



World Plant Milk Day

Founded in 2017 by Robbie Lockie, who is a co-creator of Plant Based News. The idea for the day is to encourage people to consider plant-based alternatives to dairy milk. The purpose is to replace animal based products. The reduction of animal product consumption is not only helpful to the individual animals, but also acts as a way for humans to live more sustainably on the planet. Whether jumping in with both feet or just dipping a toe into a plant based diet, World Plant Milk Day is a great motivator to get started.

#EVENT

THE AUGUST SHOW

Presented by Community of Dreamers, 'The August Show' brought together Rajasthan's cultural richness, artistic talents, and philanthropic endeavours under one roof, celebrating artisans, weavers, and designers while promoting organ donation awareness through a unique fashion walk.



A glimpse of the Walk for a Cause

Tusharika Singh

Under the collaboration of Jawahar Kala Kendra and the organization, Community of Dreamers, a vibrant and culturally immersive two-day program unfolded recently in the Pink City. Aptly named 'The August Show', the event celebrated the creative fusion of artisans, weavers, designers, and entrepreneurs, providing a unique platform for their talents to shine.

Inauguration

This eclectic showcase was graced by the presence of distinguished guests including Chairman of RAJSICO, Rajiv Arora, Principal Secretary of Rajasthan Tourism, Gayatri Rathore, Minister of Women and Child Welfare, Mamta Bhupesh, and Nivritti Kumari of Udaipur.

A Musical Overture

Kicking off the festivities with a resounding tribute to Rajasthan's rich cultural tapestry, an enchanting singing performance reverberated through the amphitheater. Madhyavarti on the opening day. The audience was spellbound by the live performance of the immensely talented Samandar Khan Manganiyar, whose soulful Sufi renditions transported listeners to another realm.

Fashion with a Heart

However, 'The August Show' wasn't solely about artistic expression. It was also a platform for social causes, exemplified by the heartwarming 'Walk for Cause,' organized in collaboration with the MFJCF Tissue and Organ donation project. This unique fashion walk saw well-known women and influencers of Jaipur bring the runway to fire, elegantly showcasing the exquisite creations of designers, artisans, and weavers. It was a powerful reminder that fashion can be a force for good, bridging the gap between creativity and philanthropy.

Visionaries Behind the Dream

Kalpna Singh Peelwa and Sandhya Dilip, the visionary founders of Community of Dreamers, shared their vision for the event. They expressed their desire to unite artisans, weavers, designers, and entrepreneurs on a single platform, making their unique creations easily accessible to the common people. In doing so, they have not only enriched the lives of these talented individuals but have also given them a chance to thrive in the vibrant market of Rajasthan's artistic heritage.

Honouring the Gift of Life

In addition to the celebration of art and fashion, 'The August Show' took a poignant moment to honour organ donors, recognizing the profound impact they



Aashja Jan Aggarwal during Walk for a Cause



Doona Sharma at her stall at Community of Dreamers



Sandhya Dilip and Kalpana Singh Peelwa - founders of Community of Dreamers

have on saving lives. The event served as a powerful motivator for attendees to consider organ donation, shedding light on the importance of this selfless act.

A Tapestry of Art & Humanity

In essence, 'The August Show' was much more than just an exhibition; it was a testament to the unifying power of art, culture, and philanthropy. It created a harmonious synergy between Rajasthan's traditional creativity and the modern world's charitable endeavours, leaving an indelible mark on all who attended. As the curtain fell on this remarkable event, it left in its wake a renewed sense of community spirit, a deep appreciation for the arts, and a commitment to making the world a better place—one creative stroke and one selfless gesture at a time.

Jim Corbett had a 'large' respect for Sultana Daku

In his famous book 'My India' Jim Corbett recounts that Sultana was a fine man, he never robbed a pai from the poor and remained a softheart for them always. Whenever any poor man asked for any help, he extended it. Whenever he purchased from small shops, he always paid twice the amount. In his last years he had limited his area of operations to places between Kumaon's terai-Bhabha to Njibabad. In his recounting Jim Corbett repeatedly mentions a few places, Kaladhungi, Ramnagar and Kashipur in connection with Sultana. It is said that Sultana was using the ruins of an old Kila as his hideout. This was a 400 year kila of Najibuddaula's remains can be seen today. It is strange that it is called Sultana's kila, not Najibuddaula's kila. The legend of Sultana daku continues to reverberate the over 200 years old Jalpur castle in Bijnor and Najibabad subdivision. The historic castle, bordering Rajgarh forest range, is a popular tourist spot, and every traveller coming here is acquainted with Sultana daku.



Anjali Sharma
Senior Journalist & Wildlife Enthusiast

Around 120 years ago a boy named Sultana was born to a very poor family in Uttar Pradesh. Sultana was a Bhanu. They claim to be descendants of Maharana Pratap, the 16th-century ruler of Mewar. The king fell on bad times after he lost his kingdom to Akbar, the Mughal emperor. Bhanu folklore says that's when the community dispersed to other parts of the country, and that their leader will one day take them back to Mewar. The British labelled them a "criminal tribe" and kept a close eye on them. Indeed, Gulphi, the most illustrious ancestor of the Bhanus, was the most skillful of all thieves. This was the milieu in which Sultana was born. His grandfather was a thief of some repute—Gulphi reincarnate, some would say. There were caste councils which took care of the family if a Bhanu got caught by the police. In return, the man had to share his loot with the council. Sultana grew to be the most dreaded decoit of his time. He was fearless, and always informed the party he was going to loot, about his intentions. He would try to avoid bloodshed, but if challenged, or if any member of his gang was attacked, he did not hesi-

tate to kill. It is said that he would cut away three fingers from the hand of his victim. The British Raj was deeply troubled by this man. He looted the British relentlessly. Sultana's grand parents sent him to work in the salvation army camp running in Najibabad, as they were too poor to feed him. Many attempts were made there to convert him to Christianity in this camp, but he just did not. He and many like him ran away from this camp. With this began his outlaw career: He was good at this job, such was the expertise of Sultana, he could hide away a knife in his mouth for long durations, and retrieve it for use later at will. He was the nemesis of the British Sarkar who made huge efforts to rid themselves of him, while he repeatedly looted the Raj treasury. There are many famous names glorified for their struggles for the liberation of India, one off-beat name should be Sultana. Though he was neither educated nor part of the organised struggles being undertaken in India in many ways, but in his own way, he too was one of the freedom fighters.

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the freedom fighters. He too was doing similar things for the struggle. He hated people who helped the British. He would take up cudgels'



Sultana daku fort.

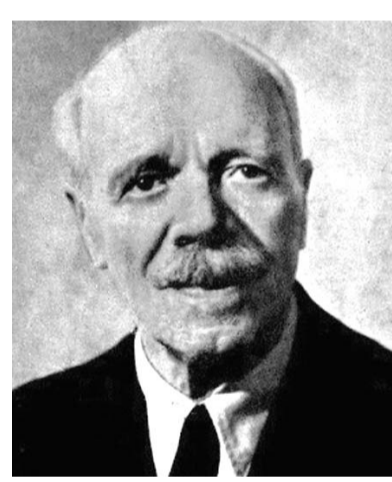
against such people, even if they were leaders. Sultana looted such people, and in those times Indian people thought him to be right and justified in such loots, and he believed the same of himself. Not much has been recorded of him by the British, as he was a serious embarrassment to the British Sarkar, although he was the most notorious of all dakaits of his time. He claimed Maharana Pratap's lineage, and modeled himself upon him. So much so, that he named his horse Chetak.

He had a love story to his name too. It is said that a white girl fell in love with him, and she wrote him a love letter in English. Sultana stormed the British Khema after receiving this letter. This girl was later called Putlibai. This made the British Sultana's sworn enemies, who had taken to the wilds at the age of 17. For the slave India he had become a hero, a Robin Hood who would loot the British and their cohorts and distribute that wealth to the poor and needy. He was so successful that he went on to make a large gang, and acquired a fan fol-

lowing amongst the local population. Uttar Pradesh's Najibabad was his area of operations. He believed that the wealth British enjoyed was all Indian and he looted it back to give to the poor Indians. Najibabad lies on the route between Dehradun and Nainital. British started to regularly guard this route but to no avail. Sultana continued to loot on this route. He in-fact increased operations by looting the goods trains (malgari) running on this route. After looting Sultana would offer ball at Mata temple and distribute the wealth between the poor. The British laid many traps for Sultana but they were not successful in apprehending him. A very big team manned by 300 jawans and fifty horsemen was once commissioned by the British to capture Sultana, but to no avail. He could not be captured. After many such unsuccessful attempts, the British laid a honey trap for Sultana. A British



#LEGEND



Jim Corbett



lady was recruited to ensnare Sultana.

At the same time Sultana had just looted a big land lord Kharak Singh. The British enlisted him as ally, since he was very angry and would be of critical assistance. They all together spread out to look for him. Another thing went against Sultana at this time, he had a weak link in his own ranks, a man named Tula ram. He informed against Sultana. He was captured. But he did not remain in captivity for very long and escaped. After this the British decided to take assistance of the Irishman Jim Corbett. They felt that maybe he could hunt down Sultana with the help of locals who were grateful to him because he had rid the hills of man-eaters. He

matter was that the lady actually fell in love with this daku and later pleaded many times for his release, but the British did not comply. Sultana had a son who he did not want to follow in his footsteps. He asked this lady for help with this young boy. She came forward and sent the boy to England. Later the boy came back well educated and appeared for the ICS exam and cleared it for a post in the police. He retired as an inspector general. In his famous book 'My India' Jim Corbett recounts that Sultana was a fine man, he never robbed a pai from the poor and remained a soft-heart for them always. Whenever any poor man asked for any help, he extended it. Whenever he purchased from small shops, he always paid twice the amount. In his last years he had limited his area of operations to places between Kumaon's terai-Bhabha to Njibabad. In his recounting Jim Corbett repeatedly mentions a few places, Kaladhungi, Ramnagar and Kashipur in connection with Sultana. It is said that Sultana was using the ruins of an old Kila as his

hideout. This was a 400 year old kila of Najibuddaula's remains can be seen even today. It is strange that it is called Sultana's kila, not Najibuddaula's kila. The legend of Sultana daku continues to reverberate over 200 years old Jalpur castle in Bijnor and Najibabad subdivision. The historic castle, bordering Raigarh forest range, is a popular tourist spot, and every traveller coming here is acquainted with Sultana daku.

Bajeet Singh, the current occupant of the castle, has his own tale to tell tourists. He recalls the innumerable occasions on which he has narrated the tale of the dacoit and his attack on the castle. This is the way it goes, "It happened on May 20, 1922. Gorkha guards were deployed here on that day. The marks of axes, swords and gunshots on the main gate have been carefully preserved and can be seen even today. Two years after the attack, Sultana was

caught and hanged, and with that ended his reign.

According to Jalpur village residents, the castle here was built in 1798. Jalpur was a Jat estate then and the entire village was situated inside the compound of the castle. Bajeet Singh says, his great grandfather Sibba Singh was a big landowner and was the main occupant of the castle in 1922. The Gorkha guards employed by him managed to contain Sultana daku and his gang for some time, but they later ran out of cartridges. It is said that at first, Sultana tried to break the main gate by using axes and bullets, but then realized that gaining entry into the castle through the window on the right side of the gate would be a lot easier. Sultana had come to kill Sibba Singh, his granddaughter Omwati Devi and her mother Ram Pyari. However, they were timely rescued by the locals, who hid them in their houses. Meanwhile, the dreaded dacoit looted everything and burnt whatever he could not take away. Each and every room of the castle was set on fire, Singh says, while pointing at

For the slave India Sultana had become a hero, a Robin Hood who would loot the British and their cohorts and distribute that wealth to the poor and needy. He was so successful that he went on to make a large gang, and acquired a fan following amongst the local population. Uttar Pradesh's Najibabad was his area of operations.

wooden pillars holding the castle together. They had turned black and were later repainted.

Villagers claim that Sultana was



A white girl fell in love with this ugly and dreaded dacoit of India.

given a contract to kill Sibba Singh and his granddaughter as the 85-year-old landowner did not have another heir. After the incident, Bajeet's great grandfather contacted Freddy Young, a British police officer who was the head of a special team of cops handpicked to deal with dacoits. Jim Corbett and Precy Wyndham helped Young in finding and capturing Sultana. After two long years of sustained efforts, Sultana was captured alive by Young from Haridwar. The British government ordered his execution and he was hanged in Bareilly jail on June 8, 1924.

Although Sultana claimed heritage from Maharana Pratap but his physical appearance belied it. The man was of small stature, dark complexion, nondescript features, so much so, that he did not even have a handsome beard or moustache, or even much facial hair growth to support it. He had a regard for the Thakurs and a hatred for the traders, and regularly looted them. His pride and hatred can be seen easily in his two: his horse was called Chetak, and his dog rai bahadur. The British Sarkar ran a case on Sultana for loot and murder. He and fifteen others were hanged. Others who were said to be assisting him were sent to 'Kala Paani'. Thus ended the life of one not so regular kranikartari of India.

Jim Corbett writes, that 'For this little man I have a large respect'. In jail while the court case went on, he was very well behaved, and exemplary. He was still put to death.

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#INNOVATION

Turning Waste Into Detergents

"It just screams along," Scott says. "It makes the alkylaromatics faster, and we can tune it to make the right-size molecules."



Thanks to an improved catalytic method, plastic waste can be used as raw material for detergents, researchers report.

We've managed to accumulate so much plastic trash that it's daunting to think about what could be done with the tons upon tons of non-biodegradable waste. And as much as we are trying to scale back our dependence on single-use plastics, we continue to add to the global plastic trash hoard.

Events like the COVID-19 pandemic only served to expand their use for personal protective equipment and disposable and take-away packaging.

In a paper in the journal Chem, researchers have reimagined the value of single-use plastics, with improvements to an innovative process that can turn poly-olefins, the most common type of polymer in single-use packaging, into valuable alkylaromatics—molecules that underlie surfactants, the active components of detergents and other useful chemicals.

"If we make these surfactants from fossil fuels now and you could make them from waste plastics, then you are not using fossil fuels to make surfactants anymore, and you're getting another use out of the carbon that went into the plastics," says chemical engineering professor Susannah Scott, who holds a chair in sustainable catalytic processing at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Instead of burning them or burying them in landfills—practices that represent the major ways we currently deal with plastic waste—plastics are repurposed in a method that shortcuts conventional "dirty" processes for making surfactants while giving single-use plastics one more shot at usefulness.

The researchers built on previous work in which they debuted a catalytic method to break the strong carbon-carbon bonds that make plastic



the difficult-to-degrade material it is, then rearrange the molecular chains into alkylaromatic rings. While effective, Scott says, the original process, based on a platinum-on-alumina catalyst, was slow, and its yield of alkylaromatic molecules was low.

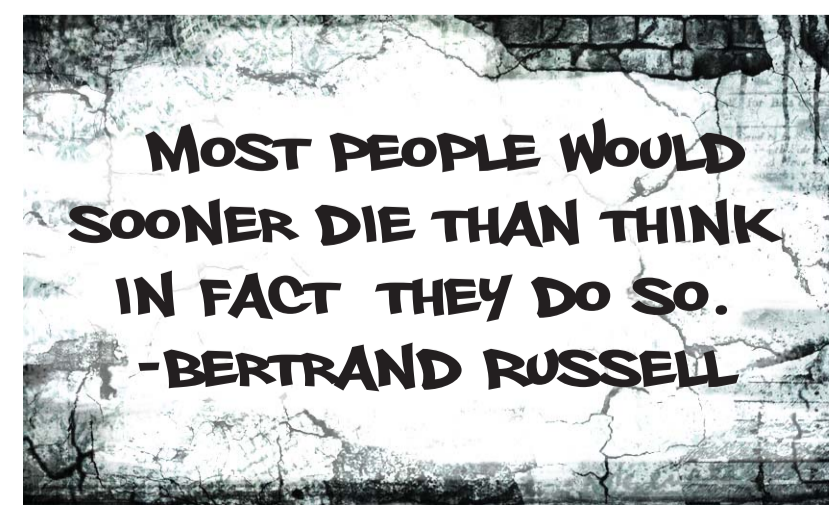
"What we've done in this paper is to show how to do it much better," she says. Key to their method is increasing the acidity of the original alumina catalyst, via the addition of chlorine or fluorine. With the added acid sites, the team was able to boost the speed and selectivity of their process.

"It just screams along," Scott says. "It makes the alkylaromatics faster, and we can tune it to make the right-size molecules." In the new paper, they focused on finding the optimal ratio of acid sites to metal sites in their catalyst, she explained. "It turns out they work together. They have different roles, but you need both of them to be there and in the right ratio so the catalytic cycle doesn't get stuck at any point."

In addition, their one-pot process operates at moderate temperatures, requiring a low energy input. While the method originally took 24 hours to turn plastic into alkylaromatic molecules, the improved process can complete the task within a couple of hours, increasing the amount of plastic that can be converted in a reasonably-sized reactor.

Ideally you want to reuse waste plastic for a purpose with a large enough production volume, for which there is significant demand, in order to make a dent in the plastic problem," Scott explains.

THE WALL

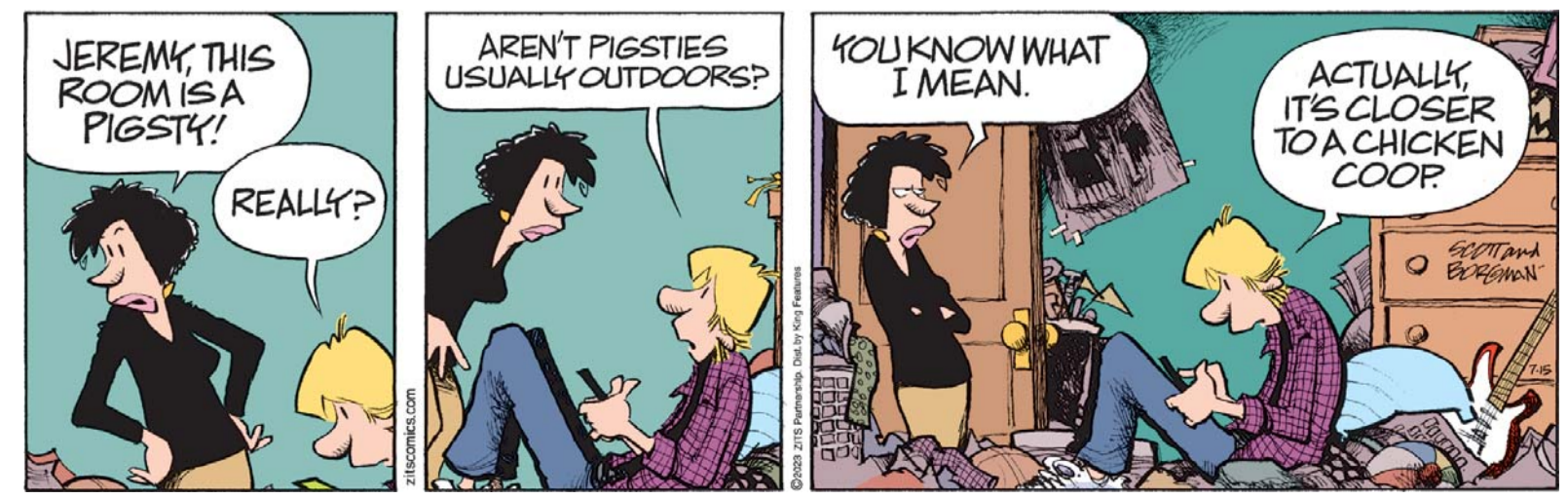


BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman