

**Pilgrimages are not only tourist spots but also the centre of India's cultural unity : Chief Minister**

**Despite various diversities, language barriers, life style differences India remains strong and organized**

**Religion makes a person attracted to good behavior and moral values : Yogi ji**

**Through 'Sindhu Darshan', there is an opportunity for the present generation to connect with Vedic period's culture**

**Instead of looking towards the government for religious events, public participation should be enhanced**

**Kailash Mansarovar Bhawan being built in Ghaziabad to have all necessary facilities**

**Chief Minister launches the website of the Religious Affairs department**

**Chief Minister distributes cheques of Rs. Fifty-Fifty thousand each to pilgrims of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and Rs. Ten-Ten thousand each to pilgrims of Sindhu Darshan**

**Chief Minister addresses the devotees of Shri Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and Sindhu Darshan**

*Lucknow : 13 June, 2017*

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ji has said that the pilgrim spots in all the four directions of the country are not mere tourist spots but also the center points of India's rich cultural unity. When people undertake trips to these places, they also strengthen the social and cultural unity of the nation, he observed. These pilgrimages, he said further, were also a reflection of the great and comprehensive ethos of the 'Sanatan Dharm'. It is for this reason, he pointed out that despite huge differences of opinion, diversities and language barriers, the nation has remained organized and strong politically. The Chief Minister was today addressing the devotees of Shri Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and Sindhu Darshan at an event organised here at his official residence where they were handed over the subsidy cheques.

He informed the pilgrims how due to some reasons the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra had been stopped in between but due to the efforts of the

Union Government has started again. Calling it a daunting and a very challenging trip, the Chief Minister said the pilgrims undertaking the pilgrimage have proved that where there is a will, there is a way. Due to an emotional bonding with Kailash Mansarovar, he added, the state Government had decided to double the subsidy for pilgrim and also remembered the contribution of former Prime Minister Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi to make the arduous trip more convenient. Referring to Sindhu Darshan organized at Laddakh, the Chief Minister said this would give an opportunity for the present generation to connect to the Vedic period's culture.

He however stressed on the need of more public participation with regards to such religious events than simply looking to the Government. Yogi ji also spoke on the tough spiritual 'Char Dhaam Yatra' and informed of the various initiatives being taken by the Government of India to make this annual pilgrimage more convenient. The Chief Minister also said that the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra Bhawan being built in Ghaziabad will have all necessary facilities for the pilgrims. Strengthening the facilities at various pilgrim spots will also increase footfalls and also create direct and indirect employment opportunities, he said further.

The Chief Minister lauded the works done by the Religious Affairs Department and also launched the website of the Department. This website would also be linked to all district portals and would a bevy of facilities like online donation, e-puja at the Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi and other schemes of the department. The Chief Minister also distributed cheques of Rs. Fifty-Fifty thousand each to some of the 94 pilgrims who had undertaken the 2016 Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and Rs. Ten thousand each to some of the 71 people who has gone to the Sindhu Darshan.

Before this, Religious Affairs Minister Mr. Laxmi Narayan Chowdhary said that the Government was undertaking many schemes for the welfare and convenience of the people like beginning of the bhajan-kirtan at Chitrakoot, Krishna Leela at Mathura and Ram Leela at at Ayodhya.

Principal Secretary of the Department Mr. Avanish Kumar Awasthi said that faith makes the thought process of a person positive and that work would be initiated on Kailash Mansarovar Bhawan in Ghaziabad soon. Also present at the event were dignitaries, pilgrims and the National President of the Kailash Mansarovar Nishkaam Samiti Mr. Udai Kaushik and incharge of Sindhi Academy Mr. Amrit Rajpal, who also addressed the gathering.

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