

Sinha launches RDD's IEC campaign for sustainable, zero-waste pilgrimage

Yatra Logo, Yatra Anthem, campaign website and MIS portal, Trinetra App, Pamphlet, Yatra guidelines, Yatra mascots launched

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, during his visit to Baltal on Monday, launched a comprehensive IEC (Information, Education & Communication) campaign and various innovative initiatives of Directorate of Rural Sanitation, Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, for a sustainable and Zero-Waste pilgrimage of Shri Amarnath Ji.

The initiatives include Yatra Logo, Yatra Anthem, campaign website and MIS portal, Trinetra App, Pamphlet & Yatra Guidelines, Yatra Mascots and IEC toolkit aimed to promote sustainable practices, address sanitation issues, share verified information, and engage Yatrīs through feedback along the



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha launching comprehensive IEC campaign during his visit to Baltal on Monday.

Baltal and Pahalgam axis, with the goal of achieving a Zero Landfill Yatra. The campaign website www.shriamarnathjiyatra.com and an MIS portal will serve as the central hub for all information, updates, and resources, while the

browser-based mobile application www.zerowasteyatra.app will provide real-time information and support to the Pilgrims. Pamphlet & Yatra Guidelines, designed for Langar organizers, shopkeepers, and service

providers along the Yatra route are focused on ensuring waste minimization, discourage single-use plastics, and implement SBM-G norms. Trinetra App will significantly enhance the pilgrim experience through sanitation

facilities, safety alerts and making them aware of the values of cleanliness during their pilgrimage.

Anoo Malhotra, Director General, Rural Sanitation briefed the Lieutenant Governor on dedicated measures taken by the department to make the yatra more sustainable.

It was informed that the Department has installed a total of 5613 toilets / bathing units, on both the axis, of which 2920 are on the Pahalgam axis and 2693 are on the Baltal axis.

Further, 7361 sanitation workers are deployed to ensure cleanliness of these sanitation units.

The department has also established 15 Processing Facilities for Solid Waste Management on both the axis.



JKHCBAJ unveils portrait of Maharaja Hari Singh, inaugurates upgraded bar hall for lawyers



Senior Lawyers and JKHCBAJ members at inauguration of upgraded Justice Vinod Kumar Gupta Memorial Bar Hall at Jammu on Monday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In an impressive function held at High Court Complex, Jammu, office bearers of the Jammu & Kashmir High Court Bar Association Jammu inaugurated and dedicated upgraded Justice Vinod Kumar Gupta Memorial Bar Hall to lawyers.

A portrait of Maharaja Hari Singh Bahadur was also installed in the Bar hall, which was also unveiled by K. Nirmal Kotwal, President of JKHCBAJ alongwith Vice President Baldev Singh, General Secretary Pardeep Majotra, Joint Secretary Anshu Mahajan and Treasurer Rahul Aggarwal. The event was attended by battery of lawyers, including the seniors and young members of the bar.

Speaking on the occasion, Adv. BS Manhas, Adv. AK Sawhney, Sr. Adv. Aslam Goni, Sr. Adv. UK Jalali, Sr. Adv. DC Raina, Adv. VB Gupta, Sr. Adv. Sunil Sethi and Sr. Adv. KS Johal emphasised on the role of Maharaja in establishment of court and his commitment to justice. Maharaja Hari Singh was the founder of High Court of Judicature for Jammu & Kashmir, which was established on 26th of March, 1928. All the advocates collectively appreciated the team of bar association for tirelessly working for the betterment and upliftment of legal fraternity. Speaking on the occasion, President K. Nirmal Kotwal ensured his commitment to work for legal fraternity. He said that Maharaja was a man of vision, principle, and

was committed to justice. He once famously declared, 'Justice is my religion', and indeed he meant it. Under his rule, the judicial system of Jammu and Kashmir saw significant reforms. He worked to modernize the legal structure, ensuring that it was more accessible, fair, and efficient. He emphasized meritocracy in the bureaucracy and judiciary, striving to remove nepotism and favoritism from state institutions. The Maharaja also initiated efforts to codify laws, bring consistency to judicial processes, and reduce the arbitrary powers of feudal lords. Office bearers of the association thanked the members of the bar for their presence and ensured to keep working for them.

Dr Jitendra, Puducherry LG discuss Coastal Action Plan, Marine Economy

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

PUDUCHERRY: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh and Puducherry Lieutenant Governor K. Kailashnathan held a meeting here this morning to discuss a comprehensive action plan for coastal cleaning, marine economy, creation of a permanent coastal management mechanism, exploration of seabed minerals, and promoting deep sea fishing under the Deep Ocean Mission.

The meeting focused on leveraging Puducherry's coastal assets for sustainable development and long-term economic gains. Dr. Jitendra Singh raised concerns over the recurring problem of coastal erosion in Puducherry, noting that while earlier efforts like the 'Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar' campaign brought positive change, a consistent and structured approach is now required.



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh and Puducherry Lieutenant Governor K. Kailashnathan holding a breakfast meeting at Puducherry on Monday.

"A permanent mechanism for beach cleaning and coastal management needs to be put in place. The Ministry of Earth Sciences will extend all necessary guidance and will work in coordination with the Puducherry Chief Secretary to operationalise it," he said. Highlighting Puducherry's strategic location along the eastern coastline, Dr. Jitendra Singh stressed its potential role in India's marine economy. He said the Deep Ocean Mission opens up new possibilities

in deep sea fishing and seabed exploration for critical minerals such as polymetallic nodules. "Such resources could significantly boost India's technological capabilities and position in the global marine economy," he noted. The Minister informed the Lieutenant Governor that the first phase of India's Deep Ocean Mission is on track for sea trials in early 2026. By 2027, India aims to have a robust presence beneath the ocean surface, driven by indigenous technology. The mission, he said,

would help transform the way India utilises its marine resources for economic development while maintaining environmental balance.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also highlighted the need to assess how best Puducherry's coastal zones can contribute to revenue generation and local employment, particularly through regulated deep sea fishing and marine research.

The Minister lauded the coordination between India's space and ocean research programmes, adding that the same spirit of innovation and scientific collaboration should now be extended to coastal states and union territories like Puducherry. The Minister expressed confidence in the Puducherry administration's willingness to partner in these national missions.

Dr. Jitendra Singh concluded by reiterating that synergising science, governance, and local engagement would help realise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047, where marine and space frontiers will play an increasingly central role in shaping India's future.

Sham Lal reviews PAI 2.0 implementation, Panchayat Ghar progress

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal on Monday chaired a review meeting with Assistant Commissioners Panchayat (ACPs) to evaluate the implementation of the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0, construction of Panchayat Ghars and the co-location of Common Service Centres (CSCs).

During the meeting, the Director emphasized the need for organizing training sessions on PAI across all districts and blocks, ensuring full participation of relevant personnel.

He directed that the data under PAI must be fact-based and aligned with ground realities and should be personally monitored by Assistant Commissioners Panchayat (ACPs) and Block Development Officers (BDOs).

The Director highlighted that discrepancies in scoring often deprive well-performing panchayats of national-level recognition and awards, hence scoring must accurately reflect the actual performance in respective thematic areas.

He stated that district-level implementation of PAI is of critical importance and real-time and authentic data is essential to formulate strategies aligned with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Regarding the construction of Panchayat Ghars, the Director instructed that the process must be taken up on a mission-mode priority.

He said for panchayats where land has not yet been identified, immediate steps should be taken to finalize locations and in cases of land disputes,



he directed that joint site inspections be conducted in collaboration with the Revenue Department to resolve issues promptly.

The Director stressed that no compromise on construction quality will be tolerated and that Panchayat Ghars should be located at central, accessible locations to serve the entire community effectively.

He further directed that a detailed list of panchayats without Panchayat Ghars be submitted for new approvals.

The Director also underscored the urgent need to activate Panchayat Learning Centres, recommending that these centres be developed as institutionalized training hubs for panchayat representatives and the local population.

He instructed officials to accelerate the geo-tagging of Panchayat Ghars using the "Meri Panchayat" mobile application. All Panchayat Ghars must be geo-tagged and the entire process should be completed within the next two days to facilitate transparency and monitoring.

PAC discusses audit paras pertaining to Finance Dept

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Monday convened a meeting to discuss audit paras pertaining to Finance Department at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Sham Lal Sharma and attended by members Nazir Ahmad Khan, Qayasar Janshaid Lone, Javid Hassan Baig, Devinder Kumar Manyal, Sajad Shaheen and Muzaffar Iqbal Khan.

The Committee undertook a detailed review of audit paras pertaining to the Finance Department, including Paras 3.6 (2001-02), 2.2 and 2.5 (2018-19).

The Chairman emphasized the importance of ensuring efficiency and transparency in public expenditure. He reiterated that the mandate of the Committee is to scrutinize the

government spending, identify lapses, fix accountability and recommend corrective actions.

The Committee deliberated on key issues such as computerisation of Toll Post Lakhanpur, management of bank accounts and disbursement of flood relief funds. The meeting reviewed the details submitted by the concerned department and asserted that action taken reports be submitted over various matters in a time bound manner.

Principal Accountant General J&K, K P Yadav, Finance Secretary, Finance Department, Santosh D. Vaidya, Secretary, PWD Bhupinder Kumar, Secretary, RDD & PR Mohammad Ajiz Asad, Director General Accounts and Treasuries, Director Finance, Commissioner State Taxes and other senior officers.

The Committee also decided to drop various audit paras, including Para 2.2.4 related to the management of bank accounts with a direction to submit a detailed action taken report within a stipulated time frame. The Chairman highlighted the importance of the Committee, emphasising on the core responsibilities, including examination of audit reports from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), scrutiny of public spending and recommendation of reforms to enhance fiscal discipline.

He appreciated the commitment and meticulous efforts of the Committee members and officials and encouraged them to continue contributing effectively towards the public accountability. He underlined the crucial role of the PAC as a watchdog over public funds and government operations..

Suryaputri Tawi Aarti to commence from today: Com JMC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Dr. Devansh Yadav, on Monday announced that the much-awaited Suryaputri Tawi Aarti will commence from July 1, 2025 and will be held daily at 7:00 pm on the banks of River Tawi. The announcement was made during a press conference jointly addressed with Director Information and Public Relations, Nitish Rajora.

The spiritual event being organized collaboratively by Jammu Municipal Corporation, Jammu Smart City Limited, Department of Tourism, Shri Raghunathji Corridor Development Council and the Department of Information and Public Relations aims to revive and showcase the cultural and spiritual heritage of Jammu.

Dr. Yadav informed that the inaugural Aarti on July 1 will be graced by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha as the Chief Guest.

The Commissioner said that special arrangements have been put in place to facilitate the participation of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims



JMC Commissioner, Dr. Devansh Yada talking to reporters.

staying at Bhagvati Nagar. He informed that dedicated bus services will be operational to transport the pilgrims to the Aarti site, offering them a chance to connect with the spiritual essence and historical significance of the Tawi River.

Regarding ongoing Yatra preparations, the Commissioner said that JMC in coordination with District Administration has mobilized teams to ensure smooth conduct of the

IIM Jammu is 5th among all 21 IIMs to get two International Accreditations

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu has etched its name in the annals of Indian higher education by securing two of the most prestigious international accreditations-BGA (Business Graduates Association) and EFMD Programme Accreditation for its flagship MBA program-within the same year.

This remarkable feat establishes IIM Jammu as one of only five IIMs among the 21 IIMs across the country to hold both accreditations and the only second- and third-generation IIM to do so, marking a golden chapter in its journey of excellence. The twin accreditations affirm IIM Jammu's rapid ascent as a global institution committed to academic distinction, ethical leadership, and societal impact. They validate the Institute's vision of blending Indian values with international standards and reflect its dedication to nurturing responsible leaders equipped for a dynamic global business environment. The journey began in January 2025, when a Peer Review Team (PRT) from BGA, under the Association



Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu addressing a press conference on Monday.

of MBAs (AMBA), London, conducted an intensive institutional review. Over four days, the team engaged with IIM Jammu's stakeholders-faculty, students, alumni, recruiters, and leadership. The Institute's powerful presentation, The Journey of IIM Jammu, showcased its alignment with BGA's core values: lifelong learning, positive societal impact, and responsible management. In a rare and historic decision, the PRT unanimously recommended a full five-year institutional accreditation-typically reserved for older, well-established institutions-recognizing IIM Jammu's extraordinary growth, robust governance, and academic

innovation. This rare distinction enhances the Institute's global standing and opens doors to broader international networks, student exchanges, and career opportunities. Adding further momentum, IIM Jammu underwent another rigorous review in March 2025, this time by the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD) for its MBA programme. The evaluation focused on internationalization, practice orientation, and ethics, responsibility, and sustainability (ERS). The EFMD Peer Review Team praised IIM Jammu's agile curriculum, strong ethical foundations, and impactful research.

On 17th June 2025, the EFMD Board officially conferred a three-year Programme Accreditation during its meeting in Austria. These accreditations significantly enhance the Institute's credibility and global visibility, reinforcing its commitment to academic excellence, international collaboration, and societal relevance. They also align with the national vision of a Viksit Bharat-a fully developed, globally competitive India, as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Dr. Milind P. Kamble, Chairman, Board of Governors, hailed the recognitions as transformative. "This reflects our focus on quality,

innovation, and transparency. We are moving closer to becoming a globally respected institution that remains proudly Indian in spirit," he said.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, called the achievement a collective triumph. "This is not just a feather in our cap-it represents our purpose and promise to redefine management education in India and beyond," he said. Academic leaders echoed the sentiment. Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean (Faculty and Research), said the accreditations validated the Institute's industry-aligned, research-driven approach. Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Dean (Academics), emphasized how EFMD's endorsement elevates IIM Jammu as a hub for global collaboration and innovation. As IIM Jammu nears its ten-year milestone, these twin accreditations mark not an endpoint but a powerful beginning. With renewed purpose and international validation, the Institute strides confidently toward shaping ethical, impactful leaders of tomorrow-anchored in Indian ethos, yet fully aligned with global aspirations.