

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 16

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated the Rotary Satellite Club-Kashmir Valley, marking the beginning of a new Rotary presence dedicated to community service and social development in the Valley.

The Rotary International District 3141, which covers Mumbai and has over 100 member clubs, has extended its activities to Jammu & Kashmir through the Rotary Club of Dahanu by sponsoring the founding of the new Rotary Satellite Club-Kashmir Valley.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister welcomed the establishment of the new Rotary platform and appreciated the initiative of Rotary International District 3141 and the Rotary Club of Dahanu in extending their community-service activities to the Valley.

The Chief Minister highlighted Rotary's long-standing contribution in areas including healthcare, education, sanitation, environmental protection



and community development.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the importance of supporting Kashmiri artisans and preserving the region's traditional handicrafts through skill development, innovation, better market access and livelihood opportunities.

He said Rotary could also contribute to the tourism and hospitality sectors through professional training, youth engagement and initiatives promoting responsible tourism. The Chief Minister encouraged the newly installed Board to identify local needs, engage with communities and develop

sustainable projects in co-ordination with relevant government departments and institutions.

Referring to Rotary International's theme, "Create Lasting Impact", he said sustained, community-oriented service has an important role in creating long-term social benefits.

The Chief Minister also congratulated individuals recognised for their contributions to tourism, art, hospitality and public service in Jammu & Kashmir and extended his best wishes to the Rotary Satellite Club-Kashmir Valley for its future development and continued contribu-

tion to the welfare of the people of the Valley.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLAs Tanvir Sadiq and Salman Ali Sagar, District Governor Rotary Club of Dahanu Rtn. Rajan Dua, District Governor Rotary District 3070 Rtn. Anil Singhal, Regal President Rtn. Tanveer Shah and Director Mushtaq Group of Hotels Dr Mushtaq Chaya were present on the occasion. The programme also included the installation of the Regal Board of Directors and a secretariat.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also presented awards in recognition of service to society.

Amit Sharma visits Snow-Bound Sawjian, Reviews Phase-II Population Enumeration

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Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director, Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, today visited Sawjian, a remote and snow-bound area of District Poonch, to review the ongoing Phase-II Population Enumeration and assess the arrangements for effective Census coverage in the difficult terrain.

Amit Sharma was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma besides Additional Deputy Commissioner, Tahir Mustafa Malik, District Statistics & Evaluation Officer (DSEO), Javid Ahmed, Tehsildar Mandi, Ashfaq Hussain, and other concerned officers were present during the visit.

During the visit, Amit Sharma interacted with the Enumerators and Supervisors engaged in the Population Enumeration exercise



and took detailed feedback regarding field-level arrangements, operational challenges and requirements being faced during the ongoing exercise.

The CPCO stressed the importance of ensuring ac-

curate, complete and timely enumeration and directed the concerned teams to maintain close coordination and strictly follow the prescribed Census guidelines and procedures.

The visit provided an op-

portunity to assess the ground-level implementation of the Census exercise in the remote and snow-bound area and review the measures required for its smooth and timely completion.

Director Horticulture Jammu inaugurates Mega Farmers Awareness Camp at Mendhar

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 16: Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Syed inaugurated a Mega Farmers Awareness Camp at Dak Bunglow, Mendhar. He was the Chief Guest. The awareness camp, forming part of the Director's two-day tour program to the Districts of Poonch and Rajouri, aimed at disseminating information about the government-sponsored horticulture schemes and best practices in horticultural farming.

The event brought together progressive farmers and Agricultural stakeholders to comprehensively discuss and disseminate information on all government-sponsored horticulture schemes, their benefits, eligibility criteria and application processes, alongside best practices in modern horticultural farm-



ing. The representatives from the Department of Horticulture provided comprehensive awareness about the Government horticulture schemes, including JKICP (Jammu & Kashmir

Crop Insurance Scheme), MIDH (Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture) and CAPEX budgetary provisions.

Discussions also encompassed various aspects of fruit and vegetable cultiva-

tion, including best practices in pest management, soil conservation, crop diversification and the application of modern horticultural techniques to enhance farm productivity and farmer incomes.

The event was attended by senior officials from the Department of Horticulture including Sunil Gupta, Assistant Director, Ajay Gupta, District Horticulture Officer (DHO); Niaz Ahmed, Marketing & Cooperative Coordinator (MCC); Mudasar Shah, Senior Most Specialist (SMS); Mohammad Rafiq, Horticulture Development Officer (HDO), Farooq Choudhary; Horticulture Development Officer (HDO), J P Singh; Horticulture Development Officer (HDO) and Rakesh Sharma, Horticulture Development Officer (HDO).

Mission Shakti organises painting competition on World Ozone Day

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 16: Mission Shakti, District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW), Jammu under the Department of Social Welfare, J&K marked World Ozone Day by organising a Painting Competition at Government Higher Secondary School, Sarwal.

Students creatively depicted themes of ozone protection, environmental conservation and climate responsibility, turning the school into a vibrant canvas



of awareness and hope.

The programme highlighted the link between environmental sustainability and women's empowerment, stressing the role of education and participation in building an inclusive and sustainable society. Principal

Anshu Thakur encouraged students to translate their art into responsible practices, while District Mission Coordinator Shagun Manchanda emphasised the lasting impact of awareness through creativity.

The event saw enthusias-

tic participation with students' artwork conveying powerful messages of environmental stewardship. It concluded with appreciation of participants and a renewed commitment to ozone protection and sustainable citizenship.

DC inspects progress of dev Works at Thatharka, civic amenities for visitors at Tattapani

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Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan today inspected the progress of work on the multi-storey building of Government Higher Secondary School, Thatharka and civic amenities for visitors at Tattapani in Sangaldan area.

The natural Hot Spring, having healing medicinal properties, is emerging as a major health tourism destination in District Ramban.

The DC was accompanied by SDM Imtiaz Ahmed, ACD Imran Naik, CEO Oneel Bhat, AD Planning Farooq Rahi and other concerned officers.

During the inspection of the School Building being executed at an allocated cost of ₹5.89 crore lakh by the PWD Department, the Deputy Commissioner directed the executing agency to expedite the pace of construction and ensure timely completion of the project. He stressed the need for close monitoring of the work and adherence to prescribed quality standards and timelines.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited Tatapani at Sangaldan and reviewed



the facilities available for visitors coming to the place for health tourism. He took detailed feedback regarding essential services and infrastructure.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Tehsildar and JPDCL Engineer to take necessary measures for installation of street lights in the area. He also instructed ACD to ensure installation of solar street lights at prominent locations to improve illumination and facilitate visitors

during evening and night hours.

The Executive Engineer PMGSY was directed to undertake necessary surface improvement of the Tatapani road to ensure smooth and convenient access for visitors.

Emphasising the need for regulated and visitor-friendly accommodation facilities, the Deputy Commissioner directed the local Tehsildar to ensure reasonable and affordable rent for tents and other private

accommodation facilities. He further directed the concerned officers to inspect the available accommodation facilities for compliance with prescribed safety standards.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the Jal Shakti Department engineers to maintain adequate water supply at the site. The Block Development Officer was instructed to maintain sanitation and cleanliness in and around the Hot Spring.

Awareness programme held for PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries at ITI Bhaderwah

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An Awareness Programme on Branding and Marketing was organised today for the beneficiaries of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme here at Government ITI.

The MSME-Development & Facilitation Office (MSME-DFO), Jammu, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Government of India hosted the event to sensitise traditional artisans (PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries) about branding, packaging, marketing, digitalisation, financial assistance, skill development and the Government schemes, with a focus on enhancing the marketability, visibility and reach of their products.

The programme commenced with a welcome ad-

dress and brief overview by Ankit Sharma.

An officer from the District Industries Centre (DIC) delivered a presentation on various UT Government schemes and apprised the participants about the institutional support and opportunities available for artisans and entrepreneurs.

IEDS, Assistant Director, MSME-DFO Jammu Rajesh Kumar delivered a detailed presentation on the PM Vishwakarma Scheme and various MSME schemes. He apprised the participants about key components and benefits under the schemes, including skill development, toolkit assistance, credit facilitation, digital empowerment and other interventions aimed at strengthening micro enterprises.

A session on Loan and Banking Schemes, Social Security Schemes and Loan



Sanction & Distribution was conducted by the Lead District Manager. The participants were briefed about banking facilities, credit

support and various social security benefits available to them.

District Nodal Officer, JKEDI, Dr. Majid conducted

a session on Product Packaging, Labelling and Designing. He highlighted the importance of attractive and appropriate packaging, ac-

curate labelling and professional product presentation in improving the market acceptance and value of traditional artisan products.

A special session on Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools was conducted by Ajay Pal Singh, PMU Team, Jammu. The session focused on the potential use of AI tools for product promotion, content creation, digital marketing and business outreach, enabling artisans to explore emerging digital avenues for promoting their products.

Principal Government ITI, Doda and representative of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) Farooq Ahmad apprised the participants about the skill development and entrepreneurship schemes and opportunities available for enhancing their technical and entrepreneurial capabilities.

The participants were also briefed by the Coordinator/Officer, RSETI, Doda about the training facilities and entrepreneurship development programmes available for prospective as well as existing entrepreneurs.

A session on QR Code Generation and Digital Account facilities was conducted by India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), Doda with emphasis on adoption of digital payment mechanisms and greater financial digitalisation among artisans.

The Assistant Director, Department of Handloom & Handicrafts, also addressed the participants and highlighted the importance of preserving and promoting traditional crafts while making artisans aware of institutional support and opportunities available for their growth.