

LG Sinha releases Shri Amarnathji Yatra Guide Book

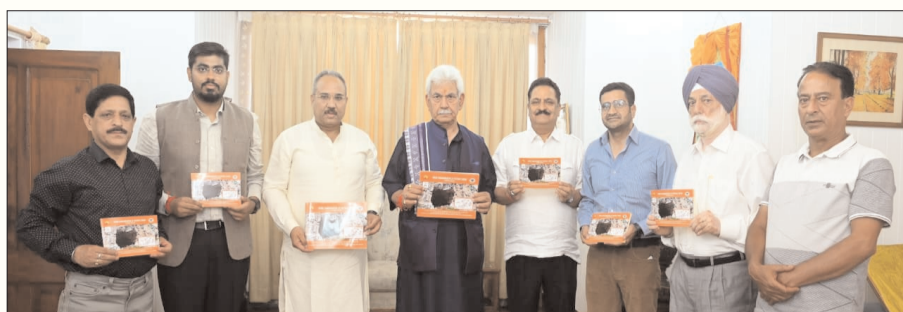
HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 15

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today released the 15th edition of Shri Amarnathji Yatra Guide Book, at Lok Bhawan.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the Tourism Federation of Jammu for its continuous endeavors to enhance the pilgrimage tourism experience.

He also appreciated the collaborative efforts of the Federation and all associated organizations in ensuring that Shri Amarnathji Yatra remains a safe, seamless, and spiritually fulfilling journey for devotees.

This year's edition of the Guide Book serves as an essential informative manual for pilgrims. It provides vital information regarding facilities, safety protocols, Yatra disciplines, registration procedures to medical facilities, accommodation options, and emergency contact details along both routes from



Lakhanpur to the Holy Cave.

Shri Rajesh Gupta, Chairman, Tourism Federation of Jammu, and President Vishwa Hindu Parishad J&K and Ladakh; informed that, inspired by the resounding success of Jammu Tawi Aarti initiative, regular Aarti ceremonies have now been expanded to other sacred locations across the region, including Surinsar Nag Mandir, Baba Kailash Dev Sthan, Purmandal, Ghagwal, Jatwal, and Raghunath Mandir.

The Tourism Federation has geared up comprehensively for the Shri Amarnathji Yatra 2026. Arrangements have been put in place in coordination with Jammu Smart City

Limited for the continuation of regular Aarti from 29th June (Jyeshtha Purnima). On the first day of Aarti at Jammu, Poojan will be performed on the morning of 29th June at the venue, continuing the practice from last year. Additionally, Langar will continue to be served at the Current Registration Counter in Jammu from the same date.

The Tourism Federation has also planned to produce a video documentary showcasing upgraded facilities for Shri Amarnathji Yatries, covering the entire area from Lakhanpur to the Holy Cave, including both routes. The documentary, to be released before the Yatra begins, will apprise pilgrims of enhanced facilities and educate devotees on Yatra disciplines and safety protocols.

The Guide Book release ceremony was attended by Shri Shubhankar Pratyush Pathak, Additional Secretary in Lieutenant Governor's Secretariat; Er. Kiran Wattal, President, Shri Amarnathji Yatra Welfare Society and Convenor of Vishwa Kashmiri Samaj; Shri Amrik Singh, President, Jammu Association of Tour Operators; Shri B.B. Kotwal, President, Baderwah Patnitop Travel Trade Association; Shri Abhay Bakaya, Vice President, Tourism Federation of Jammu; Mohd. Maqbool Shoda, Vice President, J&K and Ladakh Tourism Stakeholders Association.

Div Com visits Baltal, takes spot appraisal of arrangements for SANJY-2026

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JAMMU, JUNE 15

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg today visited Baltal and conducted an extensive inspection of the arrangements being put in place for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026.

During the visit, he reviewed the progress of various developmental and preparatory works aimed at ensuring a safe, smooth and comfortable pilgrimage experience for devotees.

Accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore; Senior Superintendent of Police Ganderbal, Sudhanshu Dhama and officers of various departments, Garg inspected the Yatri Niwas, RFID registration counters, dormitory facilities, facilities in Baltal base camp as well as the pony stand. He took stock of the facilities being put in place for pilgrims and interacted with officers and field functionaries regarding the status of ongoing works.

During the inspection, the Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned departments to ensure timely installation of signages, information boards and public awareness banners at all key locations to facilitate better guidance and accessibility for pilgrims.

He also emphasized proper sanitation management, queue regulation, traffic arrangements and availability of essential ser-



vices across the Yatra route.

Later, he chaired a high-level review meeting at Baltal to assess the preparedness of all stakeholder departments for the annual pilgrimage.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, gave a detailed presentation on the overall preparedness for the Yatra and briefed the meeting about infrastructure development, accommodation facilities, registration arrangements, disaster management preparedness and departmental works across various departments.

Reviewing the arrangements department-wise, the Divisional Commissioner directed all concerned agencies to complete the remaining works by June 20th and ensure full operational readiness before commencement of

the Yatra. He stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among departments and directed that officers remain available round the clock for prompt response and coordination.

The Health Department informed that medical aid centres along the track would be made fully functional by June 28, while oxygen booths would be established by June 25. The department also apprised that advance medical teams have already been deployed and adequate emergency response arrangements have been put in place.

The Divisional Commissioner reviewed the status of sanitation, water supply, power supply, telecommunication facilities, disaster management, transportation and fire safety arrangements. He directed the Rural Development Department to maintain sani-

tation in toilet facilities, while Jal Shakti and KPDCL were instructed to ensure uninterrupted water and power supply with adequate backup arrangements.

The meeting was informed that registration of service providers is underway and identity cards shall be issued within the stipulated timeline. Telecom agencies reported that communication infrastructure has been established and are operational.

The meeting was attended by officers from Sonamarg Development Authority, Rural Development, Health, Jal Shakti, KPDCL, Forest, Tourism, Fire & Emergency Services, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Disaster Management, Police, BRO, BSNL, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board and other concerned departments.

JKAACL, NZCC organise Sanskritik Yatra-Sindhu Darshan Festival at Ramban

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JAMMU, JUNE 15

The J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL), in collaboration with the North Zone Cultural Centre (NZCC), Patiala today organised the Sanskritik Yatra-Sindhu Darshan Festival at DPL Ramban.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, graced the occasion as the chief guest. The festival showcased the rich and diverse cultural heritage of India through vibrant folk performances by artists from different states of the country.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak; Additional Superintendent of Police, Mujeeb-Ur-Rehman; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Shokat Hayat Mattoo; Assistant Commissioner Development, Sheraz Ahmed along with several senior officers from the District and Police Administration, prominent citizens and a large number of locals were present on the occasion.

Welcoming the guests and artists, Assistant Director, NZCC Patiala, Ravinder Sharma highlighted the importance of such festivals in strengthening national unity and promoting cultural ex-



change.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the efforts of JKAACL and NZCC in bringing together diverse cultural traditions on a common platform. He emphasized that such events foster mutual understanding, preserve cultural heritage and strengthen the bonds of national integration. He also lauded the initiative and

urged that such programmes reach the maximum number of people, especially the younger generation to help them connect with and appreciate India's rich cultural legacy.

The programme featured folk performances from seven states, including Lairuhba from Manipur, Dandiya Raas from Gujarat, Gondhal from Maharashtra, Dogri Folk Dance

from Jammu & Kashmir, Goti Pua from Odisha, Kalbelia from Rajasthan and Bhanga from Punjab, drawing an enthusiastic response from art lovers, students and cultural enthusiasts.

Renowned folk and Sufi singer Manak Ali also enthralled the audience with his performance.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Sanjeev Shad.

DC Budgam visits Imambaras at Khandah, Suthsoo and Chattergam

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Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today visited Imambaras Khandah, Suthsoo and Chattergam to review the arrangements being put in place for the smooth observance of the ensuing holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

During the visits, the DC inspected the facilities available at the religious venues and interacted with local residents, members of management committees, and representatives of the Shia community to assess their requirements and concerns ahead of Muharram.

On the occasion, the representatives briefed the DC

about the schedule of major Muharram congregations and processions in their respective areas.

They highlighted various issues and demands, including repair and restoration of damaged road stretches, uninterrupted power supply with adequate backup arrangements, augmentation of potable water supply, strengthening of health-care facilities, sanitation measures, installation and repair of street lights, and traffic management to facilitate devotees during the religious gatherings.

The DC directed the concerned departments to take all necessary measures to ensure seamless arrangements during Muharram-ul-Haram.

He instructed the R&B

Department to identify and address damaged road stretches on priority and emphasized the need for effective traffic management plans to ensure smooth movement of mourners and visitors.

The DC further directed the Power Development Department (PDD) to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply, adequate backup arrangements, and installation and repair of street lights wherever required. The Jal Shakti Department was instructed to maintain regular and sufficient water supply throughout the Muharram days.

The Health Department was directed to ensure the availability of medical teams, ambulances, essential medicines, and health-

care facilities at major congregation points.

The Municipal authorities were instructed to intensify sanitation drives, waste management, and cleanliness measures in and around the venues of religious gatherings.

The DC stressed the importance of close coordination among all line departments and directed officers to complete all necessary arrangements well in advance to ensure the smooth and peaceful observance of Muharram-ul-Haram.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the District Administration has initiated advance preparations across the district and is committed to facilitating religious observances in a seamless manner.

Div Com, IGP review 2-month progress of Nasha Mukta Abhiyan in Jammu Division

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JAMMU, JUNE 15

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police Jammu Zone Bhim Sen Tuti chaired a meeting to review the two-month progress of the ongoing 100-day campaign under the Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan.

During the meeting, the latest progress of the Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan was reviewed across different parameters. It was reported that in Jammu Division, as many as 1,32,232 tehsil-level, 1,69,026 panchayat-level and 38,03,405 village-level awareness programmes were conducted over the past two months, with massive participation of people from every walk of life, making it a mass movement.

To strengthen the movement, 4,779 Panchayat Mahila Samitis were constituted while 947 youth clubs were activated. Awareness programmes were conducted involving religious leaders, youth clubs, Panchayat Mahila Samitis and religious institutions, with active support of the administration's IEC activities. As a result, hundreds of calls were received for counselling and assistance to drug abuse victims.

Comprehensive efforts against drug abuse and dismantling the narco-network involved strong enforcement action alongside large-scale administrative and anti-drug activities conducted across Jammu Division.

During the Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan, 155 hotspots of drug activity were identified. A total of 598 FIRs were lodged against drug peddlers, in which 701 peddlers have been arrested to date. Twenty-four PIT-



NDPS detention orders were also issued against drug smugglers, with recovery of large quantities of narcotics including over 14 kg of heroin, 49 kg of ganja, 3,712 kg of charas and 204.5 kg of poppy straw. Illicit crops including poppy plants over 52 marlas, poppy straw weighing 25.43 kg, wild cannabis over 44 kanals, lahan (22,150 units) and 476 litres of illegal liquor were also destroyed.

As a measure of deterrence, 62 immovable properties of drug peddlers worth ₹19.30 crore have been demolished, while 21 immovable properties worth ₹24.868 crore have been seized or attached and movable properties worth ₹1.69 crore were also seized or attached. A total of 180 passports have been recommended for suspension, 101 driving licences were suspended and 81 have been cancelled to date. Additionally, 243 registration certificates of vehicles were suspended and 94 have been cancelled by the Transport Department across different districts of Jammu Division.

It was informed that with a focus on rehabilitation of drug abuse victims, 884 youth were identified for rehabilitation out of 2,293 drug users. Of these, 547 youth have been rehabilitated and 254 connected

with self-employment schemes. Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar emphasised strengthening the rehabilitation ecosystem and expanding the counselling outreach and helpline numbers.

The Div Com said that drug abuse victims should be connected with livelihood opportunities through employment linkages, and children should be provided with sufficient sports kits to keep them from falling into the trap of drug abuse.

The Divisional Commissioner also called for strengthening drug de-addiction centres with regular follow-up calls on rehabilitated youth. He instructed district administrations to regularly monitor hotspots and remain alert to shifting or newly emerging hotspots of drug abuse. He further directed Deputy Commissioners towards data-driven hotspot management to ensure sustainable reduction in drug abuse and trafficking across Jammu Division.

Div Com Ramesh Kumar directed Deputy Commissioners to regularly publicise tele-assistance and helpline numbers for drug abuse cases. He asked the Drug Controller and district administrations to conduct strict and thorough inspections of drug stores and chemist shops

and take appropriate action against anyone found involved in illegal sale of regulated drugs.

The Divisional Commissioner further stressed that awareness programmes should focus on generating behavioural change among people. He underscored the need to interact with parents, students and teachers for early identification of signs of drug abuse. He asked district administrations to maintain constant surveillance and intelligence networks for better impact of the Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan.

IGP Jammu Bhim Sen Tuti noted that substantial progress has been achieved in the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu Kashmir Abhiyan. He emphasised increasing efforts towards eradicating the menace of drug abuse from society and called on district administrations to conduct NCORD meetings in their respective districts regularly without fail.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners and SSPs of Jammu Division, Excise Commissioner J&K, Director Social Welfare, SSP ANTF J&K, Director Colleges J&K, Drug Controller J&K, Joint Director Information Jammu and senior officers from the Transport Department, School Education, Rural Development and Jammu University.