

KVK Reasi organises Live Webcast of PM-KISAN

Shri Ram Navami to be Celebrated on March 26 in Poonch

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REASI: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Reasi under the aegis of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technologies Jammu (SKUAST-J) organised live webcast of PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana here today at Sirla village which was actively attended by number of farmers of the area.

The programme was organized under the dynamic leadership of Vice Chancellor, Prof.B.N.Tripathi and guidance of Director Extension, Prof.Amrish Vaid of SKUAST-J. During the programme Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sh.Narendra Modi released the 22nd installment of PM-KISAN scheme from Guwahati, Assam. This installment



KVK Reasi scientist with the farmers during the live webcast of PM Kisan programme organised by KVK Reasi at Sirla village in Reasi distt.

provided financial aid of Rs.18,640 crores for 9.32 crore farmers across the country through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Prime Minister, Narendra Modi spoke on Armirbhar Bharat and applauded the efforts of farmers on progressive farming. Chief Scientist and Head of KVK Reasi, Dr.Banarsi

Lal warmly welcomed the participants and briefed the objective of the programme. He elaborated the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme. He said that PM-KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI (PM-KISAN) is a flagship scheme of Govt. of India launched in 2019. He added that through this

scheme Rs.6000 is provided to the farmers in three installments so that they can purchase quality seeds, fertilizers and other agronomy inputs to increase their crop quality and production. He also spoke on various other agril. schemes and gave a detail view on scientific agriculture. Sh.Jugal Kumar Sharma, Nodal Officer, JKRLM, Reasi stressed on the value addition in crops and guided farmers on PM-KISAN scheme. He also discussed on women empowerment and emphasised on marketing of SHGs products. He applauded the efforts of KVK Reasi for the welfare of farmers. He stressed on commercial agriculture and guided farmers on natural farming formulations for more profits. He stressed on the scientific farming and encouraged

farmers on adoption of new technologies in agriculture and allied sectors. He also discussed monkeys menace management and emphasized on lemongrass, spices and marigold cultivation in monkeys prone areas of the distt. He also discussed on SHGs/FPOs and stressed on the agri-entrepreneurship. He discussed on modern farm machinery and guided farmers on the quality agro-inputs. He also spoke on use of ICTs in agriculture. Participants thanked Hon'ble PM, Narendra Modi for their financial support for agricultural development. During the programme various technologies were displayed which were highly appreciated by the participants. The programme was concluded by Ranju Kumari with formal vote of thanks.

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POONCH: A meeting of the Shri Sanatan Dharm Sabha was held in Poonch to decide the date for the celebration of Shri Ram Navami, the birth anniversary of Lord Shri Ram Chander Ji. The meeting concluded with a unanimous decision that Shri Ram Navami will be celebrated on Thursday, March 26, as the midday Navami Tithi falls on this date.

During the meeting, all the Acharyas agreed that the main function, including the traditional Shobha Yatra, will also be organized on March 26. It was also informed that the first

Navratra and the beginning of Vikrami Samvat 2083 will fall on March 9, 2026.

Prominent Acharyas who attended the meeting included Acharya Rohit Sharma, Viney Sharma, Sanjay Sharma, Lok Raj Sharma, and Amresh Kumar Sharma. President of Shri Sanatan Dharm Sabha Poonch, Khaternal Sharma, thanked all the participants for their presence and cooperation in finalizing the arrangements for the celebration. The Sabha has appealed to devotees and the public to participate enthusiastically in the celebrations and the Shobha Yatra scheduled for March 26.

Grand religious programme on Parshuram Jayanti planned at Gurha Mundiyan

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SAMBA: A meeting of members of the Brahman Sabha along with local residents was held at Jatwal under the Ghagwal Sub Division to discuss arrangements for the upcoming celebration of Parshuram Jayanti. The meeting was chaired by Raj Kumar Sharma, President of the Industrial Association Hiranagar.

During the meeting, members held detailed discussions regarding the religious and social programmes to be organized on the auspicious occasion. It was decided that a grand religious programme will be organized at the historic Parshuram Temple at Gurha Mundiyan in Hiranagar, where a large number of devotees from nearby areas are expected to participate.

The programme will include various religious



Members after the meeting at Hiranagar.

activities such as puja, havan-yajna, bhajan-kirtan and spiritual discourses to spread an atmosphere of devotion and faith in the region. The members also decided that a large and attractive religious procession (Jhanki) will be taken out on the occasion of Parshuram Jayanti this year. Speakers present during the meeting appealed to people from all sections of society to participate enthusiastically and extend their cooper-

ation to make the programme a grand success.

Among those present on the occasion were Ex-BDC Chairman Vijay Tagotra, Ex-DDC Suresh Kumar Falli, Ex-Sarpanch Bharat Bhushan, Jagram Sharma, Ajit Kumar Sharma, Bal Krishan Sharma, Ganesh Sharma, Yograj Sharma, Naresh Goswami, Gangeshwar Sharma, Tony, Vijay Ravi Sharma and other prominent citizens and local residents.

Training Programme on Organic Cultivation and Medicinal Plants held at KVK Samba

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SAMBA: A one-day training programme on the theme "Organic Cultivation of Agricultural Crops and Medicinal Plants" was organized for farmers of Samba district at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Samba by the Himalayan Forest Research Institute (HFRI), Shimla. The programme was conducted with financial support from the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). The primary objective of the programme was to create awareness among farmers about organic farming practices, the cultivation of medicinal plants, and the adoption of sustainable agricultural methods.

The training programme was coordinated by Dr. Joginder Singh Chauhan, who stated that the initiative aimed to familiarize farmers with advanced techniques of organic cultivation of agricultural crops and medicinal plants. During his lecture, he provided detailed insights into sustainable harvesting practices of



KVK officials along with participants after the training.

important medicinal plants found in the Shivalik region and emphasized the need to conserve these valuable resources.

The chief guest on the occasion, Dr. Manisha Thapliyal, Director of the Himalayan Forest Research Institute, Shimla, highlighted the various research and development activities being undertaken by the institute. She stressed the importance of conserving water resources and encouraged agricultural diversification as an effective strategy for strengthening agricultural development and improving farmers' liveli-

hoods.

Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Senior Scientist and Group Coordinator (Research), spoke about the importance of balanced land use for sustainable development. He explained that planting trees on agricultural land not only helps maintain environmental balance but also positively impacts agricultural productivity. He also informed farmers about organic certification, natural farming, and the benefits of using vermicompost. According to him, verification of organic produce enables farmers to obtain better prices in the market and

increase their income.

Dr. Sanjay Khajuria, Principal Scientist at KVK Samba, delivered a lecture on organic farming for sustainable crop production and informed farmers about the technique of growing pumpkin as an intercrop in horticultural crops to generate additional income.

Dr. Ashwani Tapwal, Head of the Extension Division, discussed the role of bio-fertilizers and bio-fungicides in organic farming and emphasized their importance in maintaining soil fertility and plant nutrition. Dr. Shalini Khajuria, Subject Matter Specialist, also shared information about vegetables grown as intercrops and improved cultivation techniques.

Scientists from KVK Samba and KVK Ramban also demonstrated the application of bio-fertilizers through drones. Around 50 farmers from different parts of Samba district participated in the programme and gained valuable knowledge about organic farming and medicinal plant cultivation.

SHS NHM J&K team conducts mentoring & monitoring visit to District Doda

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DODA: To review the functioning of key health programmes, a mentoring and monitoring visit was conducted by a team from the State Health Society, National Health Mission (NHM) J&K to District Doda on 12-03-2026.

The visit was carried out on the directions of the worthy Mission Director NHM J&K Ms Akriti Sagar (IAS) with the objective of reviewing the implementation and progress of major health programmes including ASHA, NTEP, NCD, DNB, Tele-Radiology, Blood Services, and Trauma & Emergency Care.

The visiting team was headed by Dr Jatinder Mehta, Programme Manager NHM J&K, and comprised Dr Mir Mohd Iqbal, Programme Manager



Team members during visit to Doda.

NHM J&K, Dr Younis Mushtaq, APM NHM J&K and Dr Mudasar Majeed, WHO Consultant.

In this connection, a district level review meeting was held at the District Hqr Doda, which was chaired by the visiting team. The meeting was attended by Chief Medical Officer Doda, Dr Tanveer A Rather, Dy Chief Medical Officer Doda, Dr S L Manhas, DHO/DTO

Doda, Dr Raj Kumar Sharma, besides BMOs, staff of the DPMU, BPMUS, and other officials of the department.

At the outset, CMO Doda welcomed the visiting team and delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting programme wise work done and achievements in the district.

The visiting team also held an elaborate discussion with

the participants and issued necessary directions to the concerned officers and officials to further strengthen programme implementation and improve performance wherever required, so as to ensure 100 percent achievement of targets under various health programmes.

Meanwhile, the visiting team also called on Deputy Commissioner Doda, Krishan Lal, at his office and apprised him about the purpose of the visit and the review of various health programmes being implemented in the district.

Later, the team visited AAM Sub Centre Drudhu and SDH Baderwah to review the on ground functioning of health programmes and interacted with the staff to assess service delivery and programme implementation.

Three-Day University Annual Festival (Ekatva '26) concludes at SMVDU

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KATRA: The three-day annual university festival "Ekatva 26" concluded, on a vibrant note at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, witnessing enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members and participants from institutions across the region.

Organized under the aegis of the Board of Professional Activities, Ekatva is one of the flagship events of the university that provides students a platform to showcase their academic, technical and cultural talents beyond the classroom. The festival was inaugurated by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and appreciated the enthusiasm and creativity displayed by the students.

He emphasized that such platforms play a vital role in nurturing leadership, teamwork and innovative thinking among young learners. Prof.

Balbir Singh Dean Academic Affairs encouraged students to actively engage in activities that promote innovation and collaborative learning. Earlier, Dr. Sakshi Arora welcomed the dignitaries and highlighted the vision of Ekatva as a platform celebrating unity in diversity through academic, technical and cultural engagement.

A National Level workshop on Advance Materials for Sustainable development was also conducted under the ANRF PAIR programme with Indian Institute of Technology Ropar as the hub institute, bringing together nearly 50 participants including students, researchers, and faculty members.

The festival concluded with a valedictory function, where Dr. Ankush Raina, President, Board of Professional Activities, presented a report highlighting the major events and achievements of the three-day festival. This was followed by remarks from the

Dean Students Welfare, Prof. R. K. Mishra, who appreciated the enthusiasm and creativity displayed by the students and emphasized the importance of such platforms in nurturing innovation and collaboration.

Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar expressed satisfaction over the successful organization of the festival and congratulated the students, faculty members and organizers for making Ekatva-2026 a memorable event. During the ceremony, prizes were distributed to the winners of the Smart Solutions Exhibition, while the much-awaited Best School Trophy was awarded to the School of Computer Science & Engineering.

The School of Electronics and Communication Engineering and the School of Mechanical Engineering secured the second and third positions, respectively.

The programme concluded with a formal vote of thanks

delivered by Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq, Festival Coordinator, who expressed heartfelt gratitude to the university leadership, participants, and organizers for their support and contributions towards the grand success of the festival.

The event was successfully organized with the dedicated efforts of the faculty coordinators, Dr. Shashi Bhushan Kotwal, Dr. Sunny Kumar Sharma, and Er. Swastik Gupta, along with the enthusiastic support of student volunteers including Achalendra Pratap Singh, Priyanshu Kumar, Sachin Tripathi, Suraj Rathod, Yash Srivastava, Anushka Tickoo, Pravallika Prasu, and others, whose collective efforts ensured the smooth conduct of the event. The organisers expressed gratitude to Registrar SMVDU, Ajay Kumar Sharma, JKAS, Finance Section led by Kajal Jasrotia (JKAS) and other university administration.

DDC Doda chairs Jal Arpan Diwas Programme, listens to public issues at Panchayat Trown

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DODA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda, Krishan Lal today chaired the Jal Arpan Diwas programme and a Public outreach camp at Panchayat Trown.

The programme was organised by the Department of Jal Shakti (PIE Division) and the District Administration as part of the Jal Jeevan Mission Pakhwada aimed to promote water conservation, community participation and sustainable management of water resources.

The event highlighted the theme "Har Ghar Jal - Healthy Village", emphasizing the importance of safe and adequate drinking water supply to every rural household through functional tap connections.

The programme commenced with the inauguration of Jal Arpan Diwas by the DDC, marking the formal launch of the awareness



initiative in the area. A pledge ceremony was also conducted in which participants resolved to conserve water, protect natural water sources and promote responsible use of drinking water for the welfare of present and future generations.

Addressing the gathering, the DDC stressed the need for conserving water resources and urged the public, Panchayati Raj Institutions and other stakeholders to actively participate in protecting natural water sources. During the Public outreach camp, local residents and public representatives raised several demands seeking augmentation of water supply, compensation for land used in water supply projects, road connectivity, blacktopping of roads, construction of a circular road in the area, connectivity from Paryote to Trown and filling of the vacant post of Principal at Government Higher Secondary School.

Responding to the demands, the DDC directed the concerned officers to address the genuine griev-

ances of the public in a time-bound manner. He also encouraged people to avail benefits of the Government schemes, particularly under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and other self-employment initiatives.

Later, the DDC inspected the condition of the local roads in the area. He directed the concerned departments to take necessary measures for improvement and maintenance of the roads to provide better connectivity to the local population.

Among others present included Superintendent Engineer hydraulic circle Doda Jal Shakti Sunil Seth, Chief Planning Officer Doda Manesh Kumar Manhas, Executive Engineer PIE Division Doda, Assistant Executive Engineers, Tehsildar Doda, Chairman of the Pani Samiti, PRI members, officers of various departments, senior citizens and a large number of local residents, who actively participated in the programme.

Kathua Admin holds mega employment drive amid overwhelming youth participation

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KATHUA: In a major initiative to connect local youth with employment opportunities, the District Administration Kathua in collaboration with the District Employment and Career Counselling Centre (DE&CC) organised a Mega Job Fair here on the Sports Stadium.

The event was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma, who interacted with participating employers and job seekers, while appreciating the initiative. The job fair witnessed enthusiastic participation of youth from different parts of the district, with more than 600 job seekers attending the event to explore career opportunities across multiple sectors. More than 20 industries and companies participated in the recruitment drive, offering over 500 vacancies for skilled, semi-skilled and fresh candidates.

Prominent participating organisations included Godrej Consumer Products, Varun Beverages, Chenab Textile Mills, Raxa Security, Kandhari Beverages Pvt. Ltd., OPI Agro Group, LIC, SBI Life Insurance and several other local industries.

The available job roles spanned sectors such as manufacturing, sales, marketing, finance and technical services, catering to a wide

range of professional interests and skill sets.

During the recruitment process, more than 500 candidates were screened by participating companies. Out of these, 393 candidates were shortlisted while 116 candidates were selected on the spot for various positions.

The Deputy Commissioner personally reviewed the arrangements and encouraged youth to actively avail such platforms to connect with industries and explore employment opportunities. He also appreciated the efforts of the District Employment and Career Counselling Centre and participating industries for facilitating employment linkages for local youth.

A dedicated Mission YUVA awareness and registration desk was also set up at the venue to inform youth about the objectives and benefits of the Mission YUVA initiative. The desk also provided information about the Job Matching Platform under Mission YUVA, where employers can post their vacancies and interested youth can explore and apply for suitable job opportunities. The Job Fair was coordinated by the District Employment and Career Counselling Centre under the supervision of Assistant Director Employment Piyusha Khajuria.

Gender Targeting & Inclusion Sensitisation workshop under JKCIP held at Kathua

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KATHUA: A Gender Targeting and Inclusion Sensitization Workshop under the Jammu and Kashmir Climate Innovation Programme (JKCIP) was today organised at the Office Complex of the Chief Agriculture Officer, Kathua, to strengthen gender-inclusive approaches and promote enhanced participation of women in agriculture and allied sectors.

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma was the chief guest. Addressing the participants, the DC underscored the huge potential for empowerment of women in agriculture and allied sectors. He observed that women play a vital role in sustaining rural livelihoods and enhancing agricultural productivity, adding that sensitization initiatives of this nature would help create equitable opportunities and encourage greater participation of women in development processes.

The workshop was attended by Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Scientist and Head Krishi Vigyan Kendra, District Social Welfare Officer, District Development



Manager NABARD, Lead District Manager, District Sericulture Officer, District Employment Officer and Cluster Head JK Bank.

Chief Agriculture Officer Jatinder Kumar Khajuria delivered the welcome address and highlighted the objective of the workshop. He emphasised the significant role played by women in the agriculture sector in Kathua district, noting that women contribute extensively to farming activities, agri-based enterprises and value addition. He stressed the need for institutional support, capacity building and access to resources to further strengthen their role.

During the technical sessions, Head Krishi Vigyan Kendra Dr Vishal Mahajan,

along with scientists Dr Narinder Pal and Dr Anamika Jamwal, besides the District Sericulture Officer, delivered lectures on gender mainstreaming, inclusive agricultural practices and opportunities for women entrepreneurs in agriculture and allied sectors.

The workshop witnessed participation from officers of the line departments, departmental staff and other stakeholders. Women entrepreneurs and members of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) also participated in the event and put up stalls showcasing their activities. They shared their experiences and perspective on strengthening women-led agricultural initiatives.

Prominent women entrepreneurs and women officials were felicitated by the Deputy Commissioner in recognition of their contributions.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Assistant Soil Conservation Officer Kathua, Murari Lal Digna, who expressed gratitude to the chief guest, resource persons and participants for their support in making the workshop successful.

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