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Amid 'Bam Bam Bholey' chants, LG flags-off first batch of pilgrims

Sinha performed a special puja at the high-security Bhagwati Nagar base camp before flagging off the convoy of pilgrims, officials said.

"Har Har Mahadev! The sacred journey to the holy abode of Baba Barfani begins! Flagged off the first batch of pilgrims for Shri Amarnathji Yatra from Jammu's Bhagwati Nagar Base Camp. Shri Amarnathji Yatra is a profound spiritual awakening," Sinha said in a post on X after the ceremony.

He said every step taken on the sacred route reflected unwavering faith and devotion to Almighty Shiva and wished the pilgrims a safe and spiritually fulfilling journey.

He extended his best wishes to all the yatrīs embarking on the holy pilgrimage.

"Shri Amarnathji Yatra is a sacred path where devotion meets spiritual awakening. I wish all devotees a safe, comfortable, blissful and spiritually fulfilling journey. May this holy pilgrimage bring immense joy and divine peace to all," the LG said.

Spiritual leaders, heads of religious organisations, public representatives, senior officers of civil administration, police, security forces and Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board and devotees in a large number were present at the flag-off ceremony.

As the convoy entered the valley through Navyug Tunnel in Qazigund area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district under multi-tier security cover, it received a rousing welcome from police and civil administration officials.

The pilgrims were greeted with garlands, bouquets and flower petals.

The convoys later proceeded separately towards the Baltal and Pahalgam base camps, from where pilgrims would begin the onward journey early Friday to the sacred Amarnath cave shrine.

Elaborate security arrangements have been put in place for the safety of visiting pilgrims. The administration has also made arrangements for smooth movement, accommodation, medical facilities and other essential services for the devotees.

There has also been special deployment of security personnel all along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and along the yatra routes as part of the enhanced security setup.

The Jammu region has been placed under an extensive security grid with multi-layered deployment and technology-based surveillance.

In the borders areas too, security has been further stepped up to foil any infiltration bid by the terrorists based in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied J&K. The agencies concerned have called upon the border residents to act as their 'eyes & ears' and inform them about any suspicious movement in their villages.

The LG had on June 29 performed 'Pratham Puja' at the holy cave shrine, marking the ceremonial start of the annual pilgrimage.

The off-line registration of pilgrims commenced on July 1, with hundreds of devotees turning up at the designated centres.

Around four lakh pilgrims have already registered online for the pilgrimage.

India calls for collective action to root out murderous ideology

Financial intelligence sharing, strengthen implementation of Financial Action Task Force standards, and ensure that no jurisdiction remains a safe conduit for terror financing," he said.

Noting that misuse of new and emerging technologies by terrorists demands urgent attention, India said it is "disheartening" that negotiations of this review of the GCTS were not able to reach an acceptable landing point on the crucial issue of ensuring that terrorists are denied the technological tools for their nefarious acts.

India said the adoption of this review comes at an important moment, as 20 years ago, Member States had come together to adopt the GCTS.

"In doing so, the international community affirmed that terrorism is a threat to humanity, and it can only be defeated through international cooperation," he said.

India had called for the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) a decade before GCTS was first adopted in 2006.

Parvathaneni noted that the absence of a universally agreed legal framework continues to hobble collective action against terrorism.

This legal instrument is essential to close normative gaps, strengthen prosecution and extradition, and deny terrorists and their sponsors access to safe havens, funds and arms.

"Nearly three decades of delay have hindered our collective efforts to combat terrorism. The time has come to demonstrate political will to conclude the CCIT," he said.

Underscoring that India has consistently contributed to global counter-terrorism efforts and hosted major international discussions, including the Delhi Declaration on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes and the No Money for Terror Conferences.

India voiced its criticism over the lack of mention of the landmark Delhi Declaration in the GCTS in 2023, saying this "reflects the unfortunate situation of how this Assembly is held hostage to petty bean counting! It is doubly unfortunate when the international community continues to tolerate this behaviour."

India also reiterated its position that it condemns all acts motivated by prejudice directed against any faith or any other attribute, such as ethnicity, nationality, geography, or race.

"As this is the United Nations, a multilateral forum of universal membership, our lens too should be universal. While we condemn all acts motivated by Islamophobia, Christianophobia and antisemitism, this august body must acknowledge that such phobias extend to other faiths as well," he said.

Parvathaneni stressed that there are great perils for lacking international cooperation in countering terrorism.

"Only if we have the political will to counter it in all its manifestations; Only if there are no double standards; Only if there is no distinction between good or bad terrorists."

"Only if there is transparency and objectivity in the way sanctions regimes function to secure listings of genuine and evidence-based objective listing proposals; Only if exclusivist frameworks, new terminologies and false priorities are thwarted, could the menace of terrorism be successfully combated by us together," he said.

Sinha pays obeisance at Ram Mandir

wishes to the sadhus and sadhvis who were embarking on the holy annual pilgrimage of Shri Amarnathji.

The LG was accompanied by Mahamandleshwar Mahant Shri Rameshwar Dass; MLAs - Yudhvir Sethi & Kuldeep Raj Dubey, religious leaders and senior officials.

2 AICC members suspended for 'anti-party' activities

The communication said the disciplinary action was taken on account of their alleged anti-party activities in

the Union Territory.

The suspension takes effect immediately. However, the party has not elaborated on the nature of the activities that led to the disciplinary action.

The order was issued by AICC member secretary Tariq Anwar.

J&K to receive 275 AI-enabled X-ray machines

Government of Jammu & Kashmir for the implementation of the project. The equipment will be installed in the identified government health institutions across the Union Territory to strengthen diagnostic services, improve early disease detection, enhance breast cancer screening and support AI-enabled tuberculosis screening.

The procurement, installation and commissioning of the equipment will be undertaken by the Government of India through its designated agencies, with supplies expected to commence in the coming months. The Health & Medical Education Department will ensure timely site readiness, deployment of requisite manpower and expeditious operationalization of the equipment so that these advanced diagnostic facilities become available to the people of Jammu & Kashmir at the earliest.

The allocation is the outcome of sustained efforts by the Health & Medical Education Department and reflects the continuous focus on strengthening healthcare infrastructure and expanding access to advanced diagnostic facilities across Jammu & Kashmir.

Chief secretary Atal Dulloo has been closely monitoring and driving health sector reform initiatives, with emphasis on modernization of healthcare infrastructure, strengthening public health institutions, improving diagnostic capabilities and ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare services throughout the Union Territory.

The initiative is expected to substantially enhance diagnostic capacity in Government hospitals, reduce the need for patient referrals, facilitate early diagnosis and treatment, and improve healthcare outcomes across the Union Territory.

ISRO HQ receives bomb threat email

found during the operation, and the threat was later declared a hoax, a senior police officer said.

Police said the Sanjay Nagar Police Station was verifying the source of the email and other details.

Further investigation was underway.

Ktwr admin issues weather advisory

rain and thunderstorms at many places, with a few areas experiencing heavy rainfall, brief intense showers and gusty winds.

The administration warned that prevailing weather conditions could trigger flash floods, landslides and mudslides at vulnerable places.

Residents, especially those living near water bodies, streams and nullahs, were advised to stay away from such areas and take all necessary precautions until weather conditions improved, the advisory said.

The district administration has directed all line departments, including Revenue, Public Works Department, Mechanical Engineering, Power, Jal Shakti, Health and Medical Education, Irrigation and Flood Control, NHIDCL and the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), to remain on high alert.

According to the advisory, the field staff have been instructed to stay active and be prepared to provide immediate assistance wherever required. All tehsildars have also been directed to report any loss of life or damage to property.

The administration said the District Control Room was functioning round-the-clock to respond to emergencies and provide necessary assistance.

Emergency helpline numbers had also been issued for the public to seek help.

India, Japan unveil defence pact after Modi-Takaichi talks

ter Takaichi, delegates of the two countries, members of the media, Namaskar! Konnichiwa," Modi said as he began his address.

Konnichiwa is a Japanese word used when greeting someone.

"I am delighted to welcome Prime Minister Takaichi on her first visit to India for the India-Japan Annual Summit. She is also Japan's first female Prime Minister, and a visionary and popular leader. Furthermore, she hails from Japan's Nara Prefecture, a very important centre of shared Buddhist heritage of India and Japan," Modi said.

The prime minister ended his speech using both Hindi ('bahut bahut dhanyawad') and Japanese ('arigatou gozaimasu') words for expressing thanks.

In her address in Japanese, which was simultaneously translated in English, Takaichi acknowledged Modi's remarks describing her as his 'younger sister.'

"The small meeting before and the big meeting... we confirmed that we are on the same page to develop this relationship as brother and sister," she said.

The Japanese prime minister said she and Modi in their talks, agreed to "deepen strategic cooperation" between the two countries to achieve the common goals they have set.

"I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Modi and the people of India for your warm hospitality on the occasion of my visit to your country," she said in her address at the joint press meet.

Modi in his address to media also said, "We are delighted that next year we will celebrate the 75th anniversary of India-Japan diplomatic relations. On this important occasion, we will deepen connection through cooperation in culture, tourism and the creative economy."

In a statement issued after the talks, he said, "The economies of India and Japan are complementary. From cultural values to modern technology, there is a similarity in our thinking and approach as well."

"And, above all, the foundation of our relations rests on unbreakable mutual trust," he said, reflecting the growing congruence in ties between the two countries.

Modi said the two sides had prepared a joint roadmap for economic security.

"Through this, we will strengthen supply chain resilience in strategic areas such as semiconductors, quantum, and advanced materials," he said.

The prime minister said India and Japan have also taken several important decisions in the field of energy security.

"Through the India-Japan bio-gas initiative, we will set up one thousand bio-gas and organic fertiliser plants in India.

This will give new strength to sustainability, prosperity, and rural livelihoods in India's villages," he said.

Ahead of the meeting, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) described the India-Japan partnership as one "built on trust" and rooted in shared values.

"Taking forward a partnership anchored in trust, shared values and strategic convergence," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on social media.

The Japanese prime minister is on a three-day visit to India. She was accorded a warm ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi on Thursday morning.

There has been an upswing in India-Japan ties. Jaiswal on Wednesday said the visit marks an "important step" in taking forward the Special Strategic and Global Partnership between India and Japan.

"The Summit will provide an opportunity for both sides to review and strengthen the full spectrum of bilateral cooper-

ation as well as exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest," the MEA earlier said.

Venezuela earthquake death toll tops 2,200

apart on June 24, measuring 7.2 and 7.5 in magnitude. This caused absolute devastation in coastal communities in La Guaira and parts of Caracas.

Nine days after the June 24 twin earthquakes, the death toll has risen to 2,295, with 11,267 injured.

Nearly 50,000 people remain missing.

The worsening death toll is placing immense pressure on Venezuela's emergency infrastructure. According to reports, morgues in the affected region have exceeded capacity. This is forcing authorities to establish temporary facilities for the identification and storage of bodies. Hospitals are struggling with shortages of medical supplies, damaged infrastructure and an influx of patients. The World Health Organisation has warned of an escalating public health emergency if humanitarian assistance is not provided at the earliest.

The disaster has also exposed the vulnerability of Venezuela's public infrastructure after years of economic instability.

Amid the devastation, isolated rescues are still a source of hope. A three-year-old boy managed to be rescued from the rubble six days after the earthquakes by a Jordanian rescue team. This was one of the few recent survivals as crews continue searching collapsed buildings.

ISI-backed terror module busted; 4 held, arms recovered

evade detection, while one of the accused had been tasked with conducting reconnaissance of religious places and police establishments in Delhi and executing a firing incident."

According to Delhi police, the operation was carried out by a Special Cell team led by Inspectors Satish Rana and Ashok under the supervision of ACP Vivek Kumar Tyagi. Based on technical surveillance and multiple raids across Delhi and Punjab, Shubdeep Singh was first apprehended from Amritsar, leading investigators to Gurjant Singh and Sajant Singh, who were subsequently arrested in Punjab. Gaganpreet was later arrested from Delhi.

Police said the investigation revealed that the module was operating with cross-border support and was allegedly in contact with Pakistan-based handlers and were receiving arms through drones. Gaganpreet had allegedly been assigned to prepare videos of police stations and police pickets in Delhi as part of the conspiracy. Further investigation is underway.

Imam Reza in the northeastern city of Mashhad, his birthplace.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi, who led Tehran's delegation, said Wednesday talks had concluded with an agreement to establish a communications channel by Thursday to report and record alleged violations of the memorandum.

Iran had insisted there would be no direct negotiations with the United States in Doha.

Trump told reporters Wednesday before boarding Air Force One: "As far as things are going, the denuclearisation of Iran is moving along well."

"We hit them very hard... but we're getting along very well," he added.

No one should object to India-Pak dialogue: Omar

the two countries is not new and has persisted for the last three to four decades," he said while speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a function.

"This conflict is 30 to 40 years old, and last year, it intensified after the Pahalgam attack. Now, the PM is being requested, through a letter, that the relations between the two countries should be improved. No one should have any objection to that," Abdullah said.

Questioning those criticising the initiative, he said senior leaders of the RSS had also advocated improving ties between India and Pakistan.

"Recently, a senior RSS leader said that India and Pakistan should talk to each other and become friends. When the RSS says this, no one objects, but when the leaders in J&K say the same thing, it becomes an issue.

"We are only saying what (former prime minister Atal Bihari) Vajpayee used to say that friends can be changed, but we cannot change neighbours. We want relations between neighbours to improve," Abdullah said.

J&K Bank crosses historic Rs 3 trillion business milestone

presence of Executive Director Sudhir Gupta, senior officers, Chief General Managers, General Managers and other officials, while divisional and zonal heads joined through video conferencing.

Speaking on the occasion, Chatterjee termed the achievement a proud moment for the institution and credited customers, shareholders, employees and stakeholders for their trust and support. He said the milestone reflects not only accelerated business growth but also the bank's successful transformation into a stronger, more agile and customer-focused institution.

Highlighting the bank's rapid progress, he noted that while it took nearly a decade for the bank to grow from Rs 1 trillion to Rs 2 trillion business, the journey from Rs 2 trillion to Rs 3 trillion was completed in around three years, underscoring the pace of transformation and strategic execution.

The MD & CEO further reiterated the bank's long-term Vision 2030, aiming to achieve Rs 5 trillion business and Rs 5000 crore annual profit. He emphasized that future growth would remain rooted in quality, prudence, customer-centric service and strong governance standards.

The milestone marks a significant chapter in the 88-

year journey of J&K Bank, showcasing its continued growth, resilience and commitment to sustainable banking excellence.

SC quashes verdict based on AI-generated precedents

"We have no hesitation in declaring that such a decision is no decision in the eyes of the law, irrespective of whether such material had a direct or indirect bearing on the decision-making. Such decisions are to be set aside even if an iota of fake or hallucinated material enters the decision-making process, as it would violate the sanctity of adjudication," it said.

The bench said it is absolutely necessary to maintain integrity in decision-making.

"And we reiterate and declare zero tolerance for the Bar as well as the Bench to cite, refer to, or rely on such material. It is also clarified that our judgment shall have no bearing on the rightful use of AI, but on the presentation or reliance on fake or hallucinated material as if it were a court precedent," it said.

The bench said mere declaration of prohibitory action is not sufficient and there must be a consequential action following accountability.

"So far as the responsibility of the bar is concerned, we direct the Bar Council of India (BCI), being the apex statutory body, to constitute a committee and deliberate on this issue of members of the bar submitting such fake and hallucinated material before the Court as if they are precedents of law," it said.

The verdict said the apex bar body must take up this issue with utmost seriousness, deliberate earnestly, and prescribe a guiding principle to prevent such occurrences, along with the disciplinary action that will follow a violation of the norms.

The matter arose from an insolvency dispute involving Pooja Ramesh Singh and Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd and Essel Infraprojects Ltd.

The appellant challenged an NCLT Mumbai order that had admitted a Section 7 insolvency application.

The top court found that several "precedents" cited by the NCLT to justify its decision simply did not exist.

These included fabricated case names and paragraphs wrongly attributed to genuine citations. For instance, the judgement cited ICICI Bank Ltd vs Urban Infrastructure Real Estate Ltd (2019) 16 SCC 528 and Sarbjit Singh vs Union Bank of India (2022) 7 SCC 464, both of which were found to be entirely non-existent citations.

While respondent Jammu & Kashmir Bank filed an affidavit clarifying that their counsel had not cited these cases and that the NCLT had obtained them through its "own research," the apex court held that the source of the error did not mitigate the damage to the rule of law.

"More than the inevitable consequence of setting aside such judgments, what is significant for our decision-making is our resolve to adopt AI technology in aid of adjudication, while at the same time asserting and declaring total and absolute control over adjudication, with a human in the loop at every stage," the bench observed.

Collective efforts vital for building prosperous Himachal: Kavinder

implementation of the Ladli Swarozgar Yojana. He lauded the foundation's commitment to empowering women and strengthening their economic participation in society.

He emphasised that everyone should actively participate in social welfare initiatives for the betterment of society. He expressed confidence that programmes promoting self-reliance among women would contribute significantly towards building a stronger and more prosperous Himachal Pradesh.

Earlier, Ladli Foundation's state president Shalu Akhtar and Diksha Sharma honoured the governor and briefed him about the foundation's various social welfare initiatives undertaken over the past 15 years.

They informed that the Ladli Swarozgar Yojana had been launched with the objective of enabling women to become self-reliant by creating sustainable livelihood opportunities through the sale of products handcrafted by them.

Office-bearers and members of the foundation, including Geetanjali Sharma, Meenakshi Sharma, Geeta Sood, Sheela Singh and Neetu were also present on the occasion.

DGP reviews security at Pahalgam

sle-free experience for devotees undertaking the annual Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

He inspected the multi-layered security arrangements at Nunwan base camp, taking stock of frisking procedures, access control systems, deployment of police and security personnel, crowd management measures, and facilities put in place for the safety and convenience of pilgrims.

During his visit, the DGP interacted with officers and jawans deployed on yatra duty and emphasised the importance of maintaining unwavering alertness, professionalism, and public-friendly conduct throughout the pilgrimage.

He instructed officials to carry out thorough security checks without causing inconvenience to the pilgrims, ensuring that the movement of yatrīs remains smooth and well-regulated.

Highlighting the significance of inter-agency coordination, Nalin stressed that close cooperation among the police, security forces, civil administration, and other stakeholders is essential for conducting a safe, peaceful, and incident-free Shri Amarnathji Yatra.

The DGP appreciated the dedication, commitment, and tireless efforts of police personnel and other security agencies engaged in yatra duties. He urged them to remain vigilant, responsive, and compassionate while discharging their responsibilities so that every pilgrim feels secure, welcomed, and adequately assisted during the sacred pilgrimage.

IGNOU extends re-registration deadline till July 15

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Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has extended the last date for re-registration for the July 2026 admission session till July 15, 2026, providing additional time to learners who could not complete the process earlier.

The deadline, initially fixed for June 30, has been extended for students enrolled in all Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and Online programmes progressing to the next semes-



ter or academic year. Learners can complete re-registra-

Students facing technical issues or profile synchronization delays have been advised to contact IGNOU Regional Centre Jammu for assistance.

Senior Regional Director Dr. Mohan Sharma urged learners to use only official communication channels and submit their own mobile number and email ID while registering to avoid cyber fraud.

The Regional Centre also informed that fresh admissions for the July 2026 session are open, with the last date for admission also fixed as July 15.