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Keep curiosity, learning instinct alive: Modi to students

instead as a definitive global certification of advanced problem-solving capabilities. "Your degree tells the entire world that you know exactly how to solve highly difficult problems," he said.

Drawing a parallel between academic perseverance and lifelong resilience, Modi advised the youths to tackle massive life challenges by breaking them down into manageable components, much like solving complex laboratory simulations.

"If difficulties inevitably come in life, entirely new opportunities will also emerge; you just have to remain completely alert," he said.

Contrasting structured academic environments with unpredictable real-world scenarios, Modi told the graduates that unlike their university exams, life's most critical challenges operate entirely 'out of syllabus'.

He stressed that true success lies not merely in answering pre-defined questions, but in identifying and solving the problems that society has complacently accepted.

"The fundamental reason for the success of many alumni was that they boldly identified those crucial questions which the world had stopped considering as questions," he said.

Reflecting on the historical burdens carried by past generations, Modi recalled how the singular goal of achieving independence defined an entire era marked by immense sacrifice and penance.

He urged the current generation to define their own legacy by aligning their career trajectories directly with the nation's developmental goals over the next three decades.

"The basis of every decision of yours should absolutely be what the benefit to the country will be and which national need will be fulfilled," he said.

Detailing the government's aggressive push toward comprehensive self-reliance across economic, technological, and industrial sectors, Modi underscored that youth empowerment is the foundational bedrock of a developed India.

He celebrated the administration's strategic policy decisions to democratise and open traditionally restricted sectors to young innovators.

Referring to the "explosive growth" of the space sector and "rapid domestic advancement in semiconductor manufacturing" in India, the prime minister said, "somewhere a youth is proudly saying with full self-confidence: 'First in my bloodline to make a chip in India'".

Crediting the current generation for powering India's Startup Revolution, he hailed the massive economic momentum generated by unicorns, digital payments, and the FinTech boom, which have provided unprecedented entrepreneurial platforms for millions.

"All these revolutions have given millions of youths of the country an incredible opportunity to do something completely new for the first time," he said.

Mapping out the frontiers of future technological dominance, Modi highlighted critical emerging sectors such as artificial intelligence, data centres, critical minerals, deep-sea exploration, quantum computing, and energy security.

"Many such cutting-edge fields are eagerly waiting for your immense talent, your bold innovation, and your strong leadership," he said.

Detailing initiatives to democratise academic resources, he highlighted the 'One Nation One Subscription' programme, which ensures that prestigious global research journals are accessible even in the smallest cities without extra costs.

Strength of democracy lies in constitutional values: LG

sive 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 added.

He emphasised that overcoming these challenges requires the collective commitment of all Indians, especially youth, to secure a prosperous, united and globally competitive India.

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

He 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, creating new paths for them, and serving them with humility and honesty. Sardar Patel used to say that in difficult times, towards find excuses, but brave people find a way. I appreciate the faculty members and mentors who, with tireless effort, dedication, and patience, have inspired new leaders to find new paths, acquainted them with the principles of governance, engaged them in serious discussion on various policies, and given them the opportunity to test ideas against the real challenges of public life," he said.

The LG outlined four essential principles for democratic leadership - Honesty and transparency as the foundation of trust, Knowledge and wisdom as the compass guiding decisions, Sensitivity to maintain balance in democracy, and public service as the highest duty of leadership.

He stressed that institutions gain strength only when infused with ethical leadership, and that true success is measured not by position but by the lives transformed.

"Remember that institutions create the structure of democracy, but it is ethical leadership that infuses them with life, purpose, and energy. Without ethical leadership, even the finest institutions weaken over time, whereas honest and accountable leadership can turn even ordinary institutions into powerful engines of change and nation-building," he said.

"India today stands at a historic turning point, where its demographic power and civilisational journey are entering a new phase. With more than 65 pc of India's population under 35, the youth emerged as the nation's greatest strength. It is youth's responsibility to transform this demographic dividend into a leadership dividend by building teams, empowering others, and creating roadmaps for inclusive growth," he said.

The LG cited the transformation in Jammu & Kashmir post-2020 as an example of leadership rooted in public service and good governance. With over 30,000 projects completed through public participation, strengthened Panchayati Raj institutions, and digital governance, he

said the region exemplifies how transparency and accountability can bring historic change.

"In your professional life, make ethics your character, public service your duty, responsibility your identity, and excellence your style of work. I believe your success will not be judged by your position, but by how many lives you changed, how much trust you earned, and how positive an impact you left on society. To realise the resolve of Viksit Bharat, young leadership must bring change into the life of the last person standing in the queue of development," he said to youth.

He urged the young leaders to balance tradition with modernity, and progress with sensitivity, to build a prosperous, inclusive, and innovative India that can guide the world.

"Every decision you make, every word you speak, and every action you take will either strengthen our democracy or weaken it. Therefore, let us choose with care and put the national interest first. Young leadership should be driven by innovation, empowered by technology, credible through transparency, humane through sensitivity, and result-oriented through effective implementation. Such leadership will strengthen good governance, deepen public trust in democracy, and take the nation to new heights," he said.

Prez confers Handloom Award on 2 J&K weavers

mad Hajam & Fayaz Ahmad Wani - from Kanihama, Budgam.

They were awarded in recognition for their contribution in the field of Kani weaving.

They were conferred with the National Award for their joint entry - Chand-Daar Kani Shawl - Murmu, during a glittering function held at New Delhi, to commemorate the National Handloom Day.

"This honour is a fitting tribute to invaluable contribution of Manzoor Ahmad Hajam and Fayaz Ahmad Wani, who have distinguished themselves in the indigenous art of Kani weaving. By winning such prestigious award, the master weavers have brought the Kani weaving technique on the forefront of the crafts sector, which will surely open up new vistas of business opportunities for the high value craft," officials said.

The award, which carries a citation and cash prize of Rs 2.5 lakh, is for a rare form of Kani weaving technique guided by coded Talim scripts to ensure absolute precision, featuring nearly 20 distinct hues to recreate an antique masterpiece.

"Their exquisite craftsmanship has not only kept our centuries-old tradition alive but has also earned global admiration. They have become role models for thousands of weavers in Kashmir and the entire craft community celebrates this joyous moment with great pride," officials said.

CB files chargesheet in state land encroachment case

said. According to officials, the case was registered at the Crime Branch (EOW) police station on a written complaint lodged by Acharya Rajesh Kumar Prashar, alleging that Paul, in connivance with some revenue and forest officials, had encroached upon the state land.

Ladakh records 2 lakh tourist arrivals in 2 months

2026 as compared to 67,273 in July 2025, registering a growth of 56.15 pc. The July arrivals comprised 95,416 domestic and 9,630 foreign tourists.

June also witnessed a significant increase, with 1,07,740 tourists visiting Ladakh compared to 75,089 in June 2025, representing a growth of 43.48 pc. Of the June 2026 arrivals, 1,01,060 were domestic and 6,680 foreign tourists. The trend reflects the growing popularity of Ladakh as a destination for adventure, nature, culture. Spirituality and high-altitude tourism.

LG Vinai Kumar Saxena attributed the growing tourist footfall, particularly domestic tourism, to the sustained infrastructure development in Ladakh as well as the appeal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to citizens to visit tourist places in India and promote domestic tourism.

"The fact that Ladakh has crossed the one-lakh mark in tourist arrivals for two successive months and has already achieved more than 98 per cent of the entire 2025 footfall by the end of July is a very encouraging milestone. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji's appeal to our citizens to explore the beauty and diversity of our own country has given a further impetus to domestic tourism. Ladakh and India are among the safest places for tourists, and we welcome visitors from across India and abroad. Our priority is to ensure that this growth translates into sustainable livelihood opportunities for our people while protecting Ladakh's fragile ecology, rich culture and heritage," he said.

The surge in tourist arrivals during June and July has also been supported by a vibrant calendar of cultural, spiritual and experiential events organised across Ladakh. Major attractions during the period included the Hemis Festival, Pratham Sindhu Kumbh, Ladakh Astro Week 2026 (held in the last week of May), Phyang Tsedup and several other local monastic festivals, which brought together visitors interested in Ladakh's rich Buddhist heritage, culture, spirituality and unique high-altitude experiences.

The composition of tourist arrivals till July also highlights the expanding accessibility of Ladakh through its expanding and improved air and road connectivity. Of the 3,30,332 tourists who visited Ladakh during January-July 2026, 1,57,371 (47.64%) arrived by air, while 1,16,523 (35.27 pc) entered through the Kashmir route and 56,438 (17.09 pc) arrived through the Manali route.

The tourism surge has further been supported by a series of reforms in the tourism sector, creating tourist-friendly infrastructure and amenities under the guidance of L-G Shri Saxena. Initiatives like tourism sector reforms to reduce compliance burden, simplification of cumbersome documentation, and granting of Industry Status to hotels and guest houses have strengthened confidence among tourism stakeholders, including hoteliers, guest house owners, tour operators, etc.

India eyes France-led sixth generation fighter prog

2028-29 timeframe. India's fifth generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) too is expected to have its first flight in the same time-frame.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron in Nice in June set the stage for a new chapter in India?France defence cooperation, now elevated to the level of a Special Global Strategic Partnership. The discussions between the two leaders carried a strong emphasis on co?design, co?development, and co?production of advanced defence platforms, with next?generation technologies forming the core of this strategic convergence.

The Franco?German divergence reportedly arose from disagreements over carrier operability and nuclear delivery capabilities. These requirements remain central to French doctrine but are absent in Germany's arsenal.

India, however, possesses both capabilities, making its operational vision more compatible with France's. This alignment strengthens the case for Indo?French collaboration on a sixth?generation fighter that can meet the de-

mands of both nations while simultaneously advancing their defence industrial partnership. It is in this context that the ministry of defence has informed that efforts are being initiated to co?join the FCAS programme spear-headed by France.

Following the leaders' meeting, foreign secretary Vikram Misri had underlined India's intent to maximise local content and manufacturing in any future defence platform. He stated that while discussions covered a wide range of topics beyond the Rafale, co?development must translate into maximising design, production and manufacturing within India. This reflects New Delhi's broader push for self?reliance in defence.

Earlier in June, before PM Modi's visit, Air Chief Marshal AP Singh visited France. His engagements with General Jérôme Bellanger, Chief of Staff of the French Air and Space Force, and leading defence firms such as Dassault Aviation, Thales, Safran, and MBDA highlighted the importance of this time-tested strategic relationship.

Sixth?generation fighters represent a transformative leap beyond current fifth?generation designs. They are expected to feature all?aspect stealth shaping, digital?first engineering, variable?cycle engines, gallium nitride transistors for advanced radars, and directed?energy weapons. Integrated artificial intelligence, cyber warfare tools, and manned?unmanned teaming with loyal wingman drones will define their operational edge.

Globally, the race for sixth?generation airpower is intensifying. The United States is advancing its F?47 under the Next Generation Air Dominance project alongside the Navy's F/A?XX, while China is testing prototypes designated J?36 and J?50. Against this backdrop, an India?France sixth?generation fighter programme would not only bolster both nations' airpower but also position them as key players in shaping the future of aerial combat.

Rijiju launches scathing attack on Cong

mitting her actions during the Emergency. On an X post, Rijiju shared an old interview of Indira Gandhi where she defended the imposition of the 1975 Emergency and the arrest of Opposition leaders.

"Although, we do not agree with the policies and the steps taken by the former Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi ji, she was blunt in admitting the actions that she had taken. Now, the Congress party is not even realising their own errors & shortcomings," Rijiju stated.

In the video shared by the Minister, Indira Gandhi is seen justifying the arrest of Morarji Desai and other opposition figures, alleging they were "destroying democracy."

"Because they felt they could not win an election, they said, 'We must take the battle to the streets.' Morarji Desai is on record... having said, 'We are going to surround the Prime Minister's house, we are going to surround Parliament, we will see that no business is done. Neither the Prime Minister can come out, nobody can go in.'" Indira Gandhi said in the clip.

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MHA bars new renewable projects within 1 km of borders

ergy (MNRE), which will forward them to the MHA and the Ministry of Defence along with the state government's in-principle approval for land allotment. The application must also include the project's latitude and longitude.

The MNRE will communicate the final decision to developers after receiving the required security clearance and NOC. The guidelines also require renewable energy projects in sensitive areas to have comprehensive security arrangements, including anti-drone systems where required. Such security equipment will be operated by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) or state police.

Projects will also be required to have a dedicated police post attached to monitor construction activity and security arrangements. Employees involved in project implementation must undergo verification before entering the project area and comply with instructions issued by local police and the Border Security Force (BSF).

The guidelines also provide for monitoring of foreign nationals entering sensitive areas. Project staff will be required to follow security directions issued by authorities deployed along the International Border.

The MHA has directed that land allocation should be planned so that project construction does not extend over a long distance parallel to the International Border. Roads within project areas should also be sufficiently wide for the Border Security Force or armed forces during emergencies.

Projects involving foreign investment will require a separate application to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the government's Foreign Direct Investment Policy. The applicant will also need prior approval from the central government, including security clearance from the MHA, before transferring land to a foreign company.

The MHA said the guidelines were issued in response to a growing number of applications seeking approval for solar, wind and hybrid renewable energy projects in border areas. The framework aims to provide uniform and transparent rules for such projects while taking into account national security concerns and the government's ease-of-doing-business objective.

Case backlog reduced from past decades: CJI

legium for the appointment of judges, CJI Surya Kant said, "You will not talk about the Collegium here. This is a programme of the Legal Services Authority."

The CJI earlier addressed the regional conference of the Western Zone of the National Legal Services Authority here.

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, and judges from the Supreme Court and High Courts attended the inaugural session of the conference.

Technology key for urban cooperative banks: Shah

erative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NUCFDC) in Mumbai, he said ensuring the prosperity of customers will help the banks achieve growth.

The Union Home and Cooperation Minister also urged all urban cooperative banks to join the NUCFDC, the apex umbrella organisation for the sector, within a year.

The NUCFDC serves as the umbrella organisation and self-regulatory body for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) in India. Approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and headquartered in Mumbai, it provides capital, IT infrastructure and liquidity support to strengthen the cooperative banking sector.

"Our responsibility is to ensure that all banks become members of this organisation (NUCFDC), introduce technology, bring transparency, train staff, provide modern services to customers and sustain in the competition," he said.

Shah said that of the nearly 1,400 urban cooperative banks in the country, around 690 have already become members of the organisation, and added that the remaining UCBs should also become part of it within a year.

Making India prosperous requires fostering prosperity among its people, the minister said, adding that the capital market alone cannot fulfil this objective.

"The Reserve Bank has a different outlook towards urban cooperative banks, and our urban banks also look at the RBI differently. We have to come out of it," he said.

Drawing on his five-year experience as cooperation minister, Shah said the RBI had always extended proactive support whenever the cooperation sector approached it with confidence.

Shah said while protecting depositors' money remains the RBI's responsibility, urban cooperative banks must focus on improving governance, adopting technology and enhancing customer-centric services to strengthen the sector.

J&K wins 'Best Adventure Tourism Destination' award

The participation of Jammu and Kashmir received a significant recognition with J&K being honoured with the best adventure tourism destination award, reaffirming its growing position as one of India's most diverse and exciting adventure tourism destinations.

During the three-day event, J&K Tourism showcased the region not merely as a destination of breathtaking landscapes, snow-capped mountains and pristine lakes but as a place where the visitors can experience its culture, traditions, hospitality, cuisine and way of life.

The J&K Tourism delegation extended an open invitation to the travellers from Gujarat and across India to move beyond conventional sightseeing and come to J&K to live the life of the Himalayas.

"Come to Jammu and Kashmir not only to see its scenic beauty but to experience it, live its culture, connect with its people and discover the adventure that lies in every corner of the Himalayas," was the message conveyed by J&K Tourism at the fair.

From trekking, rafting, skiing, mountaineering and paragliding to homestays, village tourism, heritage experiences and immersive cultural journeys, J&K offers a wide spectrum of experiences for the new-age traveller, particularly the younger generation seeking authentic, experiential and adventure-led holidays.

The participation also highlighted the potential of homestays and community-based tourism in creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities while enabling tourists to experience the authentic warmth and culture of Jammu & Kashmir.

The TTF Ahmedabad platform provided J&K Tourism an opportunity to engage with the vibrant Gujarat travel market and strengthen partnerships with travel trade, tour operators and tourism stakeholders. The event brought together tourism boards, travel companies, hospitality brands and other stakeholders from India and abroad, providing an important platform for destination promotion and business networking.

Amarnath Yatra suspended due to adverse weather forecast

gust 28. The 57-day pilgrimage to the cave shrine was officially flagged off by LG Manoj Sinha on July 2 morning from Bhagwati Nagar base camp here simultaneously for the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district. The yatra will conclude on August 28.

Authorities have put in place multi-layered security arrangements along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway and at all transit camps to ensure the safe and smooth movement of the yatra convoys. A multi-tier security setup has also been activated in and around the Bhagwati Nagar base camp.

The commencement of the yatra had marked the beginning of the country's one of the most revered spiritual pilgrimages and reflects the coordinated efforts of the administration and all stakeholder departments to facilitate a secure, seamless and memorable pilgrimage experience for every devotee.

Traffic restrictions will remain in force on various stretches of the highway till August 28 when the pilgrimage would come to an end, with daily advisories and sector-wise cut-off timings to regulate traffic, officials said.

Strait of Hormuz won't open until US corrects behaviour: Iran

against Iran and its allies must end permanently, the naval blockade must be lifted, US naval and air forces must withdraw from around Iran, war damages must be compensated, sanctions must be lifted and Iran's frozen assets must be released," Iran's security chief Mohammad-Bagher Zolghadr said in a written message.

He said the demands also included the withdrawal of US naval and air forces from around Iran, compensation for damage from the wars, the removal of sanctions and the release of frozen Iranian assets.

"The Supreme National Security Council will never back down, whether in war or in negotiations," he said.

'Honey-trapped' IAF officer held for leaking def data to Pak operative

handlers were operating behind the alleged information leak.

According to police sources, a woman had contacted the officer through social media. Investigators suspect that she was acting on behalf of Pakistani intelligence handlers.

The officer was reportedly going through a difficult phase in his personal life when the contact began, and the interaction later intensified through online chats and video calls.

During this period, agencies allege that the officer digitally shared sensitive documents and other defence-related data with the woman.

The nature of the alleged material has not been disclosed publicly, but investigators believe it may have included information of strategic importance.

Another aspect under scrutiny is the alleged installation of a specific mobile application.

Investigators said the officer had asked a colleague to install the app on a phone, and agencies suspect it could have functioned as spyware or remote-access malware capable of extracting data, tracking location and intercepting conversations. Forensic examination of electronic devices is continuing.

Officials said the matter is now sub judice, and further details are being examined by the court.

PM must speak on 'chanda chori' issue: Cong

only one reason: The Union Home Minister has refused to come to both Houses and give a statement on police brutalities on protesting youth and students, especially on July 20," Ramesh said in his post.

On July 20, the CJP 'Sansad Chalo' march to Parliament had turned violent with clashes erupting between police and students.

The Congress leader said Shah comes to his chamber and sits for long hours but lacks the courage to face MPs in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha to answer questions about the Delhi Police's actions against students protesting the NEET paper leak in the national capital last month.

These actions were directly under his charge and control, he said.