

# Solar Lamps provided to Tribal Families of Village Dhadkai in Doda

DC announces special initiatives for hearing-impaired and girls of tribal community

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 11

Chairman District Development Council (DDC) Doda, Dhananter Singh Kotwal, along with the Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh today distributed solar lamps among tribal families of Dhadkai village, popularly known as the “Silent Village of India.”

The village has a population of around 4,000, including nearly 90 hearing- and speech-impaired residents. The distribution programme was held at the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex.

A joint initiative of Bindi International, a Rajasthan-based NGO and the District Administration, aimed at promoting clean and sustainable energy solutions in remote and tribal areas.

The representatives of Dhadkai village projected several demands and grievances, seeking better education facilities for local students, including hostel accommodation, scholarship benefits, sports infrastructure and opening of seasonal schools, besides creating livelihood opportunities for the youth.

In his address, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated Bindi International for implementing such meaningful initiatives for the welfare of tribal communities. He emphasized the importance of renewable energy in promoting sustainable development and assured continued support for similar welfare-oriented programmes in the district.

The DC announced that expert educators would be provided for the hearing-



and speech-impaired inhabitants of Dhadkai village. He directed the stakeholder departments to put up proposals for development of civic infrastructure, special education facilities and extension of benefits of tribal welfare schemes to the villagers.

The DC also announced that all expenses related to the welfare of differently-abled inhabitants would be borne by the District Administration. He informed that a proposal has been prepared for the establishment of a Tribal Community Market Centre at Doda to enhance livelihood opportunities for the tribal population. He added that education, healthcare and other essential services would be prioritised for the holistic development of the village.

Addressing the gathering, the DDC Chairman stressed the need for collective efforts for the uplift of the inhabitants. He highlighted that several NGOs are working for the uplift of the deaf and mute community and informed about the “Dharti Aabha” initiative launched by the Government of India for tribal wel-

fare. He called for extending similar initiatives to underserved areas, emphasizing on opening of special schools for differently-abled children.

He further informed that around 200 solar lamps are being distributed under the programme and the government departments have been directed to work in convergence mode for the welfare of the inhabitants.

Chairman of Bindi International NGO, Mukesh Kumar highlighted the efforts of the organization and informed that the NGO is working across 19 states of India, distributing solar lamps in remote and tribal regions.

The event was attended by DDC Vice Chairperson, Sangeeta Rani, ADC, Anil Kumar Thakur, ACD, Din Mohammad Afaqi, SDM Gandoh, Arun Kumar Badyal, CPO, Manesh Kumar Manhas, District Social Welfare Officer, Zubair Ahmed, CEO, Bhusan Kumar Pathak, CMO, Dr. Tanvir Ahmed, Sheep Husbandry Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Agriculture Officer, members of Bindi International NGO, solar engineers and

other district officers.

The inhabitants of Dhadkai village also attended the programme and expressed gratitude to the district administration and Bindi International for the initiative, stating that the solar lamps would greatly assist them in their daily lives.

Meanwhile, the district administration Doda, in collaboration with Bindi International NGO, is sponsoring five girls for advanced skill development training in Rajasthan.

The initiative planned under the Beti Padhao Beti Bachao (BPBB), aims to provide quality skill-based training to young girls, enabling them to become self-reliant, confident and economically independent.

“Five girls belonging to Dhadkai village and other remote and underprivileged parts of Doda shall be sent for the training, ensuring inclusive participation and equal opportunities for girls from all sections of society”, said the DC

The selected girls shall undergo structured vocational and life-skill training at the training centre of Bindi International NGO in Rajasthan.

# KCGPS shines at 13th J&K Rope Skipping championship

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 11

KC Gurukul Public School has once again demonstrated excellence in sports as its students delivered an outstanding performance at the 13th J&K UT Rope Skipping Championship 2026, where the school secured a total of eight medals along with the prestigious Trophy of Excellence.

The Gold Medals were won by Aarav Bhagat (Grade V), Aagas Singh (Grade V), Sarthak Chopra (Grade V), and Kuvira Gadoo (Grade II). Notably, Kuvira Gadoo was also conferred with the Trophy of Excellence in recognition of outstanding performance at the championship.

The Bronze Medals were secured by Ojasvi Bhatt



(Grade V), Ananya Sudan (Grade IV), Panshul Mahajan (Grade V), and Manmeet Kour (Grade IV).

This remarkable achieve-

ment reflects the students' dedication, perseverance, and disciplined training. The Management of KC Gurukul Public School have

conveyed their appreciation to the students and their mentor Mr. Abhimanyu Chopra for bringing laurels to the institution.

# DHSJ reviews healthcare services at SDH Basohli

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 11

Director Health Services, Jammu (DHSJ), Dr. Abdul Hamid Zarger today visited Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Basohli and conducted a comprehensive review of healthcare services and administrative functioning of the institution.

During the visit, the Director inspected the major functional units of the hospital including the Out Patient Department (OPD), Emergency, In-patient wards, Labour Room, Operation Theatre, Newborn Care services, Laboratory, Radiology section, Blood Storage Unit, Store and Pharmacy.

He reviewed patient footfall, bed occupancy, availability of essential medicines, diagnostic facilities and status of medical equipment.

The DHSJ interacted with the patients and their attendants to gather firsthand feedback regarding



service delivery, waiting time, cleanliness and behaviour of staff. He directed the hospital administration to ensure patient-friendly services, prompt registration and timely clinical interventions, particularly in emergency and maternity cases.

Special emphasis was laid on strengthening maternal and child health services, institutional deliveries, immunization coverage, early detection of

high-risk pregnancies and effective referral mechanisms. The Director also reviewed infection prevention and control measures, biomedical waste management and overall sanitation within the hospital premises.

The manpower position of doctors, nurses and paramedical staff was reviewed in detail.

The Director stressed optimal utilization of available human resources and

instructed officials to ensure duty rosters, round-the-clock availability of emergency services and accountability at all levels.

A detailed review meeting was held with Medical Officers and hospital staff. The Director issued necessary directions regarding maintenance of records, adherence to Standard Treatment Guidelines, rational use of medicines and effective grievance redressal mechanisms.

# AYUSH Department celebrates World Unani Day 2026 at Kishtwar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 11

The Department of AYUSH today celebrated World Unani Day 2026 in district Kishtwar with great enthusiasm.

World Unani Day is celebrated every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan, a renowned Unani physician, educationist and freedom fighter and to highlight the importance of the Unani system of medicine in public healthcare.

The programme was presided over by Deputy Commissioner, Pankaj Kumar Sharma as the chief guest.

Addressing the participants, the Deputy Commissioner underlined the growing relevance of the Unani system of medicine in modern healthcare. He emphasised that Unani being one of India's ancient medical sciences, focuses on disease prevention by addressing root causes and maintaining overall balance in the body.

The Deputy Commissioner encouraged people



to adopt Unani principles in their daily life for better health and well-being, noting its increasing acceptance at the global level.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasised the need for research based documentation of the medicinal plants found in Kishtwar, adding that the district has a variety of available medicinal herbs that are yet to be identified.

Earlier, the event com-

menced with a formal welcome by District Nodal Officer, AYUSH, Dr. Vikram Singh Jamwal. He highlighted the sustained efforts of AYUSH staff in promoting AYUSH systems of medicine among the public.

The programme aimed to spread awareness about the holistic and preventive healthcare benefits of the Unani system and to strengthen public under-

standing of traditional healthcare practices.

Dr. Shabir Ahmad Bhat, Medical Officer and Dr. Muzaffar Hussain, Medical Officer, delivered informative lectures supported by PowerPoint presentations on local medicinal herbs, Unani medicines and Unani healthcare practices.

The proceedings of the programme were smoothly conducted by Dr. Monika Sharma, Medical Officer.

# Leprosy Awareness Campaign

# Cultural Unit Jammu stages Nukkad Natak at SMGS Hospital

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 11

Continuing the activities under the two-week-long Leprosy Awareness Campaign being observed as part of the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP), the artists of the Cultural Unit, Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR) Jammu today staged a Nukkad Natak at Shri Maharaja Gulab Singh (SMGS) Hospital Shalamar Road.

The event was organised by the Zonal Leprosy Office, Directorate of Health Services Jammu, with the objective of informing the public about the symptoms, prevention and free treatment available for leprosy, besides dispelling myths and social stigma as-



sociated with the disease.

The Nukkad Natak by Cultural Unit artists effectively communicated key messages on early detection and the importance of timely medical care, attracting the attention of patients, attendants, staff and visitors at the hospital.

While speaking on the occasion, Medical Officer Leprosy, Dr. Deepika Dewan educated the audience

regarding leprosy and the treatment available in Government Hospitals. He encouraged people to seek medical consultation without hesitation, if symptoms appear.

Among others present on the occasion included CMO, Dr. Harbaksh Singh, Zonal Leprosy Officer, Dr. Sushma Mattoo, Medical Superintendent SMGS Hospital Jammu, Dr. Dara

Singh, Dr. Jahan Ara, Medical Officer, Krishan Kumar, Subash Chander and Ajay Kumar besides officials of Cultural Unit Jammu witnessed the event.

The programme was conducted under the direction of Joint Director Information Jammu, Deepak Dubey and under the supervision of Cultural Officer Jammu, Mohit Sharma.

# Horticulture Department puts up grand Fruit Exhibition at SKUAST-J Kisan Mela

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 11

The Department of Horticulture-Jammu actively participated in the Kisan Mela 2026 organized today at SKUAST-Jammu, putting up a grand Fruit Exhibition and displaying advanced horticulture ma-

terial and techniques.

The Department set up an impressive departmental stall, showcasing high-quality fruit samples from different districts, improved planting material and information about the ongoing schemes such as MIDH, PMKSY, HADP, JKCIP and other flagship

programmes aimed at enhancing farmers' income.

The stall attracted a large number of farmers, entrepreneurs and visitors who interacted with departmental officers and experts to gain firsthand knowledge about modern horticulture practices, high-density

protected cultivation and value addition.

Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Sayed interacted with the horticulture start-ups and entrepreneurs, encouraging them to adopt innovative approaches, promote value addition and explore new market linkages.

# DC Poonch reviews arrangements for Ramazan

**POONCH, FEBRUARY 11:** Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma chaired a meeting to review the necessary arrangements for the holy month of Ramazan.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Tahir Mustafa Malik, Additional Superintendent of Police, Mohan Lal, CMO, Dr. P.A. Khan, Tehsildar

Haveli, Azhar Majid, Executive Engineers AFC, Tariq Mehmood, AD Food, Adil Shabir, ARTO Poonch, Basharat Mehmood, Legal Metrology Officer, representatives from Fire Services besides other concerned officers.

The meeting discussed measures to ensure adequate power and water supply, regulation of prices of essential items, maintaining cleanliness, manag-

ing traffic, enhancing security, providing healthcare facilities and making other logistical arrangements for the auspicious month.

Representatives from different religious organizations participated in the meeting, highlighting various demands and offering suggestions for effective arrangements during the Holy Month.

To ensure uninterrupted water and power supply,

the Deputy Commissioner issued directives to the Executive Engineers from the Jal Shakti and Power Development Department (PDD).

They were instructed to ensure a continuous provision of water and electricity throughout Ramadan. Additionally, the Assistant Director of Food was directed to provide ration as per the needs of the community.