment where ideas can thrive," he said.

SPOC- SIH-2024 also highlighted the institute's readiness, noting the arrival of student teams representing states from across India. Each team comprises talented students selected through rigorous preliminary rounds earlier this year.

"SIH aims to foster a culture of product innovation and problem-solving by challenging students to

address real-world issues. Participants will either tackle problem statements provided by government ministries, departments, or industries or present their ideas in the Student Innovation Category within 17 themes," he said.

For SIH 2024, more than 250 problem statements have been submitted by 54 Ministries, Departments, State Governments, PSUs, and Industries. This year, an impressive 240% increase has been recorded in internal hackathons at the institute level, growing from over 900 in SIH 2023 to over 2247 in SIH 2024, making this the largest edition so far.

More than 86000 teams have participated in SIH 2024 at the institute level and around 49,000 student teams (each consisting of 6 students and 2 mentors) have been recommended by these institutes for the national level round.

SIH grand finale also serves as a ground for open interaction between officials from different Ministries, government departments and students, teachers from educational institutes which is very unique and also very encouraging for the students and teachers.

The challenges identified and addressed cover 17 major areas/themes linked to sectors of national importance and national priorities. These are Healthcare, Supply chain & Logistics, Smart Technologies, Heritage & Culture, Sustainability, Education & Skill Development, Water, Agriculture & Food, Emerging Technologies, and Disaster Management.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr. Parneesh Mahajan, Convenor, Department of Training, B-JP, Jammu & Kashmir, on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the National Conference (NC) government for its controversial decision to restore the water supply to Rohingyas residing illegally in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement issued here today, the senior BJP leader termed the move as a direct affront to the policies and vision of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, emphasizing that the presence of Rohingyas poses a grave threat to the demography and security of Jammu & Kashmir.

"By catering to the illegal settlers, the NC government is

not only working against the aspirations of the people of Jammu region but is also undermining the efforts of the Union Government to ensure the safety, security, and demographic integrity of the region," he stated.

Dr. Parneesh highlighted that the Rohingya settlement issue has long been a matter of concern for citizens and security agencies alike.

"The illegal settlement of Rohingyas has raised red flags in terms of demographic imbalance and potential security threats. Their presence is neither in the interest of the region nor the nation," he added.

"Such actions reflect an appeasement policy that is detrimental to the long-term

stability and peace in Jammu & Kashmir," he remarked.

Calling for immediate action, Dr. Parneesh reiterated the BJP's demand for the deportation of Rohingyas from the Union Territory.

"The NC government must stop pandering to these illegal settlers and focus on safeguarding the interests of the people of Jammu region. They must act swiftly to deport the Rohingyas from the region to avoid further complications," he asserted.

The senior BJP leader reaffirmed Party's commitment to uphold the integrity of Jammu & Kashmir, ensuring the safety of its people, and strictly opposing any attempts to dilute the region's demographic balance.

# NHM employees pin hopes on J&K Govt for resolution of long-pending demands

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The All JK NHM Employees Association, Jammu Division, has expressed optimism about the recently formed Jammu and Kashmir government, led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and his council of ministers. They are hopeful that the government will address their long-pending demands, including the regularization of NHM employees, salary hike and other key issues.

In a statement released to the media, the association reiterated its commitment to engaging constructively with the government. The employees urged the leadership to prioritize resolving the issues that have burdened NHM staff across the Union

Territory for more than two decades.

Highlighting their plight, the association's Chief Spokesperson Jammu Division, Dr. Hamid Parray, emphasized the urgency of regularizing National Health Mission (NHM) employees. He also called for the immediate implementation of the all the employees benefits for the NHM employees of the Jammu and Kashmir, which would ensure fair compensation for their services.

"The time has come for the government to honor the years of dedicated service rendered by NHM employees and provide them with the dignity and stability they deserve," Dr. Parray stated.

The association pointed out that their demands align with principles of justice,

equity, and inclusive growth.

They expressed confidence in the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Health Minister Ms. Sakina Masood Ito, hoping they will take decisive steps to fulfill commitments made to NHM employees.

"The workforce is the backbone of governance and public service delivery. We believe this government has the potential to set a strong example by addressing these long-standing issues," the statement noted.

The NHM Employees Association headed by its President Dr. Vikas Sharma and his dedicated team has assured that advocacy efforts will continue until all legitimate demands are met, paving the way for a brighter, more secure future for NHM employees across Jammu and Kashmir.

# Bukhari opposes proposed GST hike on textiles

## Urges Centre not to approve recommendations

### STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari has expressed concern over the proposed GST hike of up to 28% on textiles. The proposal emerged from a recent meeting of the Group of Ministers (GoM), chaired by Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister, Mr. Samrat Chaudhary. It is slated for consideration during the 55th GST Council meeting, scheduled for December 21.

In his statement, Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said that the massive hike would adversely impact the traditional industries of Kashmiri shawls, crevel, and other traditional tex-

tile items. He said, "The proposed GST hike of up to 28% on textiles, if implemented, would severely impact the livelihoods of poor artisans, particularly those involved in weaving shawls, crevel, and other traditional textiles in the Kashmir Valley. I strongly urge the Union Government not to approve this proposal in the larger interest of the artisan community."

Regarding the proposed GST hike on textiles, Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari, a former Finance Minister of J&K, has received a representation from the Kashmir Chamber of

Commerce and Industry (KCCI), urging him to take up the matter with the central government.

In its representation, the KCCI stated that the GoM has proposed a significant increase in the GST rate on textiles. Items priced between Rs 1,500 and Rs 10,000 would be taxed at 18%, while textiles priced above Rs 10,000 would fall under the highest GST slab of 28%.

This hike would not only impose a financial burden but also deliver a devastating blow to an already fragile economic ecosystem.

The prestigious business organisation said that Kashmir's traditional tex-

tile items provides direct and indirect employment to over 2.5 lakh artisans, with many of them being women and individuals from marginalized communities.

"If the GST rate is increased to 28%, the resultant rise in product price will render these goods unaffordable to a large section of consumers, both domestic and international. This will drastically reduce demand, directly affecting production and sales. The ensuing slowdown in the industry will force many artisans into unemployment, undermining years of effort to promote and sustain the sector," the representation reads.

# Rising DT damage worrying sign: CE KPDCCL

### STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Engineer, Distribution, Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCCL), Er. Aaqib S. Waheed Deva on Sunday expressed serious concern over reports of rising damage to DT substations, due to unauthorised excess load of crude heating gadgets, which is over and above their installed capacity. In a press statement, the Chief Engineer referred to the incidents reported from Bon Dalgam in Electric Division Anantnag and Tulmulla in Electric Division Ganderbal where DT substations were completely damaged after being subjected to unsanctioned

heating load. "We are catering to the challenge of repairing and restoring 50 DTs per day and our Central Workshop at Pampore and Divisional Workshops are working round-the-clock to keep pace and adhere to the stipulated timelines of replacement," she said, while urging consumers to avoid overloading their DTs in peak winters and inviting power outages.

She assured the consumers of reliable power supply as per curtailment schedule if they use power judiciously. "We have COPD patients at home and students preparing for examinations. We hope consumers understand the hardships

people face when DTs are damaged leading to prolonged hours of power cuts," she said.

In the last 04 days alone, as many as 192 DTs were reported damaged with some going up in flames, threatening the property of the nearby residents and damage to costly electronic gadgets at home. KPDCCL also replaced 192 DTs in the same period.

In an attempt to protect DTs from getting damaged, Inspection Squads across all 19 Electric Divisions are carrying out daily morning and night patrolling to prevent attempts by certain consumers to use power beyond their sanctioned load. KPDCCL carried out

884 inspections drives on Saturday alone to prevent power pilferage with O&M Circle Pulwama leading with 242 drives. O&M Circle II Srinagar carried out 160 and O&M Circle Ganderbal 159 drives.

Er. Aaqib Waheed Deva also warned consumers living in metered areas of strict action if they are found bypassing their meters and hooking on bare conductor, in gross violation of the Electricity Act. "Apart from Circle Squads, Central Inspection Squad is also carrying out inspections to catch those consumers who use power unauthorisedly by tampering or bypassing their meters," she added.

# Rana for enhancing basic amenities in tribal areas

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad Rana on Sunday asked officers of Tribal Affairs Department to assess in details the implementation of tribal welfare measures/schemes and their output and come up with concrete plan of action for enhancing basic amenities in tribal areas of J&K.

Javed Rana was chairing a meeting of officers attended by Director Tribal Affairs, Ghulam Rasool, Deputy Director Tribal Affairs and other senior officers of the department.

Minister maintained that the government has taken a slew of measures for progress and welfare of the tribal population and directed the officers to ensure optimum use of resources in implementa-



Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmad chairing a meeting.

tion of the development projects so that their benefits reach to the intended populace.

He directed the officers to review the systemic issues which are hampering the implementation of the welfare schemes and workout solutions for the same.

Stressing that the officers should review periodically the status of various schemes so that the benefits are not denied to the Gujjar and Bakerwal stu-

dents, he added. Minister also sought details about the progress of repair/renovation of hostels and details about the infrastructure.

Regarding the filling of various posts in the department, the minister directed to fill up the vacant posts in a time bound manner.

Javed Rana said that the population of tribals has increased since the last census and there is a need to put in additional

resources towards their welfare.

He reiterated that the main focus of the government is to provide enhanced basic amenities to tribals with emphasis on education, health, skill development, horticulture, agriculture, tourism etc.

Minister also asked the Director to check feasibility of shifting Boys PG Hostel Srinagar to new TRI building at Khimber, Srinagar.

He also advised the Director for having a detailed review of G&B Hostels, examine and put up proposals on above issues including creation of posts in left over G&B Hostels so that the same can be taken up with Government for streamlining of Directorate and G&B Hostels in J&K.

Earlier, Director Tribal Affairs gave a detailed presentation regarding the functioning of the Directorate which included various issues/schemes being administered.

He also gave a brief of the construction of new hostels & repair/renovation works of existing hostels; manpower status, pre-matric & post-matric scholarships being disbursed to ST students.

He also highlighted the issues confronting the department which require immediate interventions and comprehensive review of the same for improving overall functioning of the Directorate.

# DC Kupwara visits JKSSB Examination Centres



DC Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan during visit to examination centers.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan accompanied by SSP Handwara, Mushtaq Ahmad Chowdhury on Sunday inspected various examination centers across the district to monitor the conduct of the OMR-based examination for the post of Constable in the Home Department, conducted by the J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB).

The Deputy Commissioner visited several examination centres including HSS Handwara, GHSS Langate, My New School Drugmulla and Alexandra School

Bumhama where she reviewed the arrangements and interacted with the examination staff and candidates.

She emphasized for maintaining transparency, fairness, and strict adherence to prescribed guidelines.

She appreciated the efforts of the district administration, law enforcement agencies, and examination staff for their coordinated efforts in facilitating a conducive and secure environment for the candidates.

She reiterated the administration's commitment for upholding the integrity and

transparency of the recruitment process.

Meanwhile, ADC Kupwara, Rouf Rehman who is Chief Inspector for JKSSB examination inspected various exam centres including BHSS Drugmulla, BHSS Kupwara, GHSS Kupwara, GDC Women Salkote, GDC Boys Bohipora and several other centres established across the district.

Meanwhile, 41 examination centres were established in district Kupwara where 3299 candidates out of 10296 appeared for the examination.

# Constable Telecommunication examination conducted



DC Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri visiting examination centre.

### STATE TIMES NEWS

BANDIPORA: The Services Selection Board (SSB) examination for the recruitment of constables in the telecommunication wing of

the Police Department was successfully conducted across Bandipora district on Sunday. A total of 1757 appeared for the examination at 20 designated centres

established throughout the district.

Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, along with Additional Deputy Commissioner

(ADC) Zaffar Husson Shawl, conducted visits to several examination centres to assess the arrangements and ensure the smooth and transparent conduct of the examination

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected all arrangements, including security, logistics, and overall management at the examination centres.

He expressed satisfaction with the arrangement made to conduct the examination in the district and appreciated efforts of all involved in maintaining the integrity of the process and to ensure the conducted of examination with the utmost professionalism and transparency.

# JDIK condoles with Abdul Ahad Bhat

### STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Joint Directorate of Information Kashmir (JDIK) today condoled the demise of nephew of Abdul Ahad Bhat-an official of the department.

In his message, Joint Director Information Kashmir, Mohammad Aslam expressed grief over the demise and extended sympathies with the bereaved family and prayed for peace to the

departed soul. Deputy Director Information (PR) Kashmir, Ahsan ul Haq Chesti; Cultural Officer Burhan Hussain and other officers and officials of Information Department Kashmir also offered their deepest condolences with the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage to the family to bear this irreparable loss.

**IN THE COURT OF Pr. DISTRICT JUDGE (COMMERCIAL COURT) JAMMU**  
 Present: Sh. Y.P. Bourney  
 J.O. Code: JK00039  
 File No. 205/2020

CNR NO. JKJM020032662020  
 Date of institution: 26.08.2020  
 Date of Order: 03.12.2024

Canara Bank a banking Company incorporated under the Banking companies (Acquisition and Transfer of undertaking) Act of 1970, Act No. V of 1970 having its Head Office at BANGLORE and one of its Branch at Channi Himmat Jammu, through Branch Manager & Power of Attorney Holder Sh. Naresh Malgotra. ...Plaintiff.

v/s  
 1. Sh. Kranti Raman Sharma S/O Sh. Nand Lal R/O H. No. 367 Julluka Mohalla, Pacca Danga, Jammu.  
 2. Sh. Puneet Kumar S/O Sh. Ram Lal Dubey R/O Ward No. 5, Upper Bazar, Katta. ...Defendants

**In the matter of:** - Civil suit for recovery of Rs. 2,77,203.31

**NOTICE**  
 Whereas the above titled suit for grant of recovery is sub judice before this Court wherein the next date of hearing is fixed on 30.01.2025.  
 Whereas this court is satisfied that Service of defendants named above who are/ its service is not possible by ordinary mode. Therefore through the medium of this proclamation the above named defendants are hereby informed and called up to appear before this Court in person or through duly authorized counsel to answer all material question pertaining to the suit on the next date of hearing if the date fixed for hearing is declared as Public Holiday the matter be taken up on the next day.  
 Take notice that in case the above named defendants (F) FAILS TO APPEAR BEFORE THIS COURT on the next date of hearing the matter will be heard and determined in their absence.  
 Given under my hand and seal of this court today on 03.12.2024

Sd/-  
 (Y.P. Bourney)  
 Pr. DISTRICT JUDGE  
 (COMMERCIAL COURT)  
 JAMMU