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# Modi champions ...

Its effects are already visible on our coastlines, in the marine ecosystems, in weather patterns, and in our communities," said the prime minister.

He reiterated that those who had contributed the least to climate change should not bear the greatest burden of its consequences and said climate action must be guided by "fairness, responsibility, and equity". He further said, "This is the essence of climate justice."

He also said India would continue working with Seychelles to ensure that the concerns of Small Island Developing States received the attention they deserved.

The prime minister said India and Seychelles shared the vision of a more inclusive world and of international institutions that reflected contemporary realities, reaffirming their commitment to advancing the interests of the Global South.

"This is the spirit that unites the Global South. And this is the vision that India and Seychelles will continue to advance together," he said.

Modi said the Indian Ocean connected, rather than separated, India and Seychelles, and that New Delhi viewed the island nation as much more than a group of islands, describing it as "not a small island state - but a large ocean country" with a maritime domain spanning nearly 1.4 million square kilometres.

He praised Seychelles for leading the way in the blue economy long before it became part of global discussions, including through innovations such as Blue Bonds.

The prime minister proposed expanding bilateral cooperation in fisheries, marine science, coastal management, renewable energy and sustainable tourism.

Calling digital innovation another key area of cooperation, Modi said India's digital public infrastructure had demonstrated how technology could expand opportunity, improve governance, boost financial inclusion, and deliver services to hundreds of millions of people.

He also said India would be happy to share its experiences and expertise as Seychelles pursued its own digital transformation.

He reaffirmed India's commitment to the bilateral relationship, saying India would remain Seychelles' trusted partner, celebrate its achievements, support its aspirations and stand beside it as a friend.

Earlier on Sunday, Modi held delegation-level talks with Seychelles President Patrick Herminie, during which they reviewed the full spectrum of bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

After the meeting, Modi said India envisions an Indian Ocean where maritime security is ensured alongside economic prosperity and where partnership is based not on size but on mutual respect and trust.

Modi was conferred with the honorary 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon' title by Seychelles for his steadfast commitment to environmental conservation and advancing the aspirations of the Small Island Developing States.

President Patrick Herminie presented Modi with the title here, the first such honour bestowed by Seychelles.

PM Modi thanked Seychelles for the honour and dedicated it to the nations which are fighting the challenges of climate change.

"Grateful to the people and Government of Seychelles as well as President Herminie for conferring upon me the 'Guardian of the Blue Horizon'," PM Modi posted on social media after receiving the honour.

"I humbly accept this honour and dedicate it to all those countries that are fighting the challenge of climate change and consider environmental protection their responsibility towards future generations. This is a pressing challenge which we have to overcome together," Modi said.

PM Modi said India is ready to do whatever is required to make the planet "greener and sustainable."

"This is reflected in our various domestic policies, emphasis on Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) and global efforts like the International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and more," he said.

The prime minister also thanked President Herminie and the people of Seychelles for the honour in his address to the National Assembly.

"It will encourage all those who are making sustained efforts for environment conservation. I bring with me the warm greetings and best wishes of 1.4 billion people of India," he said.

"It stands as a symbol of our nation's deepest respect and recognition for those whose leadership and partnership embodied the spirit of the guardian of our blue horizon," President Herminie said on the occasion.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that the honour reflects PM Modi's leadership role in advancing climate action and sustainable development, while also underscoring the growing strength of partnership."

"The Presidential Distinction recognises PM's leadership and steadfast commitment to environmental conservation, sustainable development, climate resilience, blue economy and advancing the aspirations of the Small Island Developing States," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) posted on X.

MEA said Mission LiFE, Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam, International Solar Alliance, Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and the International Big Cat Alliance are some of the initiatives taken by PM Modi in this direction.

The recognition is the latest in a series of such honours conferred on PM Modi for promoting sustainable development.

The Agricola Medal by FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation), the Seoul Peace Prize and the UN Champion of the Earth Award are some other recognitions recently awarded to PM.

MEA said that the honour underscores the importance attached by Seychelles to India's growing role as a trusted partner in supporting capacity building, environmental action, sustainable development initiatives, and advancing shared priorities across the Indian Ocean Region.

Modi landed in the archipelagic nation on Saturday for a three-day visit, during which he held delegation-level talks with President Herminie.

He will also attend the golden jubilee celebrations of the National Day of Seychelles as the Guest of Honour.

India and Seychelles unveiled 19 outcomes following talks between Modi and Herminie, expanding cooperation in areas ranging from defence and maritime security to digital payments, space, healthcare, agriculture and education.

Earlier this month, Modi was conferred with Slovakia's highest civilian honour, the Order of the White Double Cross

(First Class), in Bratislava.

Later in the day Modi met Seychelles Leader of Opposition Bernard Georges on the sidelines of his official visit, and the two leaders reaffirmed their shared commitment to "advancing peace, prosperity and sustainable development".

Modi, who is on a three-day visit to the archipelagic nation, will attend the golden jubilee celebrations of the National Day of Seychelles as the Guest of Honour.

During their meeting, the two leaders exchanged views on the "strong and enduring" India-Seychelles partnership, Randhir Jaiswal, Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, said in a social media post.

"They reaffirmed their shared commitment to advancing peace, prosperity and sustainable development in Seychelles," he added.

Modi, who held wide-ranging talks with Seychelles President Patrick Herminie, said India envisions an Indian Ocean where maritime security is ensured alongside economic prosperity and where partnership is defined not by size, but by mutual respect and trust.

The prime minister said they agreed that the Indian Ocean is "our shared home" and therefore "its security, sustainability and prosperity are our shared responsibility".

Modi's visit comes at a historic juncture as Seychelles marks 50 years of independence and the two countries celebrate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

## LG Sinha ...

arrangements to reflect that spirit, ensuring that Teerth Yatris are well cared for," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed all the stakeholder departments to make certain that all amenities are in place and that devotees of Lord Shiva are welcomed into an environment that is safe, comfortable, and well-organized.

The Lieutenant Governor reviewed the arrangements in place with regard to sanitation, evacuation plan, weather forecasting, holding areas for pilgrims, parking facilities, langars, transportation, healthcare services, drinking water and power supply, buffer stock of essential commodities, road maintenance, flood mitigation measures, disaster management preparedness, animal husbandry services, registration counters and other essential infrastructure.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the Police and other security agencies to maintain the highest level of vigilance and ensure robust coordination for the safety and security of all pilgrims.

Stressing the importance of efficient pilgrim management, the Lieutenant Governor instructed the concerned departments to increase the number of on-the-spot registration counters to facilitate quicker registration and minimize waiting time for devotees.

Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal presented a comprehensive overview of the preparations of line departments ahead of the annual yatra.

The Senior Superintendent of Police, Ganderbal, briefed the meeting on the security plan, including deployment of personnel, area domination, surveillance measures, access control, traffic management and emergency response mechanisms.

The meeting was attended by K.N. Rai, Member, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board; Shri Nalin Prabhat, DGP J&K; S.J.M. Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; Dr. Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Rahul Yadav, Managing Director JKPDC and Nodal Officer for Baltal Axis; VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; M. Suleman Choudhary, IGP Traffic J&K; Rajiv Omprakashn, DIG CKR; Jatin Kishore, Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal; Sudhanshu Dhama, SSP Ganderbal; Shreya Singhal, Director Information; Anoo Malhotra, DG Rural Sanitation J&K and senior officers of civil administration, police and security forces.

Meanwhile, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha launched the Directorate of Rural Sanitation's "Shubham-Shivam" campaign at Baltal base camp.

The Lieutenant Governor said the campaign is a massive step to achieve a sustainable, clean and zero-landfill Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. Along with a slew of eco-innovations, the Lieutenant Governor also unveiled the new website, pilgrimage anthem, logo, and mascot.

"The true backbone of this initiative is our incredible sanitation team. I am grateful for Karmyogi volunteers, whose relentless dedication will keep the base camp and both the tracks clean in the days ahead. They are the real heroes turning our zero-waste vision into reality, preserving the environment and the profound spiritual dignity of the Shri Amarnath Ji pilgrimage," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also stated that all the innovative initiatives of Directorate of Rural Sanitation rest on devotion and discipline, and they must be carried out conscientiously and responsibly by every stakeholder. The Lieutenant Governor said that the vision of Shubham-Shivam sends a clear message to every pilgrim, every langar, and every service provider on this journey that preservation of ecology and all its natural resources are a sacred duty.

"A clean, sustainable, zero landfill Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is a firm declaration that despite the harshest geographical conditions, ensuring cleanliness is our collective responsibility. An outstanding example of this commitment is the "Trayambakam" mobile application. It is a simple, intuitive, and useful tool through which any pilgrim can send a photo of waste or litter at a location and ensure immediate action.

The circular economy initiatives are also highly commendable. The "Swaha" utensil bank, where steel plates and cups are used against a small security deposit, conveys to every pilgrim that convenience and environmental responsibility can go hand in hand.

The "Amarnath Seva Cafe" turns waste collection into an act of service and participation. Exchanging collected plastic for tea and snacks is not only a transaction but it signals that true devotion to Baba Barfani manifests through active participation in keeping the pilgrimage clean," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also announced the regulatory framework including four way segregation, a complete ban on single use plastic, and prescribed sanitation standards for each langar and camp to lay a strong foundation for environmental protection.

"Directorate of Rural Sanitation's official logo, featuring Lord Shiva and 34 tridents arranged around him, reminds us that protecting this holy land and its environment is our shared duty. The pilgrimage anthem "Swachhta Dharma Hamara" will surely resonate in pilgrims' hearts in the same way as Baba's blessing and the echo of these mountains remain with them long after the journey ends. I extend my best wishes to the thousands of workers who will operate on these difficult routes in the coming days. Let us resolve to-

day that Baba Amarnath's sacred pilgrimage will be an unparalleled experience for pilgrims from across the country and abroad," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Shri K.N. Rai, Member, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board; Shri Nalin Prabhat, DGP J&K; Shri S.J.M. Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; Dr. Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri Rahul Yadav, Managing Director JKPDC and Nodal Officer for Baltal Axis; Shri VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Shri Jatin Kishore, Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal; Ms Anoo Malhotra, DG Rural Sanitation J&K and other senior officials attended the launch ceremony.

Later, the LG visited Baltal with senior officers Sunday and took stock of the health, lodging, and other pilgrim-centric facilities at the Base Camp.

The Lieutenant Governor interacted with service providers and officials and directed them to ensure the highest standards of cleanliness, upkeep, and pilgrim-service management.

The Lieutenant Governor also visited the Baltal Base Camp Hospital, where he inspected the healthcare infrastructure, including wards, laboratories, emergency facilities and patient care arrangements.

He interacted with doctors, paramedical staff and healthcare workers, appreciating their commitment and directed them to ensure round-the-clock availability of quality medical services, adequate medicines, emergency equipment and specialist care for the pilgrims throughout the Yatra.

Interacting with the media persons, the Lieutenant Governor said: "Preparations for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra have been underway for the past several months with the joint efforts of the Shrine Board, the administration, Government of India and all concerned departments. Comprehensive security and other arrangements are in place. I am hopeful this year's Yatra will surpass the success of the previous years".

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Shri KN Rai, Member, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board; Shri Nalin Prabhat, DGP J&K; Dr. Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri Rahul Yadav, Managing Director JKPDC and Nodal Officer for Baltal Axis; Shri Jatin Kishore, Deputy Commissioner, Ganderbal and other senior officials.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today said the district administration is geared up for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026, with preparations nearing completion.

Inspecting arrangements at Chanderkote, the DC said the administration has made elaborate arrangements for the pilgrimage, with emphasis on pilgrims' safety, sanitation, healthcare, traffic management and essential services. Yatra infrastructure, including the Yatra Camp at Lamber in Banihal, Yatri Niwas at Chanderkote, Langer sites at Chanderkote, lodgement centres, sanitation facilities, drinking water and power supply, mobile connectivity, medical aid centres and emergency response mechanisms, has been put in place well in advance.

The administration has been conducting regular inspections of facilities along the National Highway and the Yatra route. The DC recently visited Chanderkote, Karol and other strategic locations, besides reviewing progress on National Highway tunnel and viaduct projects to facilitate the movement of Yatra convoys.

Different departments are working in close coordination to ensure seamless arrangements.

Round-the-clock control rooms have been established and emergency response teams are on alert, with medical personnel, ambulances, rescue equipment and essential supplies deployed at all critical locations. Special arrangements have also been made for cleanliness, waste management and public convenience at all transit camps and Langer sites.

The DC directed officers concerned to remain vigilant and responsive in their assigned duties.

## Tawi Riverfront ...

warehouse inside the new Yatra base camp, and conclude with Purnahuti at 10.30 a.m. The annual pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine is scheduled to commence on July 3.

The observance marks the spiritual prelude to one of the country's largest annual pilgrimages, for which Jammu serves as the principal gateway. Every year, the city witnesses a massive influx of pilgrims before they proceed to the holy cave shrine in the Kashmir Himalayas, creating an atmosphere of devotion that extends beyond the Yatra base camps to temples, public spaces and the city's cultural landscape.

Adding to the spiritual calendar, the Daily Maha Aarti will begin at the Tawi Riverfront from June 29 at 7 p.m. in collaboration with Jammu Smart City Limited. Open to pilgrims, residents and visitors without any fee, passes or prior registration, the evening ritual seeks to provide a common platform for collective worship during the Yatra while reinforcing Jammu's identity as a centre of faith and pilgrimage.

More than a ceremonial offering, the Tawi Maha Aarti has evolved into a spiritual welcome for pilgrims arriving in Jammu. It offers devotees an opportunity to participate in collective worship before embarking on their onward journey to the Himalayan shrine while introducing them to the city's religious traditions and cultural heritage. The initiative also reflects efforts to strengthen Jammu's position as an integral part of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra experience rather than merely a transit point.

A distinctive feature of the programme will be a Dogri devotional invocation dedicated to "Suryaputri Tawi", celebrating the river's enduring place in Jammu's spiritual consciousness and folk tradition. The recital reflects an effort to preserve the region's indigenous cultural heritage while presenting it before pilgrims from diverse parts of the country and abroad.

The event is being organised by a committee headed by Rajesh Gupta, President of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Jammu Kashmir Ladakh, and President of the Shri Raghunath Ji Corridor Vikas Council, under the guidance of Mahant Rajesh Giri. Dinesh Chandra Ji, International Patron of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, will attend the ceremony, which will be conducted with the blessings of Shri Shri 1008 Mahamandaleshwar Mahant Rameshwar Das Ji and Swami Hridayanand Ji Maharaj. Preparations are also underway for the installation of the Hanuman flag and trident at the venue.

Organisers said entry to both the First Pujan and the Daily Maha Aarti will remain free of cost, with seating available on a first-come, first-served basis and no passes or prior reg-

istration required.

Conceived to revive the devotional association with "Suryaputri Tawi", the Tawi Maha Aarti has, over the years, evolved into a community expression of faith, bringing together spirituality, heritage and public participation. With the commencement of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, the evening ritual is set to become a daily feature of Jammu's spiritual landscape, offering pilgrims and residents alike an opportunity for collective prayer on the banks of the city's sacred river.

## 'Shiv Mahapuran...

Dhangri, Udhampur, Kathua and Jammu, Poonch, Mendhar besides some other places.

During the entire yatra route, devotees performed various dance with drum beats and chanted bhajans in favour of Lord Shiva with zeal and gaiety.

The Yatra passed through various locations and finally culminated at Buddha Amarnath Ji Temple where "Shri Shiv Mahapuran Katha" and Maharudra Yagya are being organised starting from 27th of June to 5th of July. The members of Temple Committee welcomed Shri Swamiji and devotees by showering flowers. Later, parshad was distributed among the devotees. The nine days Katha started from 27th and concludes on 5th of July in which various aspects of Shiv Maha Puran Katha would be told by Shri Swami Ji Maharaj.

While narrating the story, Swamiji told the devotees that this Purana, filled with the greatness of Shiva, is famous by the name of Shiva Mahapuran. One who reads Shiv Mahapuran attains the form of Shiva.

By reading Shiv mahapuram Puran, all the wishes are fulfilled. Merely by listening to this the living being does not attain degradation.

Shiva devotees roam around fearlessly. Shiva Mahapuran is the greatest of all the eight Puranas.

Lord Shiva is the destroyer of sins and has a very simple nature. Swami Ji further told the devotees that it is important to have emotions in religious events.

He said that always keep the environment around you pure. Where there is cleanliness and peace, the gods reside there.

Where unrighteousness increases and karma is forgotten, both Shiva and Shakti are not there. The devotees became enthralled after hearing the gist of the story.

## Over 3.7 ...

Police, successfully destroyed the narcotics in accordance with the provisions of the NDPS Act, a police spokesman said.

He said the destruction was carried out through scientific incineration at a facility in Vijaypur area of Samba on June 20 and 27, following all statutory legal formalities and in strict compliance with the guidelines of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The destroyed narcotics also include nearly 3,696 kg poppy straw, over 71 kg charas, over 21,965 units of banned capsules and tablets, 18 kgs cannabis and 885 grams of ganja, the spokesman said.

He said the destruction of seized narcotics is a significant step towards preventing their re-circulation into society and reflects the unwavering resolve of Udhampur police to eradicate the drug menace. This action forms part of the ongoing efforts under the 'Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyaan', aimed at creating a drug-free society through stringent enforcement, awareness, and community participation, the spokesman said.

Police the other day attached an immovable property of a drug peddler in Kathua district. Police here said that the property comprising a single-storey residential house with a total estimated value of approximately Rs 50 lakhs (market value), belonging to a drug peddler namely Pankaj Sharma of Pallan Tehsil Billawar, District Kathua was attached under the provisions of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS Act).

The property was identified as illegally acquired during the course of investigation. The entire proceeding was conducted under the directions of SSP Kathua Mohita Sharma along with team.

During the investigation, it was found that the drug peddler possessed immovable property Single Storey Residential House valued at approximately Rs 50 lakhs, situated at Pallan, Billawar, which was prima facie acquired through proceeds generated from illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

## Police intensify ...

Bangdara Kreeri and Batawari Goshbugh, where all identified wild cannabis plants were eradicated.

The campaign forms part of the proactive strategy of Baramulla Police to eliminate narcotic substances at their source, prevent their misuse, and strengthen public awareness regarding the harmful consequences of drug abuse. The drives were conducted peacefully with active cooperation from members of the local community and civil society.

Baramulla Police remains steadfast in its commitment to realizing the vision of a Drug-Free Baramulla. The general public is once again urged to extend full cooperation by reporting any instances of illegal cultivation or growth of cannabis and other narcotic plants so that timely legal action can be taken.

The other day, in its sustained campaign against drug trafficking and narcotics-related crimes, Baramulla Police has attached one motorcycle bearing Registration No. JK05H-8100 and one Xcent car bearing Registration No. HR55AD-2930 belonging to Ziyakat Ramzan Dar S/o Mohd Ramzan Dar R/o Chechilora, Kunzer, under the provisions of the NDPS Act.

The attachment was carried out by Police Station Kunzer in connection with FIR No. 35/2026 U/S/8/20/29 NDPS Act after establishing that the vehicles were linked to illicit narcotic activities. The attachment proceedings were completed strictly in accordance with the relevant legal provisions.

This action reflects the firm commitment of Baramulla Police to dismantle the infrastructure supporting drug trafficking and to ensure that proceeds and assets derived from narcotics-related crimes are dealt with as per law.

Baramulla Police reiterates its resolve to continue its relentless fight against the drug menace and appeals to the public to cooperate in building a drug-free society under the vision of a Nasha Mukti Jammu & Kashmir.

"Drug trafficking will not pay— Baramulla Police remains committed to targeting not only the offenders but also the assets generated through illegal narcotics trade."

## CEC arrives ...

The Chief Election Commissioner was warmly received upon his arrival at Sheikh ul Alam International Airport by Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, Sanjeev Verma, Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Amir and other senior officers from the administration and Election Department.

Speaking to media persons at the airport, the CEC said that during his visit he would be interacting with the voters from across the beautiful valleys of Jammu and Kashmir, with a special focus on strengthening the connect with the grassroots-level functionaries.

"I will be interacting with the voters across the beautiful valleys of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly with the grassroots-level Booth Level Officers of Budgam district, who serve as the cornerstone of the Election Commission," he said.

The CEC will hold an interaction with the voters, BLOs and other stakeholders of Budgam district on Monday morning.

The visit is part of the Election Commission of India's continued efforts to strengthen its engagement with the voters and electoral stakeholders, enhance field-level preparedness and promote democratic participation and awareness.