

First batch of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026 pilgrims arrives at Base Camp Nunwan



ANANTNAG, JULY 02: Amid deep spiritual fervor, the first batch of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 pilgrims travelling through Pahalgam Axis today arrived at Base Camp Nunwan, Pahalgam.

The Yatris were warmly welcomed by Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag (Yatra Officer), Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Sr. Superintendent of Police, Amod Ashok Nagpure, Camp Director, Atul Ku-

mar, senior officers from civil and police administration and representatives of various socio-religious organisations.

Interacting with the devotees, the DC and other officers wished them a

smooth and blissful journey to the Holy Cave.

Earlier in the day, the pilgrims were accorded a grand reception at Walnut Factory Qazigund by SDM Dooru along with senior officers and officials of line departments.

The reception ceremonies were held in a vibrant and colorful manner, witnessing showering of flowers on the Yatris. They were also provided on spot assistance on accommodation, langars and other essential services.

Notably, the administration has made comprehensive arrangements including accommodation, health care transportation, sanitation, drinking water and langars for the Yatris. Many service providers have made multiple essential items like sim cards, clothes, trekking utilities and shoes available at designated stations enroute for the ease and convenience of the devotees.

The pilgrims expressed satisfaction on the overall arrangements and were highly enthusiastic as they prepare to commence their sacred pilgrimage to the Holy Cave in the early hours of July 03.

LG attends 1-day capacity building programme of School Education Department



JAMMU, JULY 02: The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today attended 'One Day Capacity Building Programme' organised by Bharti Airtel Foundation, State Council of Educational Research and Training, J&K and School Education Department. The event served as a formal platform for the launch of instructional resources jointly developed by the three institutions aimed at strengthening the professional capacities of teachers and enriching the overall quality of school education across the Union Territory.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor said the initiative is a collective pledge and rooted in a fundamental truth that when we empower teachers, we inspire confidence in our students.

"When teachers are empowered, students gain confidence. When schools are strengthened, society becomes more resilient and when education moves in the right direction, Jammu Kashmir and the nation advance toward a brighter, safer and more prosperous future.

We must remember that the ultimate purpose of education is transformation. When learning connects with lived experiences, it sparks generational change. The greatest power of education does not lie in exam results but in its ability to change lives. A dedicated teacher shapes destiny. I want schools in Jammu Kashmir to focus on this aspect and become

laboratories of life-building," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The one-day capacity building programme is also linked to the broader "Drug-Free Jammu & Kashmir" campaign. Its aim is to improve teaching methods and protect students from the challenges today's youth face. The Lieutenant Governor said that rising trends in drug abuse, mental stress, social pressure, digital-world risks and changing lifestyles have made the school's role more important than ever. He said teachers are being provided with modern tools and training so they help build students' personalities and empower them to face life's challenges.

"Every student is born with unique talents. Our duty is to recognise each child's talent and provide resources and tools to grow. I ask every teacher, with a strong sense of responsibility, to remember that education is not merely competition but an ongoing journey of self-development. In this journey you must respect and encourage each student's individuality.

Education today cannot be restricted to measurable academic achievement alone. The challenges of modern life are far more complex than before. Pressure from competition, societal expectations, stress, peer influence and the growing danger of substance abuse, are realities our children face daily. In such circumstances life-

skills education becomes essential, and schools should focus on self-awareness, emotional balance, problem-solving, creativity and critical thinking. We must teach children practical lessons for living so they learn with greater confidence and contribute to building a healthy society," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the National Education Policy's aim is to develop citizens who are creative, responsible, innovative, compassionate and self-reliant. He also commended the initiative of the Directorate, School Education Jammu to start online classes for grades 11 and 12 across ten districts. He said this is an important step toward educational equality and through this initiative even students in remote villages can access quality learning.

"Success of these efforts will be measured by the confidence of our students and their contribution to a self-reliant Jammu Kashmir. Many countries have shown that in times of crisis the younger generation becomes our greatest hope. Beyond the standard curriculum, learning must include how to overcome hardships, help rebuild communities and support one another. Life-skills-based education can reduce social divides and strengthen the values of diversity.

The purpose of education is the upliftment of all hu-

manity. Today Jammu Kashmir is making its important contribution to this global endeavour. Every positive step taken here can reshape the lives of millions of children in the years ahead. This initiative also reflects the spirit of long-term collaboration among government, teachers, parents, industry and society. All the stakeholders must come together to build a Jammu Kashmir where every student feels safe, respected and inspired, where every teacher, through knowledge, compassion and dedication, shapes the next generation and where education becomes the primary means of transformation, confidence, social harmony and hope," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated the meritorious students and winners of Tobacco-Free Educational Institution (TOFEI) initiative. Several books on life-skills were also released.

Shri Rakesh Bharti Mittal, Co-Chairman Bharti Airtel Foundation; Shri Ram Niwas Sharma, Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Ms Nuriya Ansari, CEO, Bharti Airtel Foundation; Dr. Naseem Javaid Chowdhary, Director School Education Jammu, senior officials, heads of educational institutions, prominent citizens, teachers and students were present.

Lieutenant Governor flags-off HDFC Parivartan's Mobile Medical Care Unit Van

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 02

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today flagged off a Mobile Medical Care Unit van, supported by HDFC Bank Limited under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, 'HDFC Parivartan'.

The Lieutenant Governor appreciated HDFC Bank Limited for this noble initiative, which is slated to operate in Jammu division for a period of 27 months. The programme, focusing on Ramban district, is designed to complement and strengthen the public health infrastructure of the region.

Operating on a roster-based schedule, the Mobile Medical Care Unit will deliver doorstep primary healthcare services to the communities. It will be staffed by a qualified medical team, including a Doctor (MBBS), Community Health Officer, Nursing



Staff, and a Community Mobilizer.

The vehicle is equipped with 84 essential medicines and facilities for point-of-care tests like Hemoglobin, Blood Sugar, Urine Pregnancy Test, Chikungunya, Malaria, Typhoid, and Dengue. Along with daily OPD services, the core focus will be on Maternal & Child Health, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), Seasonal, Water Borne and Vector

Borne Diseases.

The team will also provide crucial antenatal/postnatal care and regular screenings for diabetes and hypertension. Furthermore, the initiative will feature quarterly specialized health camps with visiting specialist doctors and health awareness activities as well as school health programmes for children in the coverage areas, effectively bridging critical healthcare gaps.

Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shri Sachin Mahajan, Zonal Head, HDFC Bank; Ms Meera Choudhary, J&K Head, HDFC Bank; Shri Abhishek Khajuria, Cluster Head, HDFC Bank; Shri Satnam Singh, Head, Health -Smile Foundation and other members of HDFC Bank Limited and Smile Foundation were present at the flag-off ceremony at Lok Bhavan Jammu.

Dy Chief Minister inspects under-construction Seerbagh-Sempora Bridge in Srinagar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 02

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today inspected the under-construction Seerbagh-Sempora Bridge in Srinagar and directed the executing agency to expedite the remaining works to ensure the project is completed and dedicated to the public at the earliest.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister reviewed the progress and quality of the ongoing construction works. He was accompanied by Chief Engineer, PWD Central Kashmir, Narinder Kumar; Superintending Engineer, Iram Lone; and other senior officers of the department.

Emphasising the need for timely completion, the Deputy Chief Minister instructed the officers to maintain the highest standards of quality while adhering to the stipulated timeline.

He noted that the bridge has entered its final phase and stressed on speedy work completion on the



project.

Highlighting the importance of the project, Surinder Choudhary said that the bridge will significantly improve connectivity and ease of travel for the residents of Seerbagh, Sempora, Summerbugh and adjoining areas of Chadoora, Pampore and

Srinagar. He said the project will not only reduce travel time but also strengthen access to essential services and boost economic activity in the area.

The Deputy Chief Minister reiterated the Government's commitment to creating modern and resilient

infrastructure that enhances public convenience and supports balanced regional development. He directed the concerned officers to ensure that all remaining works are completed efficiently so that the bridge is made operational without any unnecessary delay.

IFAD Supervision Mission for JKICP commences in Srinagar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 02

The Supervision Mission of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement in Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKICP) commenced today with an inaugural session at Mission Directorate, HADP/JKCIP, Rajbagh, here.

The Mission, scheduled from 02 to 14 July 2026, will undertake a comprehensive review of project implementation across all components, under the overall guidance of Dr. Sagar D. Doifode, IAS, Mission Director, HADP/JKCIP.

The visiting IFAD team is led by Shreekantha Shetty, Team Leader (Institutions & M&E), and comprises Vinay Tuli (Horticulture, Agriculture & Value Chains), Monika Khanna (Start-ups & Agribusiness), Niranjan Khadka (Senior Technical Specialist, SECAP), Gitika Goswami (Youth Officer), and Meera Mishra, IFAD Country Coordinator. Marc de Sousa Shields, IFAD Country Director, is expected to join the Mission in its concluding phase.

The inaugural session was attended by the representatives of SKUAST Kashmir and SKUAST Jammu, Directors of the Implementing Agencies in-



cluding Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry and Fisheries of both divisions,, and members of the Project Management Units, with district officers joining virtually from across the Union Territory.

In his welcome address, the Mission Director, HADP/JKCIP, Dr. Sagar D. Doifode presented the project's implementation trajectory and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to a transparent and outcome-driven review.

Meera Mishra, in her opening remarks, outlined the Mission's expectations and appreciated the momentum achieved by the project teams. This was followed by a consolidated JKICP Project Overview presented by Dr. Rizwan Qureshi, Technical Officer, and detailed component-wise progress presentations with a review of log

frame output and outcome indicators.

Over the coming days, the Mission will review the Action Taken Report on previous mission recommendations, financial and procurement compliance, and safeguards and monitoring systems.

From 4 to 6 July, two Mission teams will undertake field visits across fourteen districts covering Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban and Udhampur in the Jammu division, and Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian, Baramulla, Kupwara, Srinagar and Budgam in the Kashmir division, interacting with Farmer Producer Organisations, horticulture and niche-crop farmers, agri start-ups, youth clubs, pastoralists and vulnerable households supported under the project.

The Mission will also

hold structured discussions with the Directorates and line departments, SKUAST Jammu and Kashmir, the Union Territory Level Bankers Committee, Mission Youth, and private sector partners, before concluding with the preparation of the Aide Memoire and wrap-up meetings with the Mission Director, JKICP, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, and Chief Secretary, J&K.

JKICP, supported by IFAD, aims at improving the competitiveness of agriculture and allied sectors in Jammu & Kashmir through collectivization of farmers, support to niche and horticultural crops, enterprise and market promotion, start-up incubation, and targeted support to pastoralists, women and vulnerable communities across the Union Territory.