

Cleanliness, conservation Plan for Historical Chowgan Ground Kishtwar in offing

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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The District administration Kistwar is working out a cleanliness, maintenance and preservation plan for the historical Chowgan Ground.

In this regard, Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma chaired a meeting with officers of stakeholder departments and representatives from Save Chowgan Association, a local NGO, Beopar Mandal, Cricket Association and other stakeholders.

At the outset, a detailed PowerPoint presentation was given by President of the Save Chowgan Association Dr. Rajesh Shan, highlighting the present condition of the Ground and the challenges related to cleanliness, waste management, regulation of vending activities, restoration of damaged infrastructure and restricting littering, garbage throwing and other uncivil activities affecting the sanctity and upkeep of the historic green space.

The meeting laid emphasis on developing Chowgan as a clean, green and well-managed public space, while also fostering a strong civic sense and greater community partici-



pation in its upkeep.

The Deputy Commissioner directed that a No-Plastic Zone would be enforced in Chowgan Ground and its adjoining areas.

The DC directed the Municipal Council to coordinate with the Police, Pollution Control Board and concerned authorities to undertake measures for seizure of banned polythene. "Establishments found violating the prohibition will be dealt with as per rules, while individuals carrying banned polythene will also face strict fines," he said adding that before enforcement, a time period of one week will be given to promote the initiative and generate awareness among

the public.

The meeting also discussed strengthening waste disposal and cleanliness arrangements, including deployment of permanent staff, creation of a regular source of funding and exploration of CSR support for mechanised cleaning equipment, including automatic cleaning/sweeping machines.

To improve monitoring, "Municipal officials will be deployed to regularly patrol the Chowgan, initially focusing on awareness and subsequently enforcing fines for littering and other violations," the meeting decided. Appropriate signage and banners regarding the No-Plastic Zone and clean-

liness norms will also be installed by the Municipal Council Kishtwar and Kishtwar Development Authority.

The meeting decided to restrict entry of vehicles inside Chowgan Ground and regulate or seal the existing gates wherever required. CCTV cameras will also be installed for effective surveillance and monitoring.

The concern raised by the Save Chowgan representation on the presence of unauthorised stalls, rehri/vending activities and other commercial activities within the ground was also discussed. The DC directed to remove all the rehri and unauthorised stalls. "The designated vending zone already notified at Kuleed Chowk will be proposed for regulated vending," he added.

The meeting also took serious note of reports regarding illegal activities, consumption/sale of liquor and other activities detrimental to the environment and public character of the ground. The meeting also discussed 'Necessary enforcement action including issuance of show-cause notices and registration of FIRs against violators wherever violations are established'.

HP Governor visits Ganesh Utsav in Middle Bazaar Shimla, prays for Peace, Prosperity

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Governor Shri Kavinder Gupta today visited Middle Bazaar, Shimla, where he participated in the Ganesh Utsav organised by the Siddhi Vinayak Seva Mandal Trust. He offered prayers to Lord Ganesha and sought the blessings of Vighnaharta for the happiness, prosperity and well-being of the people of Himachal Pradesh.

The Governor extended his greetings and best wishes to the people of the State on the auspicious occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi. He also conveyed his best wishes to the organisers for conducting the Ganesh Utsav and said that such religious and cultural events create a spiritual atmosphere in society and help connect the younger generation with the rich Sanatan traditions and values of the country.

The Governor said that Lord Ganesha is revered in the Sanatan tradition as Vighnaharta and Mangalka-



rta. The tradition of worshipping Lord Ganesha before beginning any auspicious occasion reflects the deep spiritual and cultural significance associated with the deity. He prayed that Lord Ganesha remove all obstacles from the lives of the people and bring happiness and prosperity to every household in Himachal Pradesh.

Emphasising the importance of preserving cultural heritage, the Governor said that there was a need for collective efforts to carry forward Sanatan culture and traditions. Religious and cultural celebrations, he said, provide an important platform to familiarise the younger generation with its roots, traditions and values. Referring to the success-

ful BRICS Summit, the Governor also lauded Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's foreign policy. He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's foreign policy had reached new heights, enhancing the country's global influence and further strengthening its relations with nations across the world.

District Committee reviews JJM 2.0 progress in Udhampur

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 14: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today convened a meeting of the District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) to review the progress of protection and strengthening of drinking water sources under Jal Jeevan Mission JJM 2.0 in the district.

The meeting was attended by PO Poshan Subash Dogra, Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh and other concerned district officers.

The DC took a detailed sub-division-wise review of the status of JJM schemes, key components of JJM 2.0, component-wise progress of civil works, status of mechanical works and electrical substations, extension of timelines for JJM schemes as per JJM 2.0, physical and financial



progress of water supply schemes being implemented by the Jal Shakti Department, Har Ghar Jal certification and the status of wildlife-related cases among other issues.

The DC directed the concerned officers and field functionaries to work in close coordination and in a time-bound manner

to ensure effective implementation of JJM 2.0. He directed the executing agencies to expedite pending works within the stipulated timelines and conduct regular field inspections to monitor progress on the ground.

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti was directed to undertake categorisation of

damages to JJM schemes and ensure timely remedial measures. The DC also stressed the need for certification of all completed and functional household tap connections and directed the concerned officers to ensure that every eligible household is covered under the mission.

Prosthetic Aids provided to 261 Divyangjans under J&K Bank's CSR Initiative

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A distribution camp for providing free Aids and Assistive Devices was organised today at PWD Dak Bungalow, Rajouri, under Project 'Samarth', a CSR initiative of J&K Bank.

The camp was organised by the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Mohali Unit, under the aegis of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DE-PwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India in association with the District Administration and Social Welfare Department Rajouri.

As many as 261 Divyangjans (Persons with



Disabilities) from Tehsil Rajouri, who had been pre-identified by ALIMCO in association with the Social Welfare Department, were provided assistive devices under the initia-

tive.

The devices included motorised tricycles, tricycles, wheelchairs, walking sticks, crutches, hearing aids, Braille kits, Sugamya canes, visual impairment

kits, rollators, CP chairs, walkers, knee braces, LS belts, cushions, TLM kits, tripods, artificial limbs and calipers, costing ₹26.64 lakh.

The identification and registration of beneficiaries was undertaken by ALIMCO in association with the Social Welfare Department, Rajouri, in April 2025.

ADDC Malik Zada Sheraz Ul Haq; Haq; DSWO Abdul Raheem; Cluster Head J&K Bank Ashish Jamwal; TSWO Kabir Hussain and representatives from ALIMCO, including JM Marketing Kanika Mehta and P&O Hasnain Khan, besides officials of the District Administration, J&K Bank, ALIMCO and Social Welfare Department, were present on the occasion.

Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations commence in Poonch

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On the eve of Shrimaan Ganesh Chaturthi, Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma today paid obeisance to Lord Ganesh here at Geeta Bhawan, marking the commencement of the Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations.

The Deputy Commissioner, along with devotees and members of the organising committee, performed the puja and religious rituals.

Later, a religious procession (Shobha Yatra) was taken out from Geeta Bhawan to Kalika Temple amidst devotional chants, religious fervour and enthusiasm. Upon reaching Kalika Temple, the Shri Ganesh Murti was ceremonially installed, where it will be worshipped for the next ten days as part of the religious observances.

The celebrations will culminate with the immersion (Visarjan) of the



Shri Ganesh Murti on September 25.

The occasion wit-

nessed enthusiastic participation of devotees, reflecting the spirit of

devotion, faith, harmony and community participation.

RDD Kishtwar issues notices to absentees, initiates termination proceedings against GRS, CIC Operator

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Taking serious note of unauthorized absence and poor performance of officials, the Rural Development department Kishtwar has issued show-cause notices to two officials, besides, initiating termination proceedings against a GRS and a CICO for dereliction of duty.

The action has been taken by Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Manoj Kumar during a visit to Block Marwah where he conducted a comprehensive review of the implementation of the developmental schemes, besides inspecting ongoing works at different Panchayats of the Block.

During the review meeting, the ACD took a detailed assessment of the implementation of VB-GRAM-G, with particular emphasis on Person-Days (PDs) generation as per the normative allocation, especially against the funds released for the first quarter. He directed the field functionaries to ensure maximum genera-



tion of Person-Days before the commencement of the pause period from October 15 to November 13. He further directed immediate e-KYC of all left-out GRGs and completion of e-KYC of 100% skilled and semi-skilled workers. Inputs were sought from Panchayat-level functionaries regarding pendencies and bottlenecks, with directions to resolve the same on priority. He also stressed that timely payment of wages under VB-GRAM-G must be accorded utmost priority.

The ACD also reviewed the progress under District Capex, UT Capex, ABDP and APDP. He directed the officials to expedite the execution of

sanctioned works.

Later, the ACD conducted an extensive field inspection of developmental works in Nowpachi-A, Nowpachi-B, Yourdoo, Pethgam, Qaderna-A, Qaderna-B, Changer and Tiller. He also directed to install Community Information Boards (CIBs)/Janta Boards at every worksite for transparency and public awareness.

Taking serious note of unauthorized absence and poor performance of officials, the ACD issued show-cause notices to two officials and initiated termination proceedings against a GRS and a CICO for dereliction of duty.

During his interaction with the local population,

the ACD sensitized the people about the provisions and benefits of the VB-GRAM-G Scheme, encouraging eligible households and workers to avail themselves of wage employment opportunities and participate in the creation of durable community assets.

The ACD also attended a Nasha Mukt awareness programme at a local School in Nowpachi, where he sensitized students and the general public about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

The ACD was accompanied by BDO Marwah Irshad Ahmed Waza along with JE/TA, Panchayat Secretaries, PAAs, MIS Operator, GRSs and other field staff.