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NAGAM CHADOORA, BUDGAM - KASHMIR J&K (PIN CODE: 191113)

# Voter Hwareness Week

#### AT GOVT. POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE BUDGAM

The Voter Awareness Week at Government Polytechnic College Budgam commenced on November 13, 2023, with an impactful opening ceremony. Dr. Shafaquat Ara, the esteemed Principal of the college, delivered an inspiring address to the gathering comprising teaching, non-teaching staff, and students. Dr Shafaquat said, "Our democratic process is not just a right but a responsibility, and as educators, mentors, and learners, it is imperative that we understand the gravity of our role in shaping the future through the simple act of voting. The power to elect our leaders, influence policies, and drive positive change lies within our grasp. Democracy flourishes when its participants are well-informed and actively engaged. Let this week be a catalyst for fostering a culture of responsible citizenship and civic duty." The highlight of the day was a thought-provoking speech by Mr. Waseem Ahmad Bhat, a student from the 3rd Semester Diploma in Civil Engineering. Waseem adeptly elucidated the fundamental rights among students concerning voting, emphasizing the pivotal role that each individual plays in shaping the democratic process. His speech resonated strongly with the audience, fostering a sense of civic responsibility among the students.

The session took an interactive turn as Mr. Umer Mushtaq, the coordinator for the event, provided comprehensive awareness on the online registration process for unregistered voters. He specifically addressed the student group who are yet to be enlisted in the voter list. Mr. Umer guided the attendees through the step-by-step procedure of filling Form-6 online, ensuring that everyone understood the importance of being a registered voter. The emphasis on online registration is particularly significant, given the technological era we live in. The session not only educated the students on the process but also instilled confidence in them to actively participate in the democratic process.

The day concluded with a sense of enthusiasm and responsibility among the students, faculty, and staff. The events planned for the rest of the week promise to be equally engaging and informative, fostering a culture of active citizenship and promoting the significance of every individual's voice in the democratic fabric of our nation. The college community looks forward to the upcoming sessions with the hope of empowering more individuals to exercise their right to vote.









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## Should Voter Education be Compulsory in Schools to Enhance Civic Engagement

November 14, 2023: As part of the ongoing Voter Awareness Week at Government Polytechnic College Budgam, a compelling debate competition took place on November 14, 2023. The event aimed to stimulate thoughtful discussions among the students on a topic of significant relevance - "Should Voter Education be Compulsory in Schools to Enhance Civic Engagement." The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from students. The judging panel comprised esteemed individuals: Ms. Mominah Ajaz and Mr. Arshad Ahmad, In-charge of the Civil and Mechanical Engineering departments and respected Principal Dr. Shafaquat Ara at Government Polytechnic College Budgam. The event was expertly anchored by Mahpara Khan, who ensured smooth proceedings and maintained an engaging atmosphere throughout the debate.

The participants exhibited a commendable grasp of the topic, presenting well-researched arguments and showcasing their oratory skills. The debate not only provided a platform for intellectual exchange but also fostered critical thinking among the participants. The judges, in their evaluation, considered factors such as content, articulation, and the ability to substantiate arguments. After a thorough assessment, the winners were announced, acknowledging their ability to persuasively present their stance on the given topic. The debate competition was not just an academic exercise but a crucial means of instilling a sense of civic responsibility among the students. The topic itself, emphasizing the need for voter education in schools, underscored the importance of nurturing an informed and engaged citizenry from a young age.

Dr Shafaquat said' "It is indeed a pleasure to stand before you after witnessing an invigorating debate on the pivotal topic of whether voter education should be compulsory in schools to enhance civic engagement. The students who participated today have demonstrated not only their eloquence but also a deep understanding of the responsibilities that come with living in a democratic society. I want to commend all the participants for their well-prepared arguments and articulate presentations. Your enthusiasm and dedication to engaging with such a crucial topic are commendable. It's heartening to see the intellectual prowess within our student community". She extended gratitude to the judges for their invaluable time and expertise, and to Mahpara Khan for her proficient anchoring. This debate competition marks a significant milestone in our Voter Awareness Week, reinforcing our commitment to cultivating active and informed citizens within the college community. The success of this event encourages us to continue fostering such platforms for intellectual discourse and civic education in the future.





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## Public Hwareness

#### **VOTER AWARENESS WEEK GPC BUDGAM**

15 Nov 2023: As part of the ongoing Voter Awareness Week at Government Polytechnic College Budgam, a crucial session on public awareness was conducted on November 15, 2023. Mr. Mehraj Din Sofi, the key speaker, took to the premises of GPC Budgam and the nearby locality to emphasize the importance of active participation in the election process and the urgent need for the registration of unregistered voters. Mr. Sofi, with his extensive knowledge and experience, passionately addressed the student groups and the local community, shedding light on the significance of exercising one's democratic right. He specifically emphasized the responsibility of eligible voters in the area.

During his talk, Mr. Sofi highlighted the broader impact of voter participation on the democratic landscape, stressing how each vote contributes to shaping the future of the community and the nation at large. His emphasis on active involvement resonated with the audience, inspiring a sense of civic duty among those in attendance. The call to action centered on the filling of Form-6, targeting unregistered voters who meet the eligibility criteria. This practical advice provided a tangible and immediate step for individuals to partake in the democratic process. The emphasis on voter registration within the student community further instilled a sense of responsibility among the younger demographic. The public awareness underlined the critical role that education institutions play in fostering informed citizenship. The ripple effect of such initiatives extends beyond the college premises, creating a more engaged and participatory local community.

The management and students express their gratitude to Mr. Mehraj Din Sofi for his enlightening session and for encouraging active civic engagement among the attendees. This initiative marks a significant stride in our commitment to building a society where every voice is heard, and every eligible citizen actively contributes to the democratic process. The Voter Awareness Week at GPC Budgam continues to be a beacon for informed and responsible citizenship.







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# Empowering Voices

#### A SKIT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF VOTER AWARENESS

16 Nov 2023 - As the Voter Awareness Week at Government Polytechnic College Budgam continued its stride towards fostering informed and responsible citizenship, November 16, 2023, witnessed a captivating skit performance titled "Empowering Voices: A Skit on the Importance of Voter Awareness." This creative endeavor aimed to engage, educate, and inspire the audience on the significance of active participation in the democratic process.

The skit, a product of collaborative efforts, was expertly guided by Ms. Safeena Neel and Ms. Shaista Beigh, who provided the students with insightful direction and support throughout the creative process. The audience, comprising students, faculty, and non-teaching staff, was treated to a powerful and thought-provoking performance that artfully addressed the nuances of voter awareness. The skit not only highlighted the importance of voting but also underscored the broader impact that individual voices can have on shaping the destiny of a nation. Through the narrative of the skit, the students brought to life the challenges and triumphs associated with voter awareness. The creative portrayal effectively conveyed the message that informed and empowered citizens are the cornerstone of a thriving democracy. The engaging performance did not merely entertain; it left a lasting impression on the audience, fostering a sense of responsibility and a renewed appreciation for the democratic process.

Dr. Safaquat said, on this occasion I am immensely pleased to witness the powerful and impactful skit performance – "Empowering Voices: A Skit on the Importance of Voter Awareness." My heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Safeena Neel, Ms. Shaista Beigh, and all the talented students who brought this thought-provoking piece to life. The skit beautifully encapsulated the essence of our Voter Awareness Week, emphasizing the crucial role each one of us plays in shaping the democratic fabric of our nation. The creative energy and dedication exhibited by our students underscore the potential within our community to be informed, engaged, and responsible citizens. As we applaud this performance, let it be a reminder that our voices matter, and our actions can bring about positive change. The skit eloquently portrayed the power that lies in the hands of an aware and active electorate. The use of drama as a medium for communication proved to be an effective way to convey the urgency and relevance of voter awareness. Thank you once again to everyone involved in making this skit a reality. Let us continue to make the most of this Voter Awareness Week, ensuring that the flame of awareness and engagement continues to burn bright within each of us.





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# Indoor Games Competition

Level up your civic duty: Play your part in the game of democracy!

17 November 2023, As the vibrant journey of the Voter Awareness Week at Government Polytechnic College Budgam continued, November 17 2023, saw a refreshing deviation with an indoor games competition. This recreational interlude provided a delightful blend of physical activity and community engagement, reinforcing the importance of a healthy mind in a healthy body. The event, featuring chess and badminton competitions, was expertly managed by Mr. Mehraj Din Sofi, the dedicated In-charge for the Physical Education and Sports Department at GPC Budgam. Students enthusiastically participated, showcasing not only their strategic prowess in chess but also their agility and sportsmanship on the table tennis. Mr. Sofi's efficient management ensured that the competitions ran smoothly, creating an environment where friendly competition coexisted with the camaraderie of shared leisure. The inclusivity of the event, with participants from various departments, further promoted a sense of unity and collaboration within the college community.

Amidst the strategic moves on the chessboard and the swift rallies on the badminton court, the underlying message of the Voter Awareness Week remained palpable – that community engagement is not confined to discussions and debates alone but extends to shared moments of recreation and celebration.

Dr. Shafaquat Ara, principal Government Polytechnic College Budgam said, "I am delighted to address you after the exhilarating indoor sports competition that unfolded today as part of our ongoing Voter Awareness Week. The chess and table tennis matches not only showcased the incredible talent within our college community but also provided a much-needed break, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie. I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Mehraj Din Sofi, the In-charge of the Physical Education and Sports Department, for his excellent management of the event. His commitment to promoting physical well-being and community engagement is truly commendable. To all the participants, whether you triumphed on the chessboard or showcased your agility on the table tennis court, you have added a dynamic and spirited dimension to our Voter Awareness Week. The energy and enthusiasm displayed today are a testament to the fact that community engagement can take various forms, and recreation is an integral part of a holistic educational experience."







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# Pledge for Civic Responsibility: VOTER AWARENESS WEEK CONCLUDES AT GPC BUDGAM

18 Nov 2023 - As the Voter Awareness Week at Government Polytechnic College Budgam approached its conclusion, on Nov 18, the spirit of civic responsibility reached its pinnacle with a solemn Closing Ceremony that included a Pledge Ceremony. This ceremony served as a poignant reminder of the collective commitment to fostering informed, engaged, and responsible citizens within the college community.

The event commenced with a reflection on the activities throughout the week, highlighting the various initiatives that aimed to instill awareness and encourage active participation in the democratic process. It was heartening to witness the enthusiasm and involvement of students, faculty, and staff in the diverse range of activities conducted throughout the week.

The centerpiece of the Closing Ceremony was the Pledge Ceremony, during which students took a solemn oath. They pledged to abide by the principles of good citizenship and committed to taking an active and responsible part in the democratic procedures of India. The pledge underscored the importance of individual contributions to the larger democratic framework.

This symbolic act not only reinforced the significance of being a responsible citizen but also laid the foundation for a community that recognizes its role in shaping the nation's future. The pledge emphasized values such as integrity, civic duty, and the understanding that every individual's actions contribute to the collective strength of the democracy.

Dr. Shafaquat Ara said, "As we conclude this Voter Awareness Week, let us carry the spirit of the pledge with us. Let it serve as a constant reminder that our responsibilities extend beyond the college gates and into the broader society. Each action we take, each vote we cast, contributes to the vibrant tapestry of our democratic nation. I extend my gratitude to everyone who played a role in making this week a success. Your enthusiasm and commitment have set a positive tone for our college community. Let us continue to be beacons of responsible citizenship, actively participating in the democratic processes that define our great nation."

