

Ukraine FM: Open to India's ceasefire plan

KYIV: Ukraine has described India's proposal for a possible ceasefire with Russia as the "broadest" among four offers received by Kyiv, with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha saying it is ready to consider a truce covering energy infrastructure and the Black Sea.

"We have four proposals. The broadest one is India's proposal. We are ready for an energy and Black Sea ceasefire, but only in this combination," Sybiha told reporters in Kyiv on Friday, according to the European Pravda newspaper.

The Russia-Ukraine war, now in its fifth year, has killed thousands of civilians, displaced millions and caused widespread destruction of homes and critical infrastructure.

The comments came a day after Russian President Vladimir Putin said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has "very good ideas" for ► P11

Nearly a dozen illegal Rohingya structures on forest land razed

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The authorities on Saturday demolished nearly a dozen illegally constructed huts, mostly occupied by Rohingya immigrants, on forest land in Jammu, marking the second major eviction drive targeting the community in the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir within a month.

The anti-encroachment drive was carried out by the forest department in collaboration with the Forest Protection Force, revenue department and police at Rahim Nagar within the Raika Forest on the outskirts of Jammu, officials said.

Among those whose structures were demolished was a native of Jammu,

Stephen, who alleged that he was not served any prior notice before the eviction drive.

He claimed the demolition team arrived early in the morning and gave little time to the occupants to remove their belongings.

Expressing concern over the loss of his belongings, Stephen said he had been living in the area for the past 10-12 years and had nowhere to go with his children following the demolition drive.

A forest official claimed the occupants had been warned twice within a fortnight before the demolition drive.

"The residents were allowed to remove their belongings before the structures were demolished," he said, adding that the ► P11

PoJK woman detained near LoC in Rajouri

JAMMU: A 19-year-old woman from Pakistan-occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK) was apprehended by the Indian Army after she allegedly crossed the LoC and entered Indian territory in Rajouri district, officials said on Saturday.

The woman, identified as Samiya Azeem, a resident of Bains Gala village in Khuiretta tehsil of Kotli district, was intercepted by troops deployed along the LoC in Pukharni village of Nowshera sector late Friday evening, they said.

They said troops immediately took her into custody and initiated preliminary questioning. No incriminating ► P11

MoS Jal Shakti stresses sustainable water mgmt in major 'footfall' pilgrimage areas

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti, V Somanna on Saturday stressed the need for sustainable water management and environmental conservation in pilgrimage areas that witness heavy footfall throughout the year.

Somanna was speaking at a meeting convened to review various water conservation and environmental sustainability initiatives being undertaken by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board in Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting the revered shrine atop Trikuta hills in Reasi district.

After the review meeting, the Union minister, accompanied by his spouse, paid obeisance at the shrine, an official spokesperson said.

Earlier, Additional Chief Ex-



ecutive Officer, Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Alok K Maurya briefed the minister on the range of measures being implemented by the Board to conserve water resources and promote environmental sustainability in and around the shrine area.

Maurya apprised the minister of the Board's initiatives aimed at harvesting rainwater and facilitat-

ing groundwater recharge, thereby contributing to the conservation of water resources, the spokesperson said.

He said the minister was also briefed on the liquid sewage treatment measures being undertaken by the Board and the role of afforestation in supporting environmental conservation in the region. Somanna appreciated ► P11

J-K has moved beyond politics of 1990s Statehood resolution a political gimmick to hide NC's governance failures: Chugh

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: BJP National Office Prabhari, Rajya Sabha MP and Gujarat Prabhari Tarun Chugh, who earlier served as J&K BJP Prabhari, launched a sharp attack on the Omar Abdullah-led NC government, accusing it of using the statehood issue as a disguise for its autonomy agenda and a diversion from its failure on basic governance.

Chugh said the proposed statehood resolution was a political gimmick because Prime Minister Narendra Modi had already com-



mitted on the floor of Parliament to restoring statehood to J&K. He said the NC government was using the issue to divert public attention from its failed governance and unfulfilled election promises. "Omar Abdullah should stop talking about irrelevant issues and present his government's report card. People are waiting for answers on jobs, development and the promises made to them," he said.

He said the BJP is consistently strengthening itself in J&K to safeguard nationalism and accelerate development, with new people continuously joining the ► P11

J&K to see rapid progress on rooftop solar system installation: Power Secy

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has made a good start under the central government's rooftop solar scheme and is expected to see rapid progress once the momentum builds, secretary in the Union power ministry Pankaj Agarwal said on Saturday.

Agarwal visited the Seva Setu Abhiyan Camp organised under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PMGSMBY) scheme at Rajbagh here.

The visit was aimed at strengthening public outreach, facilitating citizen-centric service delivery and creating awareness among citizens about the benefits of rooftop solar system installation under the scheme.

Speaking to reporters, the secretary said around 50 lakh people across the country have availed the benefits of the scheme.

"I am pleased that a good start has been made in Jammu and Kashmir in this direction as well. J&K has recently achieved an initial milestone of 100 megawatts, and once the momentum builds, rapid progress will definitely follow," he said.

To a question about the steps taken by the Centre to harness the hydroelectric power potential in J&K, Agarwal said the government is building several projects on the Chenab river.

"We also have a joint venture with J&K called the Chenab Valley Power Corporation Limited. Work on major projects like ► P11

Lt Guv engages 200 Numberdars to fortify grassroots governance

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

LEH/JAMMU: Ladakh Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday hosted nearly 200 'Numberdars' (village heads) at the Lok Niwas here, providing a direct platform for grassroots representatives to raise public grievances and highlight developmental issues, in an initiative aimed at strengthening participatory governance in Ladakh.

Addressing the gathering, Saxena said such free-flow interactions would continue in the future, which would enable the administra-

tion to benefit from their first-hand knowledge of local conditions, understand the developmental needs of different villages, and take appropriate action to address public concerns.

He said that numberdars are the most important link between the administration and the people, as they remain closely connected with their communities and understand their problems, aspirations and requirements.

The lieutenant governor, while acknowledging their contribution to grassroots governance, appreciated their crucial role in ► P11

Pak's 'so-called' civilian Govts serve at mercy of their Army: India at UN

UNITED NATION: India has slammed Pakistan at the UN, strongly rejecting its remarks about Jammu and Kashmir, telling the world organisation that the "so-called" civilian governments in Islamabad "serve at the mercy" of their Army and rarely complete their terms.

India exercised its Right of Reply in response to remarks by Pakistan at the UN General Assembly Third Committee meeting Friday, where the Pakistani delegate raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir.

India "categorically" rejected those remarks, saying the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh were, are and will al-

ways remain "integral and inalienable" parts of India.

"We all know that the so-called civilian governments in Pakistan serve at the mercy of their Army and rarely complete their terms," First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of India to the UN Bhavika Mangalanandan said as she

delivered India's Right of Reply.

Referring to Pakistani leader Imran Khan, she said a "former Prime Minister continues to remain in jail, even as his health is reported to be fast deteriorating."

The erstwhile ruling party has not been ► P11

India can't give deadline on Hasina's extradition: envoy

DHAKA: India cannot give any deadline for ousted Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina's return as her extradition request is under examination through a legal process, Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi said on Saturday.

"Nobody can give you a timeframe (over Hasina's return)," Trivedi said at a discussion organised by a private think tank in Dhaka, while responding to questions related to the repeated requests from Dhaka for Hasina's extradition to Bangladesh.

Hasina, 79, has been living in India after she fled

Dhaka following the collapse of her government in August 2024 in the face of a massive anti-government agitation.

India's external affairs ministry has maintained that the Bangladesh government's request for extraditing Hasina is being examined in line with established processes.

"Again and again, the government of India has replied to this that there is a process, and the process is legal, and it is well structured," Trivedi said on Saturday.

He also said Hasina had not been brought to India by the Indian Air Force or Army. ► P11

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