

Awareness Workshop on 'Plants Around Us' held at GDC Akhnoor

STATE TIMES NEWS
AKHNOOR: The Departments of Botany, Agriculture Technology and Horticulture Technology, Government Degree College, Akhnoor jointly organized an Awareness Workshop on "Plants Around Us" with the objective of creating awareness among students about the ecological and economic importance of locally available plant species.

The programme commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Prof. (Dr.) Romilla Malla Bhat, Principal of the College. Chief Guest O.P. Sharma Vidyarthi IFS (Retd.), and senior staff members. The Principal delivered the Inaugural Address and in her remarks, she appreciated the efforts of the organizing departments for conducting such an event of academic and environmental significance. She emphasized that workshops like these play a vital role in fostering environmental consciousness among students and inspire them to contribute towards biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of plant resources.

The welcome address was presented by Dr. Anju Koul,



A student being given certificate during the programme.

Head, Department of Botany and Convener of the Workshop. She highlighted the aim of the event to sensitize students about the diverse plant wealth surrounding them and its cultural, medicinal, and ecological importance.

A Quiz Competition on Plant Identification was conducted to test the students' knowledge of local flora. The event was coordinated by Prof. Nidhi Jarangal and Prof. Pooja Devi, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across science streams. Sonali Sharma Vth Semester bagged 1st position, Deepali Sharma Vth Semester bagged 2nd position, Rupali Sharma 1st

Semester and Athithi Pandit Vth Semester bagged 3rd position and Komal Sharma Vth bagged consolation prize.

The workshop also featured a showcase of forest-based plant products arranged by the local Forest Range Office, Akhnoor, and an exhibition of herbal beverage innovations by Mr. Vishal Sharma from the Food Craft Institute, Jammu and coordinated by Dr. Sohnika Rani. These displays drew keen interest from participants and provided practical insights into sustainable utilization of plant resources.

The highlight of the event was the Guest Lecture on "Sacred Trees and Sacred

Groves" delivered by Sh. O.P. Sharma Vidyarthi, IFS (Retd.), former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, J&K. In his talk, he emphasized the spiritual, ecological, and cultural significance of sacred groves in India, describing them as living repositories of biodiversity and traditional wisdom. He urged the younger generation to preserve and protect sacred landscapes and native tree species which form an integral part of India's natural heritage.

Following the lecture, Sh. O.P. Sharma Vidyarthi conducted an interactive "Tree Talk" in the college campus, acquainting students with various important plant species such as Amla

(Phyllanthus emblica), Pongamia (Pongamia pinnata), and Jatropha (Jatropha curcas)-a biodiesel-yielding plant. He discussed their ecological and economic relevance, medicinal properties, and role in sustainable green initiatives.

The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Dr. Shahida Ibrahim, who expressed gratitude to the Principal, resource person, faculty members, and students for their active participation and support in making the workshop a success.

The workshop proved to be an enriching experience for the students, enhancing their understanding of the intricate relationship between plants, people, and the environment, and reinforcing the importance of conservation of local flora for ecological balance and human well-being.

Senior staff members Dr. Deepika Gupta, Dr. Monika Malhotra, Dr. Savita Jamwal, Prof. Neeru Dhalla, Dr. Shammii Kumar, Dr. Deepali Mahajan, Dr. Rimjhim Gupta, Prof. Gopal Singh enthusiastically in the whole event Dr. Amit Kumar provided all support in computer work.

Col Mahan Singh flags off Padyatra to mark 150 years of 'Vande Mataram'



DDC Chairman Col Mahan Singh (Retd), flagging off Padyatra.

STATE TIMES NEWS
BASOHLI: To commemorate 150 years of the patriotic song "Vande Mataram," the Basohli administration today organized a grand padyatra from the Rest House of the Public Works Department to the iconic Atal Setu.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from hundreds of people, especially youth, carrying National Flags and chanting patriotic slogans as drums and the resonant strains of Vande Mataram filled the air.

The unity march was flagged off by DDC Chairman Colonel Mahan Singh (Retd), who graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Among those present were MLA Basohli Darshan Kumar, ADC Basohli Pankaj

Bhagotra, CEO BBDA Babu Ram, Principal GDC Basohli Sunil Gupta, SDPO Kuljeet Singh, Tehsildar Sagar Vishwa Karma, CDPO Rakesh Kumar, BDO and EO Municipal Committee Rajesh Kumar, Principal Model Higher Secondary School Brijbhushan, AEE Jal Shakti Yogesh Sharma, along with students, teachers, officers, and locals.

Addressing the gathering at Atal Setu, Col Mahan Singh lauded the participants, particularly the youth, for their strong sense of nationalism.

"The National song Vande Mataram has been an eternal source of inspiration in India's freedom movement and continues to ignite patriotism in every Indian heart," he said.

Remembering Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on the occasion, he highlighted his crucial role in unifying 562 princely states into the Indian Union and shaping the nation's civil services framework. Col Singh urged everyone to follow the ideals of Sardar Patel and contribute positively towards nation-building.

"Let us all work together to fulfill the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in making India a Viksit and Atmanirbhar Bharat by 2047," he said.

Later, the DDC Chairman attended an Atmanirbhar Bharat workshop organized by BJP Mahanpur Mandal led by Narita Manhas and her team of dedicated karyakartas at Raipur Road, Mahanpur.

GDC Bishnah organises awareness program on Energy Conservation



STATE TIMES NEWS
BISHNAH: The Department of Environmental Sciences and Eco-Club of the college, under the patronage of Principal Dr. Shalhu Samyal, organized an Awareness Program on "Conservation of Energy." A lecture was delivered to the students, and the concept was demonstrated through a video providing them with insights into the working of the solar panels installed in the college premises for converting solar energy into electrical energy. Students were also made aware of the

PM Mufti Bilal Yojana.

Later, the students of the Skill Course in Environmental Sciences (Semester III) presented working models on solar panels and windmills, highlighting how these can serve as promising alternative sources of energy in place of coal-based power generation. The entire event was coordinated by the Convener of the Eco-Club, Prof. Sania Hamid, along with the members of the Eco-Club - Prof. Nisha, Dr. Sonika Khajuria, and Dr. Kusum.

Additional Registrar Cooperative Department Jammu visits Sunderbani, reviews functioning of local societies

STATE TIMES NEWS
S U N D E R B A N I : Additional Registrar, Cooperative Department Jammu Division, Bal Krishan, conducted an extensive visit to Sunderbani on Friday to review the functioning of local cooperative institutions and interact with key stakeholders engaged in cooperative activities. The visit aimed to strengthen coordination between the department and grassroots cooperative societies to enhance service delivery to farmers and rural communities.

During the visit, the

Additional Registrar chaired a detailed meeting with Ankush Sharma, Chairman of the Cooperative Marketing Society Sunderbani, along with other office bearers. The discussions focused on pressing issues including fertilizer and seed shortages, inadequate storage facilities, water supply constraints, and the need for improved infrastructure to ensure smooth operations of cooperative societies.

Chairman Ankush Sharma highlighted the hardships faced by farmers due to frequent shortages

of fertilizers, especially during sowing seasons. He also emphasized the lack of adequate storage capacity for agricultural inputs and raised concerns regarding drinking water scarcity within the society premises. He appealed for immediate intervention and greater departmental support to make cooperative bodies more efficient and self-reliant.

Responding to these concerns, Bal Krishan assured that all genuine issues would be addressed on priority. He instructed officials to maintain transparency and accountability

in all cooperative operations and encouraged the adoption of modern management practices and digital record-keeping to enhance efficiency and public trust.

The Additional Registrar reiterated the department's commitment to strengthening the cooperative movement, terming it a vital pillar for rural economic development and agricultural empowerment. He noted that well-functioning cooperative societies can play a key role in boosting agricultural productivity and generating employment opportunities.

Bal Krishan also reviewed the financial status, membership growth, and progress of ongoing schemes under the cooperative sector. He appreciated the efforts of the Sunderbani Cooperative Marketing Society for its dedicated service to the farming community despite multiple challenges.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Chairman Ankush Sharma, who expressed gratitude to the visiting officer for his positive approach and assurance of continued departmental support.

Kishtwar celebrates 150 Years of 'Vande Mataram' with patriotic grandeur

STATE TIMES NEWS
KISHTWAR: The District Administration Kishtwar today organized a grand event to commemorate 150 years of India's iconic National song, "Vande Mataram", a symbol of the country's unity, courage and freedom struggle.

The programme, held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, witnessed enthusiastic participation from district officers, staff, teachers, students and members of civil society.

The national level event was live-streamed along with the address of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who highlighted the historic significance and emotional force of "Vande Mataram" in strengthening India's resolve during the freedom movement.

The celebration commenced with a



flag-hoisting ceremony led by Deputy Commissioner, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, followed by soulful mass recitation of the National Song which infused the gathering with deep patriotic fervor.

Adding artistic splendor to the event, renowned dance artist,

Tavishi Anand presented a cultural performance inspired by the theme of national pride, receiving wide appreciation from the audience.

A short documentary showcasing the legacy and timeless relevance of "Vande Mataram" was screened, reminding sacrifices and struggles

that shaped India's independence.

One of the major highlights of the commemoration was an Art and Craft Exhibition organised by the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom.

The Exhibition featured a wide range of handicraft products that reflected the rich cultural identity of the region.

Further, the Deputy Commissioner and participating officers joined the nationwide initiative of Vande Mataram Selfie Participation, reaffirming collective commitment to national pride and unity.

The event was attended by SSP Nareish Singh; ADDC Vinod Kumar Behnal; ADC Pawan Kumar Kotwal; ACR, Idrees Lone; ACD Musharaf Ali Haf; CPO Akhil Thakur and other government functionaries.

Mankotia inaugurates Historic Agriculture Fair at Sudhmahadev

STATE TIMES NEWS
SUDHMAHADEV: A historic moment was witnessed in the Chenani region today as MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia inaugurated the first-ever Agriculture Fair organized by SUKAST Jammu at Sudhmahadev. This marks the first time in history that such an event has been held in the Chenani area.

A large number of farmers, youth, and women participated in the fair. The event showcased modern agricultural technologies, improved seeds, organic farming methods, and advanced farming equipment.



MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia inaugurating fair.

In his address, MLA Balwant Singh Mankotia emphasized the importance of such fairs in empowering farmers and promoting self-reliance. He urged the farming community to adopt

modern techniques and take full advantage of government schemes aimed at their welfare. SDM Chenani, Ranjeet Kotwal, was present as the special guest on the occasion.

DDC Reasi reviews Banking sector performance at DLRC meeting



STATE TIMES NEWS
REASI: District Development Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik today chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting to review the performance of banks for the quarter ending September 2025. A detailed discussion was held on sector-wise lending, performance

institutions to organize awareness camps at block and panchayat levels to enroll more beneficiaries under PMJJBY and PMSBY schemes. DDC also stressed the need to cover existing customers under these social security schemes and asked banks to sensitize pensioners about the Jeevan Pramaan Face App for hassle-free pension verification.

Reviewing the agro sector cases, the DDC directed concerned departments and banks to ensure timely processing of pending cases and extend maximum benefits to the farming community.

In addition to this department wise progress of various Government schemes was also taken by the DDC. Highlighting the importance of improving banking accessibility in remote areas, the DDC asked J&K Bank to prioritise on opening new branches in aspirational block Thakrakote, thereby strengthening financial inclusion and rural connectivity in the district. The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Narinder Kumar, representatives from RBI, NABARD, LDM Reasi Raman, DSHO, CAO and other concerned officers.

APS celebrates 150 yrs of National Song 'Vande Mataram'

STATE TIMES NEWS
UDHAMPUR: On the commemoration of 150 years of National Song Vande Mataram, Army Public School (APS) Dhar Road organised a series of celebrations in the school. A special assembly was conducted wherein the school students presented the national song together with full zeal & zest.

According to reports students of the APS also



watched Honourable Prime Minister's address on completion of 150 years of National Song.

BGSBU commemorates 150 Years of 'Vande Mataram' with Patriotic fervor

STATE TIMES NEWS
RAJOURI: Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) organized a grand event to commemorate 150 years of the National Song 'Vande Mataram', celebrating the spirit of patriotism, unity, and cultural pride. The event brought together students, faculty, and staff to pay homage to the timeless song that has inspired generations in India's freedom movement and continues to symbolize national unity.

In his message, Vice Chancellor Prof. Jawaid



Iqbal said, "Vande Mataram is not merely a song-it is the heartbeat of our nation's identity. It unites every Indian beyond barriers of region, lan-

Safety First: Mock Drill of fire hydrants held in Kishtwar town

STATE TIMES NEWS
KISHTWAR: On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma, a comprehensive mock drill of fire hydrants was conducted across various locations of Kishtwar town today to assess and strengthen the district's fire emergency response system. The drill was carried out by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, in collaboration with Jal Shakti Department, Red Cross Society and Police officials.

The testing was conducted at strategic points including Hidayat Chowk, Islamia Faridiya School, Kichloo Mohalla and Masjid Abu Hanifa. During the exercise, the operational efficiency of the installed fire hydrants was thoroughly examined and found to be in proper working condition. The coordinated efforts of the Fire and Emergency Services officials ensured proper inspection of all the targeted hydrants around 04:00 PM.

It was further decided that the remaining fire hydrants across the town will be inspected and tested in the next scheduled mock drill to ensure full readiness in case of any fire-related emergencies.

DISCLAIMER
"STATE TIMES" does not take responsibility for the contents of the advertisements (Display/Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own before acting there upon."