

# Paintings by foot: Speaker awards handicapped artist

*Excelsior Correspondent*

JAMMU, Nov 24 : The Speaker Legislative Assembly, Tara Chand today appreciated the paintings of handicapped artist, Uttam Kumar. Deprived of functional arms, the artist translates his imagination on canvass by making use of brush and colours.

The Speaker gave Rs.5000/- cash assistance to the artist.

Mr. Uttam Kumar who displayed his art work in the office chambers of the Speaker said he has been handicapped by birth and is doing Basholi paintings with foot for the last 10 years and has produced

about 40 to 50 paintings and organized two exhibitions till date and his work has been appreciated by the art lovers. The artist told that he intends to open an arts institute to teach the handicapped people who could become self-supportive by selling their paintings. For this, he needs financial support from the Government, he said.

Appreciating his unique skill, the Speaker said that despite handicapped the artist has displayed a very extraordinary example and others should get inspiration from him. He said that he will take up the matter with the concerned department and arrange financial support, whatever possible.

He hoped that social organizations would also recognize the unique painting work of the artist and come forward to help the artist so that he brings laurels for the state by competing at the national level. He said efforts would be made to recommend the artist for national award for his work.

Minister for Power, Mohammad Sharief Niaz was also present and paid Rs. 1000 cash prize to the artist. Niaz also appreciated the art work of the artist.

Minister of State for Housing and Urban Development, Abdul Majid Wani was also present on the occasion.



राजिले के मंजूरी गांव का रहने वाला उत्तम कुमार जिसके 2 हाथ तथा एक पांव बचपन से पोलियोग्रस्त है और काम नहीं कर सकते, वह अपने विभिन्न तरह की कलाकृतियां बनाता है, के कुछ दृश्य, उत्तम कुमार पांव से पेंटिंग बनाता हुआ, उससे बातचीत करते म्प्रीकर तारा चन्द व स्वयं द्वारा तैयार कलाकृतियां दिखाता उत्तम कुमार। ( छाया : खुशविन्द्र )