

No project within 1 km of IB, LoC, LAC: MHA

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued a set of guidelines prohibiting any new solar, wind and hybrid renewable energy projects within 1 km of the Line of Control (LoC), the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and the International Border (IB).

The guidelines issued by the ministry's Internal Security wing also bar the engagement of engineers, staff, employees and labour from land border countries, especially Pakistan, Bangladesh and China, for project implementation without the permission of the central government.

Under these guidelines, areas within 50 km of the LoC, LAC, or the IB have been designated as "sensitive areas".

This includes areas within 20 km of the IB for which a separate no-objection certificate (NOC) ► P11

Shri Amarnath Yatra suspended for track repairs on both routes

■ Over 4.8 lakh pilgrims performed Darshan

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Authorities on Saturday announced suspension of the Annual Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra for repairing the track on both routes to the holy cave shrine.

Kashmir Divisional Commissioner Anshul Garg said, "The Yatra shall remain suspended from both routes with effect from August 9, 2026. Chadi Mubarak shall proceed via traditional Pahalgam route and shall mark the culmination of Yatra 2026 on August 28."

The 57-day-long Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra com-

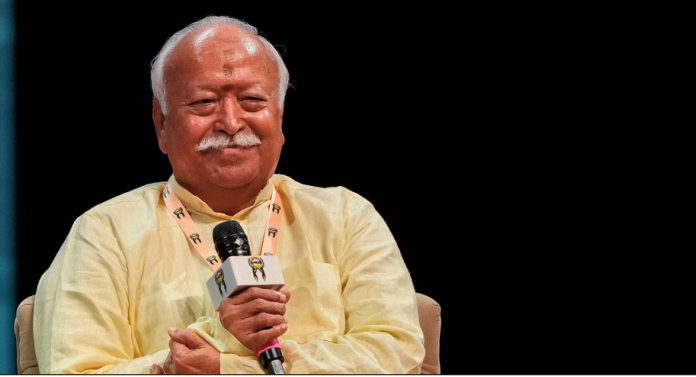


menced on July 3 this year and will culminate with the Chadi Mubarak event on August 28 (the last day of the Hindu month of Shraavan), he said.

The Yatra commenced si-

multaneously from both routes -- the Chandanwari track in Anantnag district and Baltal in Ganderbal district, he added. "More than 4.8 lakh pilgrims have" ► P11

Marginalised communities' inclusion vital for India to become Vishwaguru: Bhagwat



BULDHANA: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Saturday said that to make the country 'Vishwaguru' in the true sense, it is necessary to bring marginalised communities into the mainstream.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating sports grounds at a resi-

dential school for the Pardhi community at Khamgaon in Maharashtra's Buldhana district, he said the communities we now describe as 'bhatke-vimukt' (nomadic and de-notified tribes) were once dispensers of knowledge.

"Every person in the 'bhatke

and vimukt' community is one of our own. Hence, it is my duty to have this perspective and do something for these people, so that their lives improve," the RSS chief said.

These communities were once repositories of knowledge, Bhagwat said.

"They went out (migrated) to share their knowledge selflessly, but over time became marginalised. During the British era, because they participated in the freedom struggle, the entire Pardhi community was branded as a criminal tribe, which caused them to fall far behind in development," he said.

"If we want to make India a Vishwaguru, these marginalised elements of society must be brought into the mainstream," the Sangh chief further said.

To achieve this goal, society must stand together with ► P11

Met predicts heavy showers till Aug 11

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness widespread rainfall and thunderstorms over the coming days, with the Meteorological (Met) Department warning of heavy to very heavy rain in a few districts of Jammu division from August 9 to 11.

Jammu recorded a maximum temperature of 30.5 degrees Celsius, 2.4 notches below normal, while the minimum settled at 23.6 degrees, 0.4 notches above normal.

The city received 4 mm of rainfall over the past 24 hours, till Saturday 5.30 pm.

At Katra, the base camp for pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, the maximum temperature was 27.2 degrees Celsius, 7.5 notches below normal, while the minimum settled near normal at 23.6 degrees Celsius. Katra received 7 mm of rainfall during the period.

Srinagar also witnessed ► P11

Dialogue, dignity, inclusion crucial for 'effective' access to justice: CJI

INDORE: Dialogue, dignity and inclusion are essential for effective access to justice, and a true legal aid means "people spoken to and not merely spoken at", Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said on Saturday.

Speaking to reporters after a programme here, he also stated that the backlog of cases in the country has decreased significantly over the last decade.

Addressing the Western Zone Regional Conference of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA), he said that the objective of legal aid is not merely to dispose of cases, but also to ensure respectful treatment of individuals.

Access to justice begins with dialogue, the CJI said, stressing that appropriate legal solutions should be provided to people based on their specific problems.



The grievances of different communities should be heard in their own languages, he said.

Describing the volunteers associated with legal services authorities as part of a "judi-

IAF officer arrested for info 'leak'

NEW DELHI: A serving Indian Air Force officer has been arrested following a complaint by the IAF that he allegedly shared information concerning the military after being honey-trapped by a Pakistani intelligence operative via social media, police said on Saturday.

A case was registered under provisions of the Official Secrets Act against the officer and arrested on May 30. The chargesheet was filed before the competent court on July 30 after completion of the investigation, police said in a statement.

"Based upon a complaint by the Indian Air Force authorities, a serving ► P11

Dr Jitendra dedicates first ever Eco-Educational Hub to nation

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, and Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, and Vice-President, CSIR, Dr Jitendra Singh today called for taking the work of scientific institutions closer to society by systematically showcasing their technologies, success stories and societal applications, while dedicating to the nation, the first-of-its-kind CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI) 'Eco-Educational Hub' 'Prakriti Gyan Dham' at the Maharishi Parashar Bioresource Centre (MPBC), Banthra, Lucknow.

Dr Jitendra Singh said the outreach of scientific institutions should go beyond laboratories and



institutional campuses, with greater use of digital and social media platforms to showcase successful technologies and initiatives so that farmers, entrepreneurs, students, industry and other stakeholders are able to access scientific ► P11

No charges for UPI users: Govt

NEW DELHI: The government on Saturday categorically stated that consumers and small merchants will continue to enjoy free Unified Payments Interface (UPI) services to allay fears regarding the levy of charges on such transactions following the passage of a Bill to amend the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

However, nominal Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) for merchants will be applicable as and when charges are introduced.

"They will apply only to a limited set of merchant transactions, above a certain threshold, at a nominal rate, far lower than debit or credit card MDRs," the finance ministry said in a statement.

The statement comes two days after the Lok Sabha passed a Bill to amend the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, which authorises the government to permit banks and other ► P11

Multi-vehicle crash injures 3 SSB Jawans

JAMMU: At least three personnel of the SSB were injured after three vehicles of the force collided with each other inside a tunnel along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway in Ramban district on Saturday, officials said.

The accident occurred at Kela Morh when the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) convoy was travelling from Srinagar towards Jammu, officials said.

Quoting initial reports, officials said one of the vehicles abruptly applied the brakes, following which the vehicles behind it ► P11

57th convocation ceremony of IIT Delhi Question things that are accepted without a thought: PM to students

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday told students to question things that are accepted without a thought, and stressed that they should not stop at questioning but have the courage to also find their solutions.

Addressing the 57th convocation ceremony of IIT Delhi, he also said challenges will become opportunities for those who have the courage to find new solutions to challenges.

Modi advised the students to keep their curiosity alive in life and keep their learning instinct.

"Question things that are accepted without a thought, but don't just stop at questioning; have the courage to also find their solutions," he said.

He said more empowered the youth of the country are, the more empowered the entire country will be.

Modi said India is now working towards becoming



self-reliant in every sector; whether it is economic self-reliance, technological self-reliance, or industrial self-reliance; this forms the strong foundation of 'Viksit Bharat'.

Highlighting the profound emotional resonance of the ceremony, he reflected on the vibrant, dream-filled atmosphere of the campus.

Congratulating the students and their families on their academic achieve-

ments, Modi emphasised that their degrees represent much more than academic success, serving as a mandate to contribute to the nation.

He extended special praise to the medal recipients and celebrated the launch of new AI initiatives at the institute.

"You are stepping out from here with a dream of doing a lot for the country," he said. ► P11

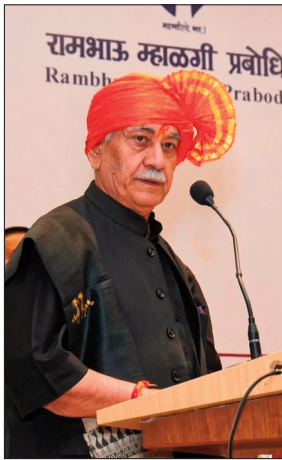
LG addressed Convocation event at IIDL Mumbai Democracy thrives on constitutional values and honest leadership: Lt Guv

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today graced the convocation ceremony of the 9th batch and the induction of the 10th batch of the Indian Institute of Democratic Leadership (IIDL), an initiative of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini, Mumbai. Addressing the graduating youth, faculty members, mentors, administrators, distinguished guests, and parents, the Lieutenant Governor said the event is a convergence of two important journeys, one reaching completion, and another beginning with new energy and hopes.

He congratulated the graduating students of the 9th batch, who now step into diverse fields of public life, and warmly welcomed the 10th batch, who begin their journey of learning with enthusiasm and aspirations.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed confidence that the Institute would continue to



enrich young leaders with constitutional values, discipline and wisdom.

Highlighting the journey of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini since its establishment in 1982, the Lieutenant Governor said it made immense contribution to leadership training and capacity building.

"With over 60,000 parliamentarians, legislators, panchayat representatives,

entrepreneurs, and youth trained, the institution has played a pivotal role in strengthening governance and entrepreneurship. The creation of IIDL further ensured that India's democratic institutions continue to receive young leadership infused with energy and resolve for nation-building," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that India's future depends on addressing seven key challenges: sustaining long-term economic growth; eliminating terrorism, separatism and divisive forces while strengthening national unity; promoting transparent, accountable and technology-driven governance to curb corruption; ensuring merit-based opportunities in politics; fostering national integration through shared cultural initiatives; achieving global leadership in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and semiconductors; and building a world-class education system driven

by quality, research, innovation and skills. He emphasized that overcoming these challenges requires the collective commitment of all Indians, especially the youth, to secure a prosperous, united and globally competitive India.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor also reminded the youth that leadership is about responsibility, ethics, and service. He praised the Institute's motto, Lokहितam Mam Karaniyam - Welfare of the people is my duty- as a guiding principle for future leaders.

Drawing from the Vedas and Upanishads, the Lieutenant Governor emphasised collective resolve, unity, and noble intentions as the foundation of prosperity and harmony in the society. He urged young leaders to align their thoughts and actions with public welfare, echoing India's civilisational legacy as the "Mother of Democracy."

"Leadership means understanding people, ► P11

Lost huge 'political capital' due to non-restoration of Statehood: CM 'Paying the price for sins that are not mine'



NEW DELHI: Voicing deep frustration over the delay in restoration of promised statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday said that the "anger and disappointment"

over the issue in the Union territory is not only against the Modi government but he himself has lost "huge political capital" because of it.

Abdullah said the prolonged delay in restoring

statehood has led to public disappointment in J-K, which extends beyond the Centre, while acknowledging that his own political credibility has taken a severe hit because he continues to "pay the price for sins that are not mine".

The chief minister said that his initial strategy of building a constructive working relationship with the Union government in hopes of securing early restoration of statehood has severely eroded his political capital among the local constituents.

"I put a huge amount of my own political credibility at stake for this. I know for a fact that I've eroded a ► P11

CIK conducts raids across five districts in Kashmir

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Police counter-intelligence wing raided five districts in the valley on Saturday to crack down on suspected terror-related activities, online misuse and alleged radicalisation networks, officials said.

Officials said the raids in Kupwara, Baramulla, Anantnag, Shopian and Bandipora were carried out in connection with FIR number 03/2023 registered at Police Station CIK, Srinagar, under Sections 505 and 153-A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), ► P11