

# Akhnoor farmers acquainted with modern fruit cultivation techniques, govt schemes

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JAMMU: The Department of Horticulture Jammu organised a comprehensive Horticulture Awareness and Development Camp at Chak Brahmana, Akhnoor under ATMA/MIDH for promoting modern cultivation techniques and imparting awareness to local farmers about the government schemes.

The camp was graced by the Member Parliament (Lok Sabha), Jugal Kishore Sharma; Member Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Sat Sharma; Member Legislative Assembly Akhnoor, Mohan Lal Bhagat; Director Horticulture Jammu, Gul Sayed; Chief Horticulture Officer, R.K. Kotwal; Horticulture Development Officer (HDO) Sandeep Sharma.

The programme commenced with a warm welcome to all participants followed by an overview of horticulture initiatives and objectives for boosting fruit production across the Akhnoor Zone.

The event saw enthusiastic



MPs Jugal Kishore & Sat Sharma visiting stall at Akhnoor.

participation from local farmers, agricultural stakeholders and community members.

Key highlights of the camp included presentations on scientific horticultural practices, high-value crop cultivation, soil health management and climate-smart farming techniques to enhance productivity.

A detailed briefing was delivered on central and UT government horticultural schemes including the

Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), JKCIP and other support mechanisms for inputs, credit facilitation and marketing linkages.

Direct engagement between farmers and experts, including the Director Horticulture and the Chief Horticulture Officer addressed the queries on crop choices, improved sapling varieties, pest man-

agement, post-harvest practices and orchard care.

Emphasis was laid on adopting modern horticultural methods and diversification of crops like cultivation of guava, dragon fruit, citrus, mango and Aonla -all well-suited to the agro-climatic conditions of Jammu region.

MP Sat Sharma highlighted the pivotal role of horticulture in rural economy and urged farmers to avail themselves of the technical support and financial incentives provided by the government.

MP Jugal Kishore Sharma pitched for tapping the immense horticulture potential of the region and assured continued support for horticulture-based economic growth.

Jugal Kishore Sharma laid special emphasis on the cultivation of dragon fruit, describing it as a high-value horticultural crop with immense income-generating potential for farmers. He stated that dragon fruit requires comparatively less water and is well-

suited to the agro-climatic conditions of the Jammu region.

The MP encouraged farmers to move beyond traditional farming practices and adopt innovative and commercially viable crops like dragon fruit. He further urged them to avail the technical guidance and subsidies provided under the government horticulture schemes to enhance their income and create new livelihood opportunities.

The MLA Akhnoor lauded the initiative for empowering farmers with knowledge and resources to improve crop yields and income levels. The camp concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the Director Horticulture, who reaffirmed the Department's commitment to supporting farmers with training, market access and scheme implementation in collaboration with field-level officers including the Chief Horticulture Officer and HDO Akhnoor.

# ICAR-CITH organises SCSP Training-cum-Agri Input Distribution programme at KVK Ramban



Participants after the training programme at Ramban.

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RAMBAN: The ICAR - CITH on Thursday hosted a Training-cum-Agri Input Distribution program under Government of India's Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) Scheme here at KVK Ramban.

The event was held with the objective of enhancing technical knowledge, improving livelihoods and promoting sustainable horticulture among Scheduled Caste farmers.

The programme was conducted under the stewardship of the Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-

Jammu, Prof. Dr. B. N. Tripathi and the guidance of the Director Extension, Prof. Amrish Vaid.

As many as 50 farmers were trained in modern vegetable production techniques, balanced input use, climate-resilient agricultural practices and apple plantation management.

Additionally, the farmers were provided with vegetable seed kits, tarpaulin sheets and low-chill apple plants. The programme was well received by the farming community and is expected to contribute significantly towards

enhancing productivity, income and sustainable livelihood opportunities for Scheduled Caste farmers in the region.

The programme was coordinated by scientists from ICAR-Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH) Srinagar, including Dr. Puneet Kumar, Dr. Sudhakara N. R. and Dr. Ronit Jaiswal, besides Dr. Raj Kumar Gupta, Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Ramban, Dr. Parveen Kumar, SMS and officials from the Department of Agriculture, Chanderkot, Ramban.

# Poonch Brigade to organise national integration tour from Dec 3



Selected students posing for photograph.

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POONCH: The Poonch Brigade of the Army is organising a National Integration Tour from Poonch to Delhi & Amritsar, scheduled from 03 to 12 January, with the aim of broadening educational and cultural exposure for young students from border areas.

A total of 22 students and 2 teachers representing Shri Krishan Chander Government Degree College from the Poonch region are participating in a tour to Delhi and Amritsar. During their visit, the delegation will have the honor of meeting the Honourable President, witnessing the Republic Day practice, visiting the National War Memorial, Jallianwala Bagh, and the Golden Temple, along with exploring other significant landmarks.

The initiative aims to familiarize college

students with India's rich cultural diversity and raise awareness about the wide range of academic and career opportunities available to them after completing their higher education.

According to officials, the students and teachers have displayed remarkable enthusiasm and excitement, reflecting the positive impact and relevance of such outreach programmes. The tour is expected to leave a lasting impression on the young participants, broadening their horizons and inspiring them to pursue diverse future pathways.

The National Integration Tour continues to stand as a significant effort by the Indian Army to strengthen bonds with youth in border regions and empower them through exposure, awareness, and inspiration.

# Modi Govt carries forward Atal Ji's dream of a strong India: Vibodh

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RAMNAGAR: Senior BJP leader and former MLC Vibodh Gupta paid rich tributes to former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, describing him as a statesman whose leadership combined democratic values, good governance, and unwavering nationalism while addressing a gathering at Ramnagar as part of the nationwide observance of Atal Smriti Varsh . He said that Atal ji's vision laid a strong foundation for a self-reliant, inclusive, and confident India, and his policies continue to inspire generations of leaders and citizens alike.

Vibodh highlighted Atal ji's landmark achievements, including strengthening India's democratic institutions at grassroots level, advancing national infrastructure through projects like the Golden Quadrilateral, promoting peace with strength through decisive leadership, and



Senior BJP leader and former MLC Vibodh Gupta and others during the programme.

placing India firmly on the global stage as a responsible and confident nation.

Vibodh underlined that the legacy of Atal Bihari Vajpayee is being carried forward with renewed energy and resolve under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He added that initiatives such as Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Digital India, Make in India and

Atmanirbhar Bharat resonate deeply with the principles championed by Atal ji.

Vibodh maintained that

the New India is better positioned to address present challenges, ensure sustainable growth, and emerge as a developed nation by harnessing its own strengths, talent, and resources, in the spirit of Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji's vision and under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Vibodh said that Atmanirbhar Bharat is the cornerstone of the broader vision of Viksit Bharat, emphasizing that true development is possible only when the nation becomes econom-

ically strong, technologically capable, and self-reliant. He noted that initiatives promoting indigenous manufacturing, innovation, startups, and local entrepreneurship are empowering youth, farmers, and small businesses while reducing dependence on external forces.

MLA Ramnagar Sunil Bharadwaj said that Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji was a towering statesman whose vision of development with humanity continues to inspire the nation. He stated that Atal ji believed in strengthening democracy from the grass-

roots and ensuring that the benefits of development reached the last person. He added that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Atal ji's dream of a strong, self-reliant, and prosperous India is being fulfilled through people-centric policies and inclusive governance.

District President Arun Gupta said that Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji laid the ideological and developmental foundation of New India through his commitment to nationalism, transparency, and good governance. He emphasized that initiatives such as infrastructure expansion, welfare schemes, and economic reforms undertaken by the Modi government reflect Atal ji's farsighted vision.

Seh Prabhari Udampur Narayan Dutt said that Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji's leadership gave India confidence on the global level while maintaining strong democratic values and inclusive development vision for India.

# Pedestrian path to Sarthal Devi Shrine remains neglected for decades, devotees suffer

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SARTHAL/AGRAL: The pedestrian pathway connecting Agral Bus Stop to the revered Sarthal Devi Ji temple has remained in a deplorable condition for several decades, causing severe inconvenience to devotees and local residents alike. Despite the shrine being an important religious destination, the long-pending demand for a proper and safe walkway continues to be ignored.

According to locals, the tiles laid on the pathway are broken at several places, making the route uneven and unsafe. The safety railings installed along the path are also in a dilapidated condition. During the rainy season and



snowfall, the situation worsens further, significantly increasing the risk of slips and accidents.

Raising strong concern over the issue, local social activist Ashish Sharma expressed resentment

towards the administration for its continued neglect. He stated that Sarthal Devi Ji is a prominent religious shrine that attracts devotees from far-flung areas. However, the lack of basic infra-

structure not only causes hardship to pilgrims but also puts their safety at serious risk.

Ashish Sharma demanded that the administration take immediate steps to construct or repair the pedestrian pathway from Agral Bus Stop to the Sarthal Devi Ji temple. He also urged authorities to promptly fix the damaged tiles and replace the broken railings to ensure a safe and smooth journey for devotees visiting the shrine.

Locals and devotees have echoed similar concerns, urging the concerned departments to act without further delay, especially before any unfortunate incident occurs.

# ADC reviews winter preparedness in Sub-Division Bhaderwah



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BHADERWAH: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Sunil Kumar Bhutyal today reviewed the preparedness of the departments to maintain essential supplies and uninterrupted services in the Sub-Division amid the winter season. Chairing a meeting, the ADC inquired about the stock and supply position of essential commodities and contingency plans for snowfall and emergencies. The officers from

R&B (PWD), Health, Food- Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Municipality, PMGSY Police and Traffic, SDRF among others attended the meeting. They briefed the ADC on the measures taken for road maintenance, supply of ration, fuel, medicines and other necessities to meet the local demands. Emphasis was laid on timely snow clearance, restoration of services and prompt response to public grievances during the winter.

# Cultural programme, Mushaira held at Bhaderwah on New Year Eve



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BHADERWAH: To mark the New Year 2026, a vibrant cultural programme

and Mushaira was organised at Tilligarh Tourist Complex Bhaderwah, celebrating the region's rich cultural and literary heritage while spreading the message of peace, harmony and brotherhood.

The colourful event witnessed captivating cultural performances and soulful poetic recitations by renowned poets which were warmly received and highly appreciated by the audience.

The cultural programme was organised by the Information Department while Mushaira was organised by the Police

Department, reflecting coordinated efforts to promote art, culture and literature. Additional Deputy Commissioner Sunil Kumar Bhutyal extended warm greetings to the people on the advent of New Year 2026. He lauded the efforts of the Information and Police Department for organising the programme.

The function was attended by CEO BDA, SP Jail, Accounts Officer BDA, officials from civil and police administration besides Information department Doda and prominent citizens and cultural enthusiasts.

# CITH Srinagar organises Training-cum-Agricultural Input Distribution Programme at KVK Reasi

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REASI: Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture, Srinagar in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi organised the farmers the training-cum-agricultural input distribution programme under the Government of India's Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) here at KVK Reasi which was actively attended by a large number of farmers of the area. The objective of the programme was to enhance the technical knowledge of farmers belonging to the Scheduled Caste category to strengthen their livelihoods and promote sustainable horticultural practices.

The programme was organised under the dynamic stewardship of Vice Chancellor, Prof.B.N. Tripathi and able guidance of Director Extension (DE), Prof.Amrish Vaid of SKUAST-J. The pro-



A resource person guiding farmers during the training programme held at KVK Reasi.

gramme was organised by scientists from ICAR-Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (ICAR-CITH), Srinagar-Dr. Puneet Kumar, Dr. Sudhakara N. R. and Dr. Ronit Jaiswal in collaboration with Dr. Banarsi Lal, Chief Scientist and Head, KVK Reasi under guidance of visionary Dr. M. K. Verma, Director ICAR-CITH, Srinagar and Dr. O. C. Sharma, Pr. scientist & head fruit Science, ICAR-

CITH, Srinagar.Chief Scientist & Head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi, Dr. Banarsi Lal warmly welcomed the participants and said that Reasi distt. has an immense potential in the cultivation of fruits and vegetables and farmers should grow them commercially. He stressed on the organic cultivation of fruits and vegetables. Dr.Puneet Kumar, Scientist, CITH guided farmers on the scientific cultivation of

fruits and vegetables and encouraged them to adopt latest technologies. Dr. Sudhakara N. R., and Dr. Ronit Jaiswal also spoke during the programme. During the programme, farmers were trained in improved vegetable production technologies, scientific and balanced use of agricultural inputs and low-cost techniques aimed at enhancing production and income. Special emphasis was laid on climate-resilient and

resource-conserving horticultural practices suited to the agro-climatic conditions of the region. Farmers were provided with kits of different vegetable crops, tarpaulin sheet measuring 6 × 6 square metres, and low-chill apple plants. The tarpaulin sheets can be effectively used for temporary shelter, drying of agricultural produce, and other farm operations. The programme witnessed active participation from the farmers, who expressed satisfaction with the technical guidance and support provided to them. Such initiatives play a significant role in empowering marginalised farming communities, improving agricultural productivity, and promoting inclusive and sustainable agricultural development. The programme was also attended by Sh.Rakesh Kundal , Mohd.Iqbal and Summer Qureshi.

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