

Distribution of solar lights & power banks to Gujar & Bakkarwals at Bhagwah, Doda

Doda : In a heartfelt initiative to illuminate lives and empower underserved communities, the Indian Army at Doda distributed Solar Lights and Power Banks to the Gujar & Bakkarwal families of Bhagwah area under Operation Sadhbhavana and Operation Roshni on 29 May 25.

As part of its unwavering commitment to uplift the quality of life in remote and high altitude regions, the Indian Army extended these vital amenities to the nomadic tribes residing in the harsh and inaccessible terrains of the district. The endeavour sought to ease the burdens of these resilient communities who often brave extreme climatic conditions with limited access to modern infrastructure. This outreach

was not merely about distributing equipment, it symbolized hope and connec-

continuously strived to render essential services and support to remote popula-

munity was a poignant reminder of the profound impact such acts of service



tion. The Gujar & Bakkarwas, along with local media representatives gathered for the event, which highlighted the Indian Army's steadfast dedication to inclusive development.

The Indian Army has

tions. The provision of Solar Lights and Power Banks serves as a beacon of the Army's enduring mission to bring light-both literal and metaphorical into the lives of those in need. The overwhelming gratitude expressed by the com-

can have. With limited infrastructure and scarce amenities, these families now see a brighter path ahead, lit by the spirit of unity and compassion. A total of 70 Gujar & Bakkarwals attended the event.

MLA Vijaypur chairs mega Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan event at Panchayat Palli

SAMBA, MAY 30 : Member Legislative Assembly Vijaypur Chander Prakash Ganga today chaired a mega event held under Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan at Panchayat Palli.

On his arrival, he was warmly welcomed by district heads of line departments and Scientists from SKUAST Jammu. The programme was attended by more than 450 farmers including women farmers, besides officers and officials from the line departments. The MLA inspected exhibition stalls displayed by the Government Departments/KVK Samba, Self Help Groups and some

entrepreneurs.

In his address, the MLA reiterated that the government is committed to support the farmers through numerous Central and UT schemes designed to increase farm income and make agriculture a viable livelihood for the younger generation. He commended the team Samba led by Prof Sanjay Khajuria, District Nodal Officer VKSA 2025 for organizing the grand programme for the benefit of the farming community of Panchayat Palli and adjoining villages.

The MLA urged the farming community to remain in touch with the officers to take the benefits

of the government schemes for increasing their income. He also laid thrust on adoption of organic as well as natural farming so that everyone should get healthy food for the good health.

Earlier, Prof Sanjay Khajuria District Nodal Officer VKSA 2025, in his address encouraged the farmers to engage directly with the agricultural scientists, assuring them of dedicated support to address their queries and challenges. He highlighted the vast potential of agriculture and allied sectors which can be unlocked through technology-driven practices. He further briefed that the 15-day Abhiyan aims to edu-

cate the farmers about modern, region-specific technologies for major Kharif crops, raise awareness about key government schemes and policies, promote use of Soil Health Cards for crop selection and balanced fertiliser application and collect grassroots feedback to guide farmer-centric innovations and agricultural research.

Dr.Neerja Sharma Chief Scientist, Dr Reena Chief Scientist from SKUAST Jammu also spoke on the occasion and interacted with the farmers. The programme ended with vote of thanks by Chief Agricultural Officer Dr. Rakesh Khajuria.

Food Safety administration's top priority: DC Srinagar

SRINAGAR, MAY 30 : Following the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Dr Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, a team of the Food Safety Department conducted intensive market checking to inspect different food outlets in different parts of the City. Food safety team led by Assistant Commissioner, Yameen ul Nabi, accompanied by Food Safety Officers along with team of Mobile Food Testing Van inspected Food Business establishments at Sanat Nagar, Bagh-i-Mehtab, Lal Nagar Chanapora, Housing Colony Chanapora and other markets to assess adherence to food storage

guidelines. During the drive, Food Business Operators (FBOs) were sensitized on the importance of proper storage practices, particularly for high-risk food items such as packaged drinking water, carbonated water, milk, and milk products. Officials emphasized that exposing such items to direct sunlight can compromise their quality and safety of the products. All FBOs were directed to strictly follow food safety regulations, ensuring that high-risk food items are stored in appropriate conditions to prevent contamination and degradation. Non-compliance will attract action under the Food Safety and Standards Act,

reinforcing the department's commitment to consumer welfare and public health. Food Safety Department urged businesses to uphold safe storage practices and assured continued vigilance through routine inspections to prevent violations. Pertinent to mention that Deputy Commissioner Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ul-Din Bhat convened a meeting with key stakeholders from various food industry associations, including the Bakery and Confectionery Association, Hotel and Restaurant Association, Fruit and Vegetable Street Vendors' Association (Batamaloo), and the Butcher Association. During the meeting, DC

emphasized the importance of maintaining the highest food safety and hygiene standards across all sectors. He directed all associations to ensure that food production, particularly bakery items, adheres to strict quality control measures. Highlighting the significance of freshness in food consumption, he urged bakery producers to refrain from preparing items too far in advance and instead focus on producing fresh quantities daily, in alignment with consumer needs. DC reiterated that food safety remains a top priority and urged all stakeholders to cooperate in implementing best practices to safeguard public health.

DYSS Kishtwar flags off district wide Plog Run to launch "Ending Plastic Pollution" campaign

KISHTWAR, MAY 30 : In a significant initiative marking World Environment Day 2025, the Department of Youth Services & Sports Kishtwar today flagged off a massive Plog Run across Zone Kishtwar and Zone Nagseni to kick-off district-wide campaign themed "Ending Plastic Pollution".

The impactful event is being conducted under the direction of Director General Youth Services & Sports J&K Rajinder Singh Tara and in close coordination with the District

Administration Kishtwar led by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan and under the supervision of District Youth Services & Sports Officer, Jaffer Haider Sheikh.

The Plog Run, aimed at raising awareness about hazards of plastic pollution and promoting responsible waste management, saw enthusiastic participation from 600 students, including 350 boys and 250 girls, drawn from Middle Schools, High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools of the twin zones. The stu-

dents actively joined hands to clean their surroundings while running symbolizing a strong commitment to environmental stewardship.

The participants were holding placards amid chanting slogans against plastic pollution. They cleaned roadsides, school vicinities and public spaces, collecting and properly disposing of plastic waste.

The initiative not only highlighted the need for sustainable living and plastic waste reduction but also served as a platform to

inculcate environmental values among the youth.

This Plog Run is a part of a broader campaign that the YSS Department Kishtwar plans to continue throughout the month, involving schools in awareness and action-oriented activities.

The Department of Youth Services & Sports Kishtwar reaffirms its commitment to supporting the Government of India's larger vision of a Plastic-Free India and extended gratitude to all stakeholders who contributed to the success of today's event.

Dr. Shaykh Ghulam Rasool Hami Urges Youth to Celebrate Eid-ul-Adha in Accordance with Prophetic Teachings

Bhat Ashraf Kulgam, May 30 : Renowned Islamic scholar and patron of Karwani Islami International, Dr. Shaykh Ghulam Rasool Hami, has emphasized the importance of celebrating Eid-ul-Adha in the true spirit of Islam as taught by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Addressing a large gathering during the Friday sermon at Markazi Jamia Masjid Kilam in Kulgam district, Dr. Hami called on the public—especially the youth—to observe the festival with devotion, responsibility, and respect for family values. "Eid-ul-Adha is not just about festivities or sacrifice—it is about obedience, compassion, and self-restraint as shown by our beloved

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)," said Dr. Hami. He urged the youth to celebrate the festival in a dignified and proper manner,



and not engage in behavior that could cause distress to their parents or harm themselves or others. "Drive carefully while distributing sacrificial meat, and do not let your actions turn a day

also raised alarm over the growing drug menace in society, describing it as a major threat to the future of the youth. "Drugs have ruined countless young lives. It is our collective

combating drug abuse and promoting moral and spiritual upliftment among the youth. The sermon was attended by hundreds of worshippers from across the area.

DIG Shiv Kumar Sharma Today To paid obsciance Special Abhishek Ceremony At Tirupathi Balaji Temple Jammu

Jammu 30 May : On Friday, a grand Abhishek ceremony of Lord Venkateswara was held at the Tirupati Balaji Temple in Jammu, attracting the presence of several notable dignitaries. Among the chief guests were DIG of Jammu-Kathua Range, Shri Shiv Kumar Sharma, and his wife Radhika Sharma, temple Inspector Sai Krishna, Ramesh Babu And pandit Amit Shukhla who actively participated in the sacred rituals. Also in attendance was BJP State Spokesperson Abhijeet Singh Jasrotia, who joined the devotees in offering prayers.

The temple's activities were overseen by Temple Inspector Sai Krishna, who ensured the smooth conduct of the traditional South Indian-style Abhishek ceremony. The event witnessed the participation of many devotees and guests who gathered to seek blessings

and take part in the spiritual atmosphere. DIG Shiv Kumar Sharma expressed

essence of South Indian tradition was beautifully brought alive in Jammu and

of such events in strengthening communal harmony and spiritual consciousness.



his joy over witnessing such a culturally rich and spiritually uplifting ceremony. He remarked that the

encouraged the local people to participate in this special ritual every Friday. Abhijeet Singh Jasrotia emphasized the importance

The Abhishek ceremony concluded with prayers and offerings, leaving attendees with a sense of peace and divine connection.

Lion Cubs, Kutki and Bhunki displayed on 2nd Anniversary of Jambu Zoo

JAMMU, MAY 30 : The Wildlife Department celebrated the completion of two years of Jambu Zoo with a series of activities held here the other day. The occasion marked a significant milestone in the zoo's journey, with over five lakh footfalls since its opening to the public on May 29, 2023.

Lion Cubs, Kutki and Bhunki, born on 5 March 2025 to their parents brought from Gujarat two years back, were the main attraction of the event. The other attractions included a live snake show and display of live Brandt's Hedgehog, a new discovery for India.

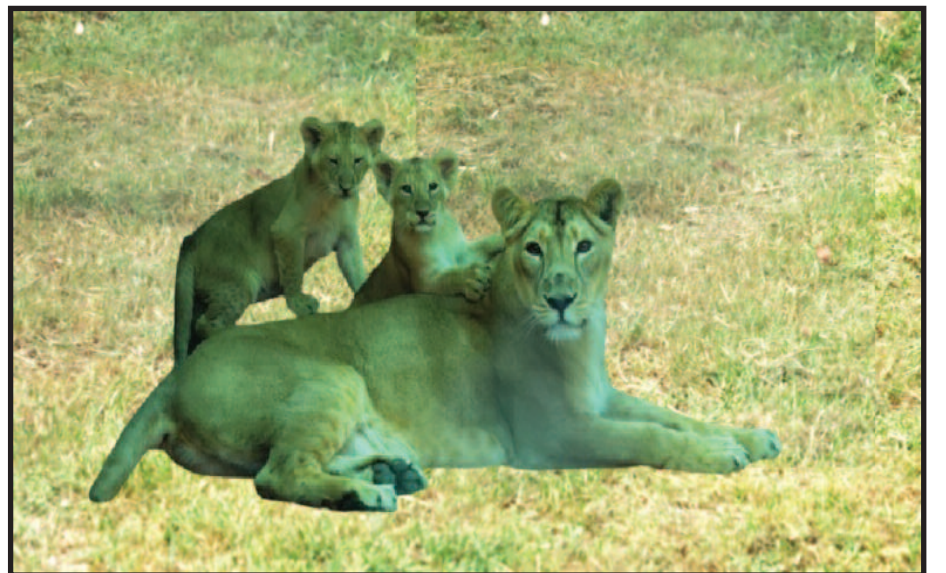
A cultural programme, organized in collaboration with the Culture Department, witnessed a large participation of school students, NGOs, and local artists performing Dogri songs, dance, skits and yoga, on the theme of wildlife conservation. Children enthusiastically participated in the painting competition and the win-

ners were awarded prizes.

Several staff members of the zoo were felicitated for

Himalayan black bear, brown bear, spotted deer, hog deer, barking deer,

wolf and brown bear. Also, the zoo has been successful in breeding several rare ani-



their dedication. Members of the public participating in the zoo adoption programme were also felicitated. Spread over a vast area, the zoo boasts of 21 enclosures housing a variety of species, including lions, tigers, common leopards,

sambhar, black buck, goral, crocodile, gharial, porcupine, wild boar, snake species, emu, pheasants, leopard cat, jungle cat and civet cat.

The zoo has recently introduced new species, including the Indian grey

mal species including lion, civet cat, jungle cat, leopard cat and spotted deer.

Apart from showcasing diverse wildlife, the zoo offers a range of activities for children, including virtual reality, swings, trampoline and boating.

Agriculture Department Jammu celebrates International Day of Potato

JAMMU, MAY 30 : The Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Jammu celebrated the International Day of Potato here today, acknowledging the immense value of this versatile crop that sustains over one billion people globally.

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed May 30 as the International Day of Potato in December 2023, recognizing its significance as a staple food and its critical role in achieving global food security. The 2025 theme, "Shaping History, Nourishing the Future," highlights the potato's contribution to the livelihood

of both producers and consumers worldwide.

In his address, Director Agriculture Jammu Arvinder Singh Reen underscored the potato's pivotal role in the region's agrarian economy.

He commended the tireless efforts of farmers who contributed to the cultivation and innovation in potato farming, particularly in the diverse terrains of Jammu.

Explaining the potato sowing pattern in the region, Director A.S Reen said it is cultivated from April to May in hilly areas, covering approximately 900 hectares, and from September to October in the plains, with nearly 2050

hectares under cultivation. He also highlighted the popular potato varieties cultivated in the region. These include Kufri Sindori, Kufri Badshah, Kufri Pukhraj, Kufri Surya, Chipsona 1 and Khyati in the plains and Kufri Jyoti, Kufri Himalini, Kufri Himsona, Kufri Chandermukhi and the newly introduced Lady Rosetta in hilly areas.

Emphasizing the importance of innovation, the Director Agriculture advocated for the adoption of mechanized technologies such as use of potato transplanters and harvesting equipment to enhance productivity and efficiency. He encouraged farmers to embrace scientific and cli-

mate-resilient practices to meet current and future challenges in agriculture.

The Director Agriculture further highlighted various initiatives launched by the Department to promote sustainable practices and improve farmers' welfare.

"As we observe the International Day of Potato, let us acknowledge the invaluable contribution of our farmers, scientists, entrepreneurs, FPOs, and agriculture officers," said Director Agriculture. "Potato cultivation not only strengthens rural economies but also plays a crucial role in securing a sustainable and nutritious food system for future generations," he added.

World Environment Day-2025 JKPCC hosts Awareness Programme at GGMHSS Samba

SAMBA, MAY 30 : As part of the ongoing 10-day campaign initiated by the J&K Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC) Samba to mark celebration of World Environment Day (WED) 2025, a special Awareness cum Sensitization Programme was organized today at Government Girls Model Higher Secondary School (GGMHSS), Samba.

This year's World Environment Day theme, "Ending Plastic Pollution Globally," was central to the discussions and activities. The programme, held in collaboration with Berger Paints India Ltd., aimed at educating and engaging students on the urgent issue of plastic pollution, encouraging sustainable practices and eco-conscious behavior.

The event was graced by Ghan Sham Singh, Member Secretary, JKPCC; Dr. Bhawna Abrol, Principal of GGMHS School, Samba;

Vinay Sharma, General Manager, Berger Paints India Ltd., Samba; along

of environmental consciousness among youth. Ghan Sham Singh, while

as part of reducing plastic use. The programme culminated with the administra-



with teachers, staff members, and over 100 students. The programme was coordinated by Dimple Sharma and Er. Vasu Nargotra, Field Inspectors, under the supervision of H. S. Galoach, Divisional Officer, JKPCC, Samba South. In her welcome address, Dr. Bhawna Abrol emphasized the importance

appreciating the students' participation, urged them to set examples in their communities and assured full support from JKPCC in their environmental endeavors. Vinay Sharma highlighted Berger Paints' initiatives under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), including the distribution of cloth carry bags

tion of the Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) pledge by Er Vasu Nargotra, reaffirming the commitment of all participants towards promoting sustainable lifestyles. Earlier, 300 cloth bags were distributed among the students, symbolizing a small yet significant step towards plastic-free living.