

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication

Office of LG J&K @OfficeOfLGJandK



Held in-depth deliberations on the prevailing security scenario with Lt. Gen Pratik Sharma, GoC-in-C, Northern Command, Shri Nalin Prabhat, DGP, J&K, Lt. Gen Prashant Srivastava, GoC 15 Corps & Maj Gen Balbir Singh, MGGS, Northern Command at Lok Bhavan, Srinagar.

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NASHA MUKT JAMMU KASHMIR ABHIYAAN

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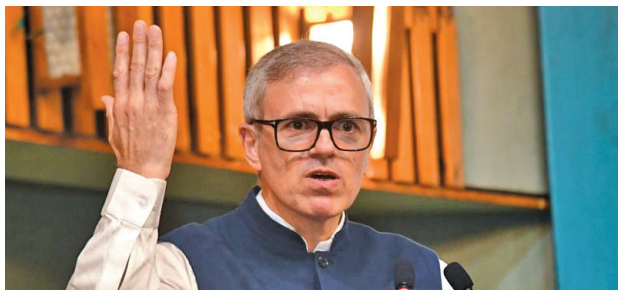
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'Viksit Bharat' Possible Only When Every Region Progresses: CM

Advocates Bottom-Up Governance, Technology-Driven Reforms



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday asserted that the vision of Viksit Bharat can only be realised through inclusive and equitable development across every state and region of the country, emphasising that progress confined to select pockets would leave the national dream unfulfilled. He was addressing the day-long National Govern-

ance Conference on "Holistic Development of Districts: Transforming Governance for Viksit Bharat", organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances under the Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and

LG Sinha Chairs High-Level Meet In Srinagar To Review Security Scenario

Urges Citizens To Uphold Harmony, Contribute To Atmosphere Of Calm And Goodwill

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting of senior police and civil administration officials at the Police Control Room, Kashmir, to review the law & order situation.

The meeting was attended by Nalin Prabhat, DGP J&K; S.J.M Gillani, Special DG (Coordination); Anand Jain, ADGP Armed; Nitish Kumar, ADGP CID; V.K Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Rajiv Pandey, DIG, CKR, Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar and other senior officials.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the officers to remain on heightened alert and take all necessary measures to ensure

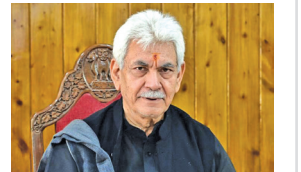


public peace and tranquillity. The Lieutenant Governor also appealed to the citizens and community leaders to uphold harmony and contribute to an atmosphere of calm and goodwill in society. "Preserving peace and sustaining the progress of society is a shared responsibility that rests equally upon each one of

us," he said. The Lieutenant Governor Shared on X: "Chaired a meeting of senior police & civil administration officials at the Police Control Room, Kashmir, to review the law & order situation. Directed the officers to remain on heightened alert and take all necessary measures to ensure public peace and tran-

quillity. I also appeal to the citizens and community leaders to uphold harmony and contribute to an atmosphere of calm and goodwill in society. Preserving peace and sustaining the progress of society is a shared responsibility that rests equally upon each one of us." Sinha also chaired

LG Manoj Sinha Extends Holi Greetings



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Tuesday extended his heartiest greetings to the people on the eve of Holi which will be celebrated tomorrow on March 04. In a message, the Lieutenant Governor

Police Crack Down On Fake News, Misinformation Networks

IANIS

SRINAGAR: Police in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar district said on Tuesday that it has registered an FIR taking cognisance of deliberate false and fabricated information intended to mislead people. Srinagar Police

Surge In Drone Sightings Army Intensifies Surveillance Along LoC



VICKY NANJAPPA

NEW DELHI: The Indian Army has intensified surveillance and monitoring along the India-Pakistan border in Jammu and Kashmir as drone sightings have gone up considerably. The heightened surveillance comes in the wake of Pakistan trying to push more drones and balloons resembling aircraft into Jammu and Kashmir.

The police in Jammu and Kashmir spotted and then seized a balloon that resembles an aircraft. The police found that the object had the inscription of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) on it. The preliminary probe found no electrical or electronic components that were fixed on it. The police are looking for more details into the case and the probe is ongoing an official

Iran Crisis J&K Police Appeal For Calm Amid 'Preventive' Restrictions In Valley

IANIS

SRINAGAR: As authorities decided to continue preventive restrictions across the Kashmir Valley for the second consecutive day on Tuesday, Jammu and Kashmir Police issued a strong appeal to the public to maintain peace, stressing that violence only leads to destruction and hardship.

In a series of posts on X, the police stated, "Appeal for Peace and Restraint Amid Current Developments. In view of recent developments in the Middle East, we respect citizens' right



to peacefully express themselves through lawful means. However, incidents of rioting, stone-pelt-

ing, clashes, and disruption of public order at some places are not acceptable."

The police further cautioned that violence, destruction of property, and confrontation with security forces result in injuries, loss of life, restrictions, closure of educational institutions, and immense difficulties for families, traders, students, and daily wagers.

"We appeal to all sections of society to exercise restraint and refrain from violence and provocation. Police will take strict legal action against instigators and miscreants

Northern Army Commander Reviews 'Evolving' Security Situation In Kashmir

YOGESH

SRINAGAR: Army's Northern Commander Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma reviewed evolving security situation in Kashmir on Tuesday.

According to the details available, the Northern Army Commander chaired a high level meeting in Srinagar. "He engaged with formation commanders and representatives of sister agencies to deliberate on the prevailing security situation," said an official.

Lieutenant General Sharma reiterated that the Northern Command remains resolute in its commitment to ensure safety & security of citizens of Jammu and Kashmir.



Pertinently, armed forces are on high alert in the wake of recent US and Israeli attacks on Iran, which led to the killing of Iran's Supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Saturday. The attack led to Iran hitting Israel and the US bases in Middle East countries, including UAE and Saudi Arabia.

India Stands Firmly In Solidarity With Qatar: PM Modi

IANIS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday spoke with Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of Qatar, conveying that India stands firmly in solidarity with Qatar and strongly condemns any violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

During their conversation, the two leaders emphasised the urgent need to restore peace and stability in the region through dialogue and diplomacy.

"Spoke with my brother, H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of Qatar. We stand firmly in solidarity with Qatar and strongly con-



demn any violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity. We emphasised the urgent need to restore peace and stability in the region through dialogue and diplomacy," PM Modi posted on X after the

phone call. "I also conveyed my appreciation for his continued support and care for the Indian community in Qatar during this challenging time," he added. Besides Qatar, PM Modi

has spoken with the leaders of UAE, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait in the last two days as India remains in touch with the governments of the region as well as other key partners over the ongoing conflict in Iran and the Gulf region.

On Tuesday, Indian Ambassador Vipul virtually interacted with representatives of Indian community associations in Qatar to discuss the prevailing situation and respond to their concerns.

"The Embassy of India, Doha continues to work closely with the community and local authorities to ensure the welfare and wellbeing of all Indian nationals in Qatar,"

Precautionary Restrictions To Remain In Force Today

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Precautionary restrictions imposed in Kashmir on Monday will continue today, while the decision on increasing mobile internet services from 2G to high speed will be taken after review.

A top official said, that the situation is under review but the curbs would remain in force on Wednesday to maintain law and order.

He said that security personnel have been deployed in strength in sensitive areas, including parts of downtown Srinagar and Lal Chowk, to prevent any untoward incident. "In Srinagar, the law and order situation has remained under control," he added. Another official said the situation was under

Govt Steps Up Vigil To Safeguard Indian Ships, Sailors Amid Iran War Risk



IANIS

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is closely monitoring the evolving maritime security situation in the Persian Gulf and has strengthened precautionary measures to safeguard Indian-flagged vessels and Indian seafarers operating in the region.

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal chaired a review meeting on Tuesday to assess the prevailing security environment in the

Persian Gulf and examine its implications for Indian maritime assets and personnel.

During the meeting, the Director General of Shipping briefed the minister on the prevailing situation in the region and on the current status of Indian-flagged ships and Indian seafarers in the region.

Speaking after the meeting, Sonowal said: "We are closely monitoring the evolving situation and have activated all necessary precautionary, monitoring and coordination

Students moved to Qom but parents in Kashmir want them home

Families demand full evacuation as Iran tensions remain unpredictable

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Even as Indian students studying in Iran were safely relocated from Tehran to Qom as a precautionary measure, anxious parents across Jammu and Kashmir continue to demand their immediate evacuation, citing safety concerns amid escalating tensions.

The relocation was carried out in coordination with the Embassy of India in Tehran to ensure the safety and well-being of the students. The students were transported in well-arranged buses and have safely reached Qom, where temporary arrangements have been put in place.

Authorities said continuous communication is being maintained with students to monitor their situation closely.

Despite moving them to Qom, parents in Kashmir said the relocation offers only partial relief and does not address the larger concern of bringing their children back home.

"We are thankful that our children have been moved to a safer place, but



this is not enough. They are still in Iran, and the situation remains unpredictable," a parent from Srinagar said. "We want the Government of India to evacuate them at the earliest."

The concerns come against the backdrop of rising hostilities in the region, which have triggered widespread anxiety among families. A day earlier, dozens of parents had gathered in Srinagar, appealing for urgent intervention by the central gov-

ernment to ensure the safe return of students.

Families described the situation in Tehran as "volatile", with fears compounded by delays in documentation and travel arrangements that prevented many students from leaving despite advisories.

Meanwhile, student bodies, including the All India Medical Students Association (AIMSA), confirmed that Indian students from major universities in Tehran have been shifted under embassy supervi-

sion as part of temporary safety measures.

Officials reiterated that the priority remains the safety and security of all students, and further decisions regarding evacuation or additional relocation will be communicated in due course.

However, for many families in Jammu and Kashmir, the wait continues with uncertainty, as they urge swift and decisive action to bring their children back home safely—(KNO)

Educational institutions in Kashmir to remain closed till March-07: Sakina Itoo

RIYAZ BHAT

SRINAGAR: Following the widespread protests across the Valley against the killing of Supreme leader of Iran Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, J&K government on Tuesday decided to shut educational institutions till March-07 as a precautionary measure.

Education Minister, Sakina Itoo said that in order to ensure the safety of the students, the government has decided to close all the educational institutions till Sunday.

"We have decided to keep schools, colleges and universities closed till March-07" Minister Itoo said.

The Minister also said that the government is monitoring the situation closely and will take the call of reopening of educational institutions only after assessing the ground situation.

Following the killing of Supreme leader of Iran Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in joint US-Israeli strikes, a widespread protest erupted



across Jammu and Kashmir. Meanwhile University of Kashmir (KU) has also ordered closure of its all campuses till March-07.

KU Registrar in a notification has said, "All teaching and academic activities across all campuses of the KU shall remain suspended up to and including March-07."

Pertinently, schools upto 8th standard were all set to reopen on Monday following the winter break of more than two months.

Earlier on February-23, schools from 9th to 12th standard classes resumed academic activities in Kashmir division and winter zones of Jammu division following a winter break of over 70 days.

The government had ordered the students of

9th class and onwards to observe the winter vacations from December-11-2025 to February-22-2026.

On November-25, School Education Department (SED) had announced winter break in a phased manner for Kashmir division and winter zones of Jammu division.

SED in an order had said that the vacations for Pre-primary (Balvatika) classes shall commence from November-26 to February-28-2026.

In case of middle classes upto 8th standard, the department had said that the vacations shall be observed from December-01 to February-28.

It also said that the winter break for 9th to 12th

standard shall commence from December-11 to February-22.

SED had ordered the teaching faculty to remain available for any academic activity during the vacation period.

The Teaching staff was ordered to report back to their respective schools on February-20-2026 for making arrangements regarding opening of schools.

Earlier on February-16, Colleges in Kashmir valley resumed activities following a 52 days of winter vacations.

The Jammu and Kashmir Higher Education Department on December-23-2025 had announced 52-days winter vacation for degree colleges falling in the winter zones of Kashmir division.

The government had said that the degree colleges in the Kashmir Division and those in the winter zone of Jammu Division shall observe winter vacations from December-24-2025 to February-14-2026—(KNO)

Don't take law into your hands, maintain clam: CM Omar to mourners

YOGESH

JAMMU: Condemning the killing of Iran Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and attack on Iran, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday appealed to the mourners to maintain calm and not to take law into their hands.

Talking to reporters here, CM Omar, said, "I understand the emotions and anger, but it is important to exercise restraint. I do not want the police or central forces to misuse force, nor do I want anyone to be injured or lose their life."

He called on religious leaders to ensure peaceful expression of grief.

Referring to restrictions imposed at mourning gatherings at Lal Chowk, the Chief Minister said, "If there is permission for celebration, there should also be permission for mourning. However there are reports about miscreants trying to foment trouble. There were reports of violence, including an alleged attempt to assault a police DySP. My earnest appeal to all is maintain calm and not to allow the situation to deteriorate."

CM Omar said the government would try to secure the release of detained persons at the earliest so they could express their grief



peacefully.

Condemning the attack on Iran, the Chief Minister said no international law permits the use of external force to bomb a country or impose regime change. "If such actions are justified, it sets a dangerous precedent for the world," he said. "Just as people in India, the US or Israel choose their leaders, the people of Iran have the right to decide their own government. Any change in Iran must come from within. If the people are unhappy, only they have the right to decide how they want to change their government," he said.

CM Omar also said the J&K government is in close contact with the Ministry of External Affairs regarding students and residents from the Union Territory in Iran. Most have been moved to safer locations, though some final-year students are reluctant to leave hospitals where they are working. "I urge them to follow the embassy's advice. If they are asked to move to safer areas or leave Iran, they should comply," he said.

February 2026 breaks all records Jammu records zero rainfall, Srinagar logs lowest since 1960

SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: February 2026 has emerged as one of the driest months on record across Jammu and Kashmir, with several meteorological stations reporting either their lowest-ever rainfall or figures close to historic lows, according to data.

According to independent weatherman Faizan Arif of Kashmir Weather, Srinagar recorded only 5.3 mm rainfall during February.

With data available since 1901, this is the lowest February rainfall since 1960, when 5.8 mm was registered, placing this year among the driest Februaries in over a century for the summer capital.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded zero rainfall during the month. Records dating back to 1925 show that such a complete absence of rainfall in February has occurred only once before — in 1945 — making 2026 only the second such instance in 101 years.

In North Kashmir's Kupwara, 17.7 mm rainfall was recorded, the lowest since records began in 1977. The previous lowest was 21.8 mm in 1997.

The ski resort of Gulmarg recorded 48.0 mm precipitation. While not

an all-time low, it is the lowest February rainfall there since 1985, when 24.8 mm was observed. Data for Gulmarg is available from 1967 onwards.

Qazigund in South Kashmir reported 13.0 mm rainfall, the lowest since records began in 1963, breaking the previous record low of 31.6 mm set in 2020. Pahalgam recorded 23.4 mm, marginally below its previous lowest of 23.6 mm in 2020, with data available since 1979.

Kokernag registered 13.0 mm rainfall, the second lowest since 1978, just above the all-time low of 11.8 mm recorded in 2020.

In the Chenab Valley region, Banihal recorded 8.4 mm rainfall, the lowest since 1962, while Batote reported 18.8 mm, also the lowest since 1978. Bhaderwah recorded 49.0 mm, making it the third lowest February rainfall there since 1978.

In the Shivalik foothills, Katra recorded zero rainfall, the lowest February total since records began in 1981, surpassing the previous low of 5.0 mm in 2023.

Officials said the prolonged dry spell has raised concerns in both the plains and higher reaches, particularly in snow-dependent and agriculture-reliant areas—(KNO)

DDC Kulgam unveils ₹1800 Crore NABARD Credit Plan for 2026-27

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, along with AGM NABARD and other district-level officers, Tuesday unveiled the Potential Linked Credit Plan (PLP) document prepared by NABARD for the financial year 2026-27.

NABARD has envisaged a credit potential of ₹1800 crore for Kulgam district for the year 2026-27 to be achieved by banks, financial institutions and development departments operating in the district.

This was revealed during a District Level Consultative Committee meeting held under the chairmanship of the DDC.

The meeting was attended by the Joint Director Planning, AGM RBI, AGM NABARD,

Lead District Manager (LDM), district officers from various departments and representatives of banks functioning in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner formally launched the Potential Linked Credit Plan (PLP) for the ensuing financial year. AGM NABARD, Rouf Zargar informed that the PLP would form the basis for preparation of the Annual District Credit Plan for the upcoming year. He stated that the PLP has been prepared in alignment with the policies of the Central and UT Governments and reflects the national priorities of the Government of India to scale up lending across various sectors of the economy.

Providing details, the AGM NABARD said that NABARD has projected a total credit

potential of ₹1800.45 crore for the district for 2026-27 under priority sectors. Sector-wise projections include ₹1192.13 crore for agriculture and allied activities including agriculture infrastructure; ₹490.80 crore for MSME; ₹1.93 crore for export credit; ₹15.58 crore for education; ₹45 crore for housing; ₹7.35 crore for renewable energy, and ₹16.84 crore for social infrastructure development. The informal credit delivery system for support to SHGs/JLGs has been estimated at ₹27.81 crore.

He further informed that NABARD undertook the PLP exercise after extensive consultations with stakeholders from agriculture, MSME and rural development sectors.

Keeping in view the available resources and infrastructure in the district, a scientific

assessment of credit potential under various priority sectors has been carried out. The PLP highlights sector-specific infrastructure gaps and identifies critical interventions required by the Government and financial institutions to fully harness the district's potential.

This year, NABARD has leveraged technology to prepare a digital PLP for more efficient credit projections. The new-generation document features a standardized structure, comprehensive coverage and data indices, significantly reducing manual intervention and laying the foundation for a data-driven credit planning environment. NABARD's PLP serves as a catalyst for empowering rural areas and supporting stakeholders across the rural ecosystem.

Women Week Celebration

Sankalp Hub, OSC organize Marathon at GDC Doda

GMK NEWS NETWORK

DODA: Sankalp Hub and One Stop Centre (OSC), Mission Shakti Doda organized a marathon here at Government Degree College (GDC) to mark the second day of Women Week celebrations.

The Women's Empowerment Marathon was held to spread awareness

about women's rights, gender equality, safety and empowerment, while celebrating the strength and resilience of women. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the students of BSC Nursing College and ANMT School.

The Principal of Government Degree College along with the entire college staff, extended full support and

actively participated in the marathon, reflecting the institution's commitment towards promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

Anganwadi Workers also participated in the event, demonstrating their dedication to community welfare and the uplift of women. The staff and girls of Parisha joined

the marathon with great enthusiasm and energy, further strengthening the message of unity and collective action.

The staff members of Sankalp Hub, OSC Doda and Childline Doda also took part in the marathon, showing solidarity and commitment towards empowering women and girls across the district.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION ANANTNAG

NIT NO 165 OF R&B/Anantnag/2025-26/E-TENDERING/13352-61 DATED 02-03-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

| S. No | Name of Work | Tendered Cost (Rs in lacs.) | | | Cost of document (Rs in Lacs) | Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs in lacs.) | Time of completion For Construction work | Tender Call | Time and date of opening of tenders online | Class of contractor |
|-------|--|--|---|--|-------------------------------|--|--|-------------|--|---------------------|
| | | Construction Part | Maintenance Part | Total cost of work | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 1 | Upgradation/ Strengthening of Moman Shirpora Road including Gundichahal Hafizabad . (NABARD RIDF XXXI) | 176.79 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 149.83 + (18% GST Amount 26.96) | 17.68 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 14.98 + (18% GST Amount 2.70) | 194.47 Lacs Contract Price exclusive of GST: 164.81 + (18% GST Amount 29.66) | 0.026 | 3.536 | 03 Years | Ist | 12-03-2026 At 11:00 A.M | AAV Class Only |

Project Authority: PWD(R&B) Department.
Position of AAA: Accorded Vide Order No. CE(R&B) SK/AA/03 of 2025-26, Dated 06.12.2025.
Position of TS: Accorded Vide Order No. CE(R&B) SK/TS/316 of 2025-26, Dated 26.02.2026.

- The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms-and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

| S. No. | Particulars | Dated |
|--------|---|---------------------------|
| 1 | Date of Issue of Tender Notice | 02-03-2026 |
| 2 | Period of Downloading of bidder documents | From 03-03-2026 (09:00AM) |
| | | To 11-03-2026 (04:00PM) |
| 3 | Bid submission Start Date | From 03-03-2026 (09:00AM) |
| 4 | Bid Submission End Date | To 11-03-2026 (04:00PM) |
| 5 | Date and time of opening of bid(online) | 12-03-2026 (11:00AM) |

In the office of Superintending Engineer PWD(R&B) Circle Anantnag

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Anantnag(Tender Inviting Authority)(NIT No. Name of Work/Item No. to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt)(The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Anantnag(Tender receiving Authority).(The Date of EMD(CDR/FDR/BG) should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date and validity of EMD at the time of opening of Bids shall be a period of 45 Days beyond Bid Validity of 120 Days). The same EMD should not be used in more than one Tender/Bid.
- All the Bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.
- The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Anantnag(Tender receiving authority) within 07 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released 60 days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period(DLP) of the work.The date of Performance Security(CDR/FDR/BG) should be after the date of issuance of letter/LOI to deposit the performance security. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor be forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released 60 Days after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B) Circle Anantnag
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid

(Er. Mohammad Waseem)
Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Anantnag

DIPK-11519-25
DT: 03/03/2026

Medical students groups thank Centre as Indian students relocated from Tehran

IAN S

NEW DELHI: The All India Medical Students Association (AIMSA) and the Federation of All India Medical Associations (FAIMA) on Tuesday expressed gratitude to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Indian Embassy in Iran for relocating Indian medical students from Tehran to a safer location amid escalating conflict in the region.

AIMSA and FAIMA Doctors Association Vice President, Dr Mohammad Momin Khan, said that Indian medical students who were in Tehran have been shifted to the comparatively safer city of Qom by the Indian Embassy.

"As you are aware of the tensions in Iran, our Indian medical students who were in Tehran have been relocated to the safer city of Qom by our embassy, and they reached safely this morning, with others still arriving. We are very grateful to the Ministry of



External Affairs and the Indian Embassy in Iran for ensuring the safety of Indian citizens amid the situation," he said.

He added that the associations are in constant touch with the students and embassy officials to monitor the situation and ensure that all remaining students are moved to secure locations at the earliest.

Earlier, student bodies

had urged the government to initiate evacuation measures for Indian students studying in Iran in view of the prevailing security concerns.

Jammu and Kashmir Students Association national Convenor Nasir Khuehami had appealed to the Centre to prioritise the safety of Indian students and facilitate their evacuation if the situation worsens.

The associations reiterated their appeal for continued coordination between the MEA and Indian missions abroad to safeguard medical education in foreign countries, especially in conflict-hit regions.

They also advised students and their families to remain in contact with the embassy and follow official advisories until normalcy is restored.

CM Omar meets delegations, individuals at Raabita Jammu

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Several delegations and individuals Tuesday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Public Outreach Office Raabita in Jammu, and apprised him of a range of public, developmental and sector-specific issues.

Former Minister Raman Bhalla, accompanied by a delegation of civil society met the Chief Minister and highlighted various concerns pertaining to their welfare. The delegation sought sustained policy attention to address pending issues and ensure equitable development.

Former Minister Jagjivan Lal also called on the Chief Minister and discussed matters of public importance concerning his area as well as the broader region.

A delegation led by Dr. Parveen Akhter Lone, Principal, IG Government Dental College, Jammu, briefed the Chief Minister about the significance of the upcoming national-level academic event and its importance for advancing dental education and research in the region.

A delegation headed by Dr. M. A. Alim, Chairman,



Chief J&K, met the Chief Minister and discussed the role of industry in economic revival, investment promotion and employment generation, while seeking continued government support for strengthening the industrial ecosystem.

Former Cabinet Minister Jugul Kishore Sharma, along with a delegation from Katra apprised the Chief Minister of matters of public importance relating to their area.

A delegation of sportspersons, along with others selected under SO-12 (Outstanding Sportspersons), met

the Chief Minister to express their gratitude. They thanked the government for recognising their achievements and facilitating opportunities in public service. The Chief Minister congratulated them on their accomplishments and encouraged them to continue striving for excellence in their respective fields.

President, Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Jammu, Arun Gupta, accompanied by members, also called on the Chief Minister and discussed issues concerning trade, industry and routine business matters. The

delegation sought measures to ease procedural bottlenecks and further strengthen the commercial ecosystem in Jammu.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the deputations and individuals and assured that their genuine concerns would be addressed on priority. He reiterated that his government remains accessible and responsive to public representatives, professional bodies, industry leaders and citizens, and that constructive dialogue will continue to guide policy decisions in the larger interest of Jammu and Kashmir.

Dy CM calls for skilling J&K youth for local, national, international job markets



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Tuesday called for a comprehensive study and exploration of emerging job opportunities at the local, national and international level to enhance employment prospects for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

He made these remarks while chairing a high-level review meeting of the Skill Development Department (SDD) held at PWD Guest House, Jammu.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, SDD, Rajiv Ranjan; Director, SDD, Owais Ahmad; MD, Skill Development Mission, Leena Padha; Principals, Superintendents of Polytechnics and ITIs, besides other senior officers while officers from the Kashmir region participated virtually.

Taking a comprehensive review of the department's functioning, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the officers to conduct area-wise assessments of

job markets and undertake detailed studies of employment trends at the national and international levels. He emphasized introducing latest, innovative and job-oriented trades across ITIs and Polytechnics to meet the local industry needs and tap employment avenues in European and Middle Eastern markets. He also called for roping in reputed job consultancies and strengthening placement cells to facilitate employment-driven training programmes.

The Deputy Chief Minister asked all the Principals to proactively share ideas for launching demand-based courses aligned with the industry requirements to effectively address unemployment.

Stressing the need to bring greater vibrancy and accountability in the department, he said that performance would determine postings and career progression, not recommendations. "You are nation builders. Work with dedication and ensure our youth are skilled and

employable," he asserted. While reviewing the functioning of Polytechnics and ITIs, he directed for seamless operations and saturation of enrolment across all trades. He emphasized inclusive skilling, instructing the officers to "ensure that underprivileged, destitute and orphaned youth are identified and enrolled in various courses and trades being offered by skill institutions."

The Deputy Chief Minister further stressed for strengthening infrastructure across all districts and fast-tracking recruitment and promotions to address staff shortages within the department.

Earlier, Secretary SDD briefed the Deputy Chief Minister on the proposed Mission Skill Plan aimed at strengthening knowledge and training from the school level. He stated that the department seeks to create a future-ready, industry-responsive workforce through integrated and outcome-based skilling interventions.

Rana reviews PHE, I&FC schemes in Kashmir Division

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, Tuesday reviewed the progress of ongoing Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) schemes being executed across Kashmir division.



The meeting, which was convened virtually, focused on a comprehensive assessment of the physical and financial progress of key drinking water supply and irrigation projects currently under execution.

The Minister underscored the importance of adhering to the set timelines and maintaining complete transparency and accountability in project implementation. He directed the officers to ensure strict compliance with the prescribed quality standards at every stage, from planning to execution, so that durable and sustainable infrastructure is created for the public.

Expressing concern

over reports of water supply disruptions in certain areas, the Minister instructed the officials to immediately address the grievances related to potable water availability. He emphasized the need for prompt complaint redressal, strengthening of distribution networks

and close monitoring of supply systems to guarantee uninterrupted access to safe drinking water for all the households. With the upcoming cropping season approaching, the Minister called for proactive measures to ensure that irrigation infrastructure is fully operational. He directed the officers to expedite desiltation of canals, repair and replacement of worn-out plant and machinery besides removal of bottlenecks that could hamper water flow.

Special emphasis was laid on restoration and maintenance of traditional irrigation channels, including kuls, to support the farmers and safeguard agricultural productivity. Reviewing flood control preparedness, the Minister stressed the urgency of completing protective works at the identified vulnerable and flood-prone locations within the stipulated timelines. He called for coordinated planning and swift execution of mitigation measures to protect

Sharma greets people on Holi, calls for collective efforts towards J&K's prosperity

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Transport, IT, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, Tuesday extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Holi.

In his message, the Minister said that Holi, the vibrant festival of colours, symbolizes the victory of truth over falsehood and good over evil. He noted that the festival, celebrated with great enthusiasm across the country, reinforces the spirit of unity, love, compassion and brotherhood among communities and strengthens the bonds of togetherness in society.

Satish Sharma highlighted that Jammu and Kashmir has always been a shining example of communal harmony and composite culture, where festivals of all faiths are celebrated with mutual respect and shared joy. He said that Holi offers an opportunity to renew relationships, forgive past dif-



ferences and move forward with a spirit of positivity and cooperation.

"May the colours of Holi fill our lives with hope, optimism and renewed energy. Let this festival inspire us to rise above divisions and work collectively for peace, prosperity and overall development of Jammu and Kashmir," the Minister stated.

The Minister also urged the citizens, especially the youth, to celebrate the festival in a responsible and eco-friendly manner, promoting water conservation and avoiding any practices that may cause inconvenience or harm to others.

He prayed for the well-being, happiness and success of the people and extended his best wishes for a safe and joyous Holi to all.

CM Omar Abdullah extends Holi greetings

GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday extended his warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Holi.

In his felicitation message, the Chief Minister described Holi as a vibrant celebration that symbolises togetherness, joy and the triumph of harmony over discord.

Sakeena Itoo extends Holi greetings

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Tuesday extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the joyous occasion of Holi-festival of colours.

In her greetings, the Minister said that Holi symbolizes unity, harmony and triumph of goodness, encouraging people to

He expressed hope that the "Festival of Colors" would further strengthen communal harmony, promote mutual respect and deepen the enduring bonds of brotherhood across the region.

The Chief Minister prayed for sustained peace, prosperity and progress in Jammu and Kashmir, and expressed confidence that the festival would usher in renewed hope and happiness for all residents.

celebrate the festival with mutual respect, compassion and spirit of togetherness. "These cultural festivals strengthen our social fabric by promoting inclusiveness and brotherhood across communities", she said.

The Minister prayed that this festival of colours brings joy, prosperity and renewed positivity to every household and fills lives with colours of optimism and strengthens bonds of unity across regions.

WORLD HEARING DAY

Experts flag rising hearing loss in J&K, 0.2% population affected

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Health experts in Jammu and Kashmir have raised concerns over the growing burden of hearing impairment, revealing that nearly 0.2 per cent of the population in the Union Territory is affected by hearing disabilities.

Medical professionals attribute this largely to ageing and chronic exposure to loud noise, cautioning that hearing loss is often gradual but largely preventable with timely care and awareness.

Dr Neelofar Jan, an ENT specialist, said that hearing loss is broadly classified into three types—conductive, sensorineural, and mixed.

She explained that conductive hearing loss occurs due

to problems in transmitting sound waves through the outer or middle ear. "This can result from issues like earwax buildup, fluid accumulation, infections, perforation of the eardrum, or abnormalities in the ear bones," Dr Neelofar said, adding that many such cases are treatable.

On the other hand, sensorineural hearing loss is linked to damage in the inner ear or auditory nerve. "This type is commonly caused by prolonged exposure to loud noise or natural ageing, also known as presbycusis. It is usually managed with hearing aids," she said.

Dr Tabassum, another ENT specialist, said the World Hearing Day aims to promote ear and hearing care, early detection, and access to treatment, noting that many cases of hearing impair-

ment can be prevented or effectively managed if diagnosed early.

"Good hearing is essential for communication, learning, and overall well-being. Our ears work closely with the brain to process sounds, helping us understand our surroundings," she said.

She added that hearing loss may be congenital or acquired, with common acquired causes including noise exposure, ageing, viral infections such as meningitis, measles, and mumps, as well as autoimmune conditions.

Doctors also pointed out that symptoms of hearing loss often go unnoticed initially and may include muffled speech, difficulty understanding conversations in noisy environments, frequently

asking others to repeat themselves, increasing volume levels of devices, and social withdrawal.

Another ENT specialist from Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar said that damage to delicate hair cells in the inner ear due to ageing or noise exposure is a major cause. "Once these cells are damaged, sound signals are not transmitted efficiently to the brain, leading to hearing impairment," he said.

They further added that earwax blockage, infections, sudden loud blasts, pressure changes, or injury to the eardrum can also impair hearing, while conditions like tinnitus and Meniere's disease may additionally affect ear health.

Experts stressed that while some forms of hearing loss—especially conductive types—can

be medically or surgically treated, others may require assistive devices such as hearing aids. In severe cases, cochlear implants can offer significant improvement.

Raising concern over the broader impact, Dr Tabassum said, "Globally, nearly one in four individuals experiences some degree of hearing loss. In our communities, too, every third or fourth person may have some level of hearing difficulty, often ignored."

She urged people to prioritise regular ENT check-ups, avoid prolonged exposure to loud sounds, and seek medical advice at the early signs of hearing issues. "Protecting hearing today is essential to ensuring better communication, social inclusion, and quality of life tomorrow," she added—(KNO)

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Peace Is More Than A Review Meeting

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chairing a high-level meeting to review the law and order situation in Kashmir sends an important message: the administration is alert and watchful. Such meetings, especially in a sensitive region like Kashmir, are necessary. They show preparedness, coordination, and an intent to prevent any situation from slipping out of control. But peace in Kashmir cannot be measured only by the number of meetings held or alerts issued.

For ordinary people, peace is not a file reviewed at the Police Control Room. It is something far more personal. It is the ability to go about daily life without fear, to earn a living without uncertainty, and to speak without anxiety. It is felt on the streets, in markets, in classrooms, and in homes—not just in official briefings.

The Lieutenant Governor's appeal to citizens and community leaders to maintain harmony is both timely and important. Kashmir's social fabric has always relied heavily on community wisdom and collective restraint. However, appeals alone are not enough. People are more likely to respond positively when they feel heard, respected, and treated fairly by institutions meant to serve them.

Law and order is not only about preventing incidents; it is also about building trust. Excessive restrictions, harsh enforcement, or lack of communication can quietly erode public confidence, even when the intention is to maintain calm. True stability comes when people cooperate willingly, not when they comply out of fear.

If peace is indeed a shared responsibility, then governance must also be shared in spirit. This means engaging with citizens beyond security concerns—addressing grievances, ensuring justice, creating economic opportunities, and restoring faith in public institutions. Coordination between police and civil administration is crucial, but coordination with the public is equally vital.

Kashmir does not just need peace that is managed; it needs peace that is lived. High-level meetings may set the direction, but lasting calm will only come when people feel secure not just physically, but emotionally and socially as well. Only then will peace move from official statements into everyday reality.

The Debt-Colony: The Geopolitics Of Perpetual Fire



DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

Asia's geopolitical landscape has been fraught with conflict, interference, and intrigue for centuries. This continent is not only a hub of population and culture, but is also considered the world's richest region in terms of natural resources. Yet, ironically, this same Asia has repeatedly been plunged into the flames of war, instability, and poverty. Whether it's the escalating tensions on the Iran-Pakistan border or the border conflict between Cambodia and Thailand, these events do not appear to be mere coincidences. Behind them, a broader global strategy appears to be at work, in which external powers pursue their own interests by keeping Asia in turmoil. Let Asia burn, and the coffers of developed countries fill, this is the naked truth of this politics.

Countries in the Global South are rich in resources but lack decision-making power. Despite possessing oil, gas, coal, rare minerals, fertile land, and a young population, these countries remain mired in debt, unemployment, and instability. The root cause of this is not merely internal weaknesses, but the global system that has been designed to keep them dependent for decades. The plunder that developed countries began during the colonial period continues today in new forms, sometimes in the name of free trade, sometimes under the guise of democracy and human rights.

The Iran-Pakistan tensions are the latest example. Long-standing sanctions on Iran have weakened its economy, while Pakistan continues to live under foreign debt and economic pressure. Consequently, the escalating border tensions are no longer merely a local issue. Instability in sensitive areas like Balochistan could pit the two countries against each other. If this tension escalates, energy routes throughout South Asia and West Asia will be disrupted. Oil and gas prices will rise, directly benefiting the powers that control global markets. While war may be in Asia, profits will be reaped elsewhere.

History bears witness to the frequent attempts by external powers to incite local conflicts to further their own interests. Sometimes they act as mediators, and sometimes they establish their bases under the guise of military aid and security. Afghanistan is a prime example, where decades of war raged, society was torn apart, and ultimately the very country they claimed to "help" suffered the most. Similar situations are being replicated in other parts of Asia.

The Cambodia-Thailand dispute in Southeast Asia appears to be part of this strategy. Tensions over temples and historical sites in the border region are not new, but the military overtones they have taken



in recent years are worrying. The region is considered rich in rare minerals, demand for which is rapidly increasing in the era of new technologies and energy transition. When two neighboring countries engage in conflict, it becomes easier for outside powers to intervene. Access to resources is gained in exchange for military aid, investment, and loans. Ultimately, the local population suffers, in the form of environmental destruction, displacement, and economic inequality.

This situation in the Global South did not arise suddenly. Since the mid-20th century, developed countries have used Asia, Africa, and Latin America as a source of raw materials and a market for finished goods. Colonial rule ended, but the economic structure remained unchanged. Even today, international financial institutions provide loans, but in return, they impose conditions that strip these countries of their policy independence. Privatization of resources, reduction of subsidies, and import dependence, these are all part of the same trap.

Internal weaknesses within this system are no less responsible. Corruption, power struggles, ethnic and religious divisions erode these countries from within. When societies are divided, external interference becomes easier. Those in power compromise long-term national interests for short-term gains. The voice of the people is suppressed, and decisions are limited to a select few.

Nevertheless, it would be a grave mistake to assume that the Global South is helpless. Solutions exist, provided there is will. The first step is regional solidarity. Asian countries must resolve their disputes through dialogue and cooperation. Whether it's border disputes or the sharing of resources, the solution lies not in war, but in shared understanding. When neighboring countries stand together, the scope for external forces

The root cause of this is not merely internal weaknesses, but the global system that has been designed to keep them dependent for decades. The plunder that developed countries began during the colonial period continues today in new forms, sometimes in the name of free trade, sometimes under the guise of democracy and human rights.

will automatically diminish. Another important aspect is economic self-reliance. Real control over resources is possible only when local industries and the public sector are

strong. Emphasis must be placed on value addition rather than simply exporting raw materials. Transfer of technology is essential, but production capacity must be developed within the country. Self-reliance does not mean cutting off from the world, but connecting on an equal basis.

Environmental justice is also a crucial part of this struggle. Indigenous and rural communities are bearing the brunt of the increased mining being carried out in the name of the energy transition. The countries most affected by the adverse effects of climate change are those that have contributed the least to it. Therefore, it is imperative to demand equitable participation and accountability on global platforms.

Change is also necessary at the societal level. The education system must develop not only technical knowledge but also an understanding of history, politics, and the global economy. The media and information systems must be strengthened to protect society from propaganda and misinformation. The younger generation must understand that local problems are often linked to global structures.

Ultimately, Asia's future lies in its own hands. If this continent continues to be embroiled in conflict and instability, it will impact the entire world. But if Asia unites and takes control of its resources, its policies, and its societies, the global balance of power can change. This is not a time for mere reaction, but for introspection and concrete action.

Asia must now refuse to become someone else's battlefield. The resources are ours, the people are ours, and the future must be ours. The Global South needs justice, not pity; respect, not interference. This is the true direction of struggle, and it can become the foundation of a just world order.

(Dr. Satyavan Saurabh, PhD (Political Science), is a poet and social thinker.)

Good Morning Kashmir

Editor, Owner, Printer, Publisher
Javed Ashraf Shah

Associate Editors
Mir Suhail

Sulaiman Muhammed Shah

Legal Advisor
Bashir Sidiq

Bureau Chief Jammu:
Harbans Nagokay

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Regd No: 109555

Office No: 0194-3593724

Email:

goodmorningkashmir@gmail.com

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Chowk, Srinagar-190001

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Celebrate Holi With Joy, Keep Your Eyes Safe



DR. MAHIPAL S SACHDEV

As the festival of colours approaches, homes and streets across India—especially in the northern regions—prepare to come alive with vibrant celebrations. Holi is a time for togetherness, laughter, and cherished moments with family and friends. However, amid the festivities, it is equally important to remember that synthetic colours and careless play can pose serious risks to our eyes and overall health.

Many commercially available Holi colours contain harmful chemicals such as mercury sulphate, lead oxide, and copper sulphate. Direct exposure to these substances can trigger eye allergies, severe irritation, conjunctivitis (pink eye), and in extreme cases, temporary vision disturbances. Fine particles present in colour powders, including shiny mica in



gular, can scratch the cornea, leading to pain, watering, redness, and even corneal ulcers if not treated promptly. A corneal abrasion is an eye emergency and requires immediate medical attention.

In some cases, toxic exposure can affect deeper eye structures, causing retinal damage. The appearance of a grey patch or sudden blurring of vision should never be ignored, as delayed treatment can result in permanent vision

loss. Additionally, colour sprays and chemical-based liquids may cause chemical burns, further increasing the risk of serious complications.

Water balloons, often used during Holi, are another major cause of blunt eye injuries. A direct hit can lead to internal bleeding, lens displacement, macular swelling, or even retinal detachment—conditions that may threaten eyesight permanently. Such injuries require urgent evaluation by

an eye specialist.

To ensure a safe and joyful celebration, here are a few essential precautions:

- Wear protective eyewear or sunglasses to shield your eyes from direct exposure to colours.
- Keep your eyes tightly closed if someone attempts to apply colour to your face, and request others to avoid the eye area.
- While travelling, keep car

windows rolled up to prevent unexpected balloon injuries.

- Avoid wearing contact lenses while playing Holi. If irritation occurs, remove and discard them immediately.
- If redness, pain, watering, or blurred vision persists beyond a day, consult an ophthalmologist without delay.

Whenever possible, opt for natural, homemade colours instead of synthetic ones. Simple ingredients like turmeric mixed with flour for yellow, soaked beetroot for pink, or petals of tesu (palash) flowers for saffron hues are much safer alternatives for the skin and eyes.

Holi is a festival of happiness and positivity. By choosing safe practices and being mindful of the risks associated with chemical colours, you can protect your vision and health while enjoying the celebrations to the fullest. Play responsibly, care for your eyes, and let this Holi be remembered for its colours—not for preventable injuries.

Author is Chairman & Founder, Centre for Sight

IDEAS, OPINIONS AND VIEWS EXPRESSED IN ARTICLES PUBLISHED ARE WRITERS' OWN AND MAY NOT BE FOUND IN ACCORD WITH THOSE OF GOOD MORNING KASHMIR

Beyond The Disciplinarian: The Modern Father As Mentor And Guide



DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

Parenting is not a competition between mother and father; it is a shared moral, emotional, and intellectual enterprise. Yet within this shared responsibility, the father's role in shaping a child's courage and confidence often remains understated. In many cultures, including ours, the mother is rightly acknowledged as the primary caregiver. She nurtures, feeds, protects, and sustains the emotional climate of the home. Her presence forms the child's earliest universe of trust. But alongside this foundational care, the father possesses a unique and powerful capacity to cultivate bravery, resilience, and self-belief. When fathers participate actively and lovingly in parenting, children, sons and daughters alike, often grow bolder in spirit and steeper in mind.

The mother's role as the first refuge of the child cannot be denied. From infancy, the child experiences comfort, warmth, and unconditional love primarily through her. She becomes the safe harbor. This deep attachment forms the base upon which all later confidence stands. However, if parenting remains limited to protection alone, the child may develop caution without courage. Here the father can complement the mother's nurturing presence by introducing calculated risk, playful challenge, and encouragement to step beyond fear. Unfortunately, in some households, an old disciplinary myth persists: the father is portrayed as the distant authority figure who will return in the evening to punish misbehavior. "Wait till your father comes home," some mothers say in moments of frustration. Though often uttered casually, such statements can silently construct an image of the father as a punitive force rather than a partner in growth. The child begins to associate the father with fear rather than affection. This damages not only the father-child relationship but also the child's internal sense of security. When fear replaces trust, confidence cannot flourish.

A father does not need to be an authoritarian figure to command respect. In fact, the most effective fathers are rarely egotistic or domineering. They lead by example, not by intimidation. They show strength without harshness, discipline without humiliation, and firmness without emotional withdrawal. When a father kneels to speak at the child's eye level, listens attentively, and explains the reasons behind rules, he demonstrates that authority and kindness can coexist. This balance helps children internalize discipline as self-control rather than external fear. One of the distinctive contributions fathers often bring to parenting is the encouragement of physical courage. Many fathers instinctively engage in rough-and-tumble play—lifting the child high in the air, encouraging a leap from a low wall, teaching how to ride a bicycle without training wheels, or urging participation in sports. These moments are not mere recreation; they are rehearsals for bravery. When a child jumps from a small height into the father's waiting arms, the leap symbolizes trust. The father's steady catch becomes proof that risk can be taken safely. Gradually, the child learns that fear is not a wall but a doorway.

Consider the moment when a father removes his supporting hand from a child's bicycle for the first time. The child wobbles, uncertain, perhaps frightened. But the father runs alongside, shouting encouragement rather than criticism. The inevitable fall, if it happens, becomes an occasion for learning rather than shame. "Try again," he says. In that simple phrase lies the seed of resilience.



Courage is not the absence of falling; it is the willingness to rise again. Fathers who normalize failure as part of growth empower children to face life's competitions—academic, professional, or personal—with fortitude. Bravery is not confined to physical acts.

She becomes the safe harbor. This deep attachment forms the base upon which all later confidence stands. However, if parenting remains limited to protection alone, the child may develop caution without courage. Here the father can complement the mother's nurturing presence by introducing calculated risk, playful challenge, and encouragement to step beyond fear.

Intellectual courage is equally vital. A father who sits beside his child to solve a difficult mathematical problem, who debates ideas at the dinner table, or who introduces books beyond the school syllabus, cultivates independent thinking. When he says, "What do you think?" instead of "This is what you must think," he affirms the child's mind as worthy of respect. This affirmation builds deep confidence. The child feels not merely instructed but valued.

Fathers can play a decisive role in inspiring disciplined study. Inspiration differs from pressure. Pressure arises from the father's ego—his unfulfilled ambitions projected onto the child. Inspiration arises from shared curiosity. A father who reads regularly, discusses history, science, or literature with enthusiasm, and models intellectual engagement silently teaches that learning is joyful rather than burdensome. The child absorbs this attitude. Confidence in academics then emerges not from fear of punishment but from the thrill of understanding.

Humor forms another powerful bridge between father and child. A father who is willing to appear foolish—making funny faces, telling exaggerated stories, imitating

cartoon characters—breaks down the intimidating aura that traditional authority sometimes creates. Laughter dissolves distance. When children see their father comfortable with playfulness, they learn that dignity does not require rigidity. They feel free to express themselves without fear of judgment. Such emotional safety strengthens self-assurance. The father's non-egotistic presence is crucial. Some fathers uncon-



sciously turn parenting into a display of superiority. They insist on always being right. They dismiss children's emotions as trivial. Such behavior breeds insecurity. By contrast, a father who admits, "I was wrong," or "I do not know, let us find out together," models intellectual humility. This humility teaches children that strength includes openness. They learn that confidence is compatible with learning from others.

For daughters especially, the father's role can be transformative. A father often becomes the first male figure in a girl's life. Through him, she forms early expectations about how men should treat her. When a father respects his daughter's opinions, supports her ambitions, and spends time engaging in her interests—whether science experiments, sports, music, or literature—he plants the conviction that she deserves equal opportunity. If he encourages her to speak in public, to question assumptions, and to pursue excellence, she grows into a woman who does not shrink before patriarchal pressure. Moreover, when a father is affectionate and emotionally available, he dismantles harmful stereotypes of masculinity. He shows his daughter that men can be gentle without

being weak. This realization builds relational confidence. She learns to demand kindness and respect in her future relationships. The father, in becoming her friend, becomes her silent guardian long after childhood ends.

Friendship between father and daughter does not erase boundaries; it enriches them. A friendly father listens without immediate judgment. When his daughter shares a fear, a failure, or even a

other rather than undermine one another before the child. When a mother repeatedly depicts the father as harsh or unapproachable, even in jest, the child internalizes division. Conversely, when parents express mutual respect, children feel stable. The father's confidence-building efforts flourish best in an atmosphere of partnership. The mother's nurturing and the father's emboldening energies complement each other like two hands lifting the same future. Modern psychological studies increasingly affirm what many families intuitively know: children benefit profoundly from active paternal involvement. Such involvement is not limited to financial provision. Emotional participation, playful interaction, intellectual guidance, and moral modeling are equally crucial. When fathers attend school meetings, cheer at competitions, or simply sit quietly listening to teenage anxieties, they contribute to a reservoir of security that empowers risk-taking and ambition.

Courage nurtured by a father's support does not mean recklessness. A wise father teaches the difference between bravery and foolishness. He explains why safety measures matter even while encouraging challenge. He shows that true confidence arises from preparation. Before encouraging a jump from a height, he ensures the ground is safe. Before urging participation in competition, he encourages practice. This balanced guidance prevents bravado and fosters sustainable self-belief. The transformation wrought by a supportive father often becomes visible in subtle ways: a child volunteering to speak on stage; a teenager applying for a scholarship abroad; a young adult choosing a meaningful career despite social pressure. Behind these visible acts stands an invisible voice echoing from childhood—"You can do it." That voice, frequently the father's, becomes an internal compass.

Yet the father must guard against turning encouragement into coercion. When ambition overshadows affection, confidence fractures. A child who feels loved only for achievement grows anxious rather than brave. The father's affirmation must be unconditional. Success should be celebrated, but failure must be embraced with equal warmth. Only then does the child dare greatly without fear of losing belonging. The image of the father as entertainer—singing off-key songs, staging mock wrestling matches, inventing bedtime adventures—deserves appreciation. Through such lighthearted engagement, fathers create emotional memories that anchor security. Years later, when facing adversity, adults often recall these playful moments as sources of comfort. Joy experienced with a father becomes a reservoir of hope.

In societies undergoing rapid change, the father's role must evolve beyond traditional stereotypes. He is no longer merely the breadwinner or disciplinarian. He is mentor, companion, guide, and emotional partner. His involvement does not diminish the mother's centrality; rather, it enriches the child's world with diverse forms of love. Ultimately, bravery in a child is not loud defiance but quiet assurance. It is the ability to attempt, to question, to persist. Such bravery flourishes when children feel secure enough to explore. The mother provides the nest; the father often nudges toward flight. Together they shape wings strong enough to meet the winds of life. When fathers reject ego, embrace humor, encourage risk tempered with wisdom, and offer steady intellectual and emotional support, they become architects of confidence. They transform from distant authority figures into trusted allies. And in that transformation lies a profound truth: a loving father does not merely raise a child; he raises courage itself.

Author is International Dickens Medal Awardee, former Affiliate Faculty Virginia Commonwealth University and Retd. Associate Professor. He can be mailed at profra-tanbhattacharjee@gmail.com

'Viksit Bharat' Possible

Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) Jugal Kishore, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Secretary DARPG Rachna Shah, Additional Secretary DARPG Puneet Yadav, Joint Secretary DARPG Sarita Chauhan, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department M Raju, senior IAS and JKAS officers, retired civil servants and participants from across the country were present on the occasion.

In his keynote address, the Chief Minister said, "The truth is that Viksit Bharat or a developed India will only be a reality if all of India develops. A developed India will not become a reality if that development is confined only to a handful of states or regions."

Stressing the importance of balanced growth, he remarked that from Jammu and Kashmir in the north to Assam in the east, Gujarat in the west and Tamil Nadu and Kerala in the south, every region must experience tangible progress. "Unless all of us see that development and that progress, Viksit Bharat will remain a dream and merely a slogan," he cautioned.

Highlighting the pathway to national transformation, the Chief Minister advocated a bottom-up governance model. "India develops through conferences like this and through taking a ground-up approach rather than a top-down approach," he observed.

He underlined that development must be anchored in good governance at the district level. "If our districts perform, our states and Union Territories perform. If our states perform, our country performs. And if our country performs, the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047 may perhaps be realised even before the timeline we have set for ourselves," he said optimistically.

The Chief Minister noted that such conferences help policymakers and administrators avoid "reinventing the wheel" by facilitating the exchange of successful models and innovations.

"For far too long, we lived in silos where sharing information was discouraged rather than encouraged," he reflected, adding that recent years have witnessed more collaborative and holistic governance practices.

However, he cautioned that governance challenges rarely have universal solutions. "There is no quick fix solution. What works in one state may not work in another. What works in J&K may not work in Gujarat or Maharashtra. But we can certainly adapt and modify successful practices to suit our local conditions," he said.

The Chief Minister, who was the guest of honour on the occasion, also spoke extensively about the transformative role of technology in governance. Referring to the shift towards digital administration, he said, "One reform that has made a huge difference is the e-office system. Paper files have virtually disappeared. We have come a long way to a point where I rarely see a paper file."

He noted that digitisation has enhanced efficiency and accountability, though it has also introduced new challenges. "Every file is now time-stamped. Technology has made life easier but also more transparent and demanding," he observed.

He further highlighted the use of virtual meetings, which have significantly improved coordination with district administrations. "Earlier, district collectors had to travel to Jammu or Srinagar for meetings, and that would happen once or twice a year. Now it happens at the drop of a hat," he said, while advising disciplined use of such facilities to avoid unnecessary disruptions to fieldwork.

Emphasising practical reforms, the Chief Minister called for genuine implementation of citizen-centric initiatives. "If we have a single window, it should actually function as a single window," he remarked candidly. "In my experience, sometimes a single window leads to another window and then a wall behind it. That is not what governance should look like."

Describing conferences like the present one as platforms for both knowledge-sharing and relationship-building, the Chief Minister said, "These allow us to share best practices, but they also cement relationships. Face-to-face contact makes it easier to maintain communication and coordinate effectively."

He emphasised that elected representatives and administrators share a common objective. "Whether it is myself, Dr. Jitendra Singh Sahab or the Hon'ble MP, we have the same goal as you — to ensure that people receive what they expect from us in development, governance and services," he stated.

He said citizens deserve a government that delivers on its promises in education, health, infrastructure and every other sector.

Expressing gratitude to the Union Minister for choosing Jammu as the venue, the Chief Minister extended an invitation to hold future conferences in Srinagar. "I hope that maybe next year we can entice you to come to Srinagar and keep this process going," he said warmly.

Concluding his address, the Chief Minister welcomed all delegates and expressed confidence that the deliberations would contribute meaningfully to strengthening governance frameworks across the country.

LG Sinha Chairs

a high-level security review meeting at Lok Bhavan on Monday evening to assess the prevailing security scenario in the Union Territory.

"The meeting was attended by Northern Command chief, Lt. Gen. Pratik Sharma, J&K Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat, Srinagar-headquartered 15 Corps commander, Lt. Gen. Prashant Srivastava, and the Northern Command's Major General General Staff, Maj. Gen. Balbir Singh.

"During the in-depth deliberations, the Lt Governor reviewed the overall security preparedness across the Union Territory. Senior officials briefed the L-G on counter-terror operations, border management,

intelligence coordination, and the current ground situation in sensitive districts," an official said.

"The meeting also focused on strengthening synergy between the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and other security agencies to ensure a swift and coordinated response to any emerging threats. Area domination measures, surveillance mechanisms, and proactive operational strategies were discussed in detail," the official added.

According to the official, the Lt Governor emphasised maintaining a high level of alertness and operational readiness to safeguard peace and stability in the region.

"He directed the security leadership to continue adopting a robust and proactive approach to ensure the safety and security of citizens," the official said, adding that the review meeting came amid evolving regional developments and reflects the administration's continued focus on maintaining law and order and strengthening the security grid across Jammu and Kashmir.

Complete restrictions have been imposed in the Valley on Tuesday to maintain law & order.

Public gatherings and processions are being disallowed. All educational institutions, including schools, colleges and universities, remained closed today.

Businesses and public transport remained suspended. Internet speed has been slowed down to prevent miscreants from uploading provocative content on social media.

LG Manoj Sinha Extends

said: "On the festive occasion of Holi, I convey my warm greetings to the people. I hope that the festival of colours, which is celebrated with traditional fervour, heralds happiness and success for all.

May this festival of colours, bring joy and prosperity in the society and foster the spirit of harmony amongst our citizens."

Police Crack Down

has taken serious cognisance of the deliberate circulation of false, fabricated and misleading information by certain News Channels, Media outlets, and individuals across electronic and social Media platforms.

These elements are systematically attempting to spread distorted narratives and unverified content with the clear intent to incite unrest, disturb Public order, and create disharmony in society, police spokesperson said on Tuesday.

Such malicious misinformation campaigns pose a grave threat to peace, security, and the integrity of the Nation, the spokesperson said, adding that Srinagar Police have registered FIR at Cyber Police Station under relevant legal provisions.

Several Profiles have been identified, and concerned individuals have been summoned to the Cyber Cell, the spokesperson said. Investigation is actively underway, and strict legal action will follow against anyone found involved.

Srinagar Police issued a clear warning that spreading fake news, inflammatory content, or unverified information will invite stringent legal consequences.

"Citizens and media organisations are advised to exercise responsibility and verify facts only from official and credible sources before sharing any content that may disturb communal harmony or public order. Srinagar Police remains resolute in maintaining law & order and will not allow any attempt to destabilize peace in the region," the spokesperson said.

In order to maintain law and order, authorities have imposed restrictions in the entire Kashmir Valley on Tuesday.

All schools, colleges and universities are closed and exams scheduled for the day have been postponed by the university of Kashmir.

Internet speed across the Valley has been brought down to prevent miscreants and anti-national elements from uploading provocative content on the social media.

Heavy deployment of security forces has been made at sensitive places to maintain law and order.

Army Intensifies

informed.

An Intelligence Bureau official said that the object did not cause any harm. However, it cannot be considered to be a stray incident. This development comes in the wake of the Indian Army thwarting multiple drone intrusions from Pakistan along the Line of Control (LoC).

Most of these incidents were reported at the Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. In recent months, the Army has noticed that the Pakistanis have been making multiple attempts to send drones into India.

Last month, at least two quadcopters attempted to breach the Indian airspace along the LoC in the Poonch area. This has led the Army to conduct swift counter drone actions.

Officials say that they do not see these incidents as isolated ones. Another official said that what has been different this time is that most of these drones have not intended to smuggle in narcotics or arms. The intention has also not been to harm to carry out surveillance.

The official added that this is a deliberate ploy on part of the Pakistanis to keep the Indian security agencies engaged. This is meant to cause a distraction so that the launch pads at Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) can be activated and infiltrations can take place.

Since 'Operation Sindoor', the Pakistanis have not managed to infiltrate a single terrorist into India. An Intelligence estimate states that there are over a 1,000 terrorists of both the Lashkar-e-Tayiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad who are waiting at the launch-

pads.

Many have made multiple attempts to enter India, but all such attempts have been thwarted. This is leading to a sense of desperation among these terror groups.

The Intelligence agencies say that Pakistan is looking to send in more such suspicious objects into India. Currently they are coming in smaller numbers, but this could increase dramatically.

They would want to keep the security agencies engaged for a longer period of time and then choose an opportune time to push multiple terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir.

The ISI is desperate to get operations in Jammu and Kashmir up and running. It is under immense pressure from the terror groups such as the Lashkar-e-Tayiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad.

Earlier, the Pakistan Army would indulge in firing to distract the Indian armed forces. Another official explained that Pakistan is finding it hard to beat the security systems in place at the border. The security forces operate on multiple layers, which are designed in such a way that it can handle intrusions, firing and also prevent infiltration, all at the same time.

Hence Pakistan is bound to come up with various tricks to distract the security agencies and then try and get the infiltration process going, the official also added. (IANS)

J&K Police Appeal

involved in unlawful activities. Authorities remain committed to upholding the rule of law and protecting life and property," the statement added.

Officials confirmed that all schools, colleges, and universities will remain closed on Tuesday, while the University of Kashmir has postponed all scheduled examinations.

Mobile internet speed has been reduced to prevent anti-social elements from uploading provocative content, and police and security forces have been deployed in sufficient strength to enforce restrictions.

Srinagar's city centre, Lal Chowk, has been barricaded with concertina wire, and roads leading to and from sensitive areas have been blocked.

Meanwhile, senior Shia leader Molvi Imran Ansari also appealed to the people to remain peaceful and disciplined while mourning the death of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"This is a testing time for us. Our hearts are shattered. We have lost our Rehbar, our guide, our father, Shaheed Ayatullah al-Uzma Sayyid Ali Hussaini Khamenei (R.A.). He was not just a leader; he was our strength, our voice, our direction," Ansari said.

He urged the youth not to take the law into their own hands, noting that marches towards Lal Chowk had been prohibited, but assured that mourning in respective districts would not be stopped.

"I urge you to keep your protests, majlis-es, and matam confined to your respective areas, and I assure you that no one will disallow that. Even if it is late, mourn locally. Let our grief remain dignified," he added.

Ansari also condemned a viral video showing a police officer misbehaving with a woman, saying he had taken up the matter with higher authorities and requested police to show extra sympathy and restraint.

"Cry, mourn, protest, but do it peacefully and with dignity. Do not let anyone misuse your emotions. We are the followers of Karbala. Our tears are powerful, but our conduct must remain disciplined. Labbaik Ya Hussain!" he said in praise of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson.

Northern Army Commander

The situation is tense as US and Israel continue to pound Iran. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also issued a nationwide security alert to all states and Union Territories, warning of possible violence and sporadic protests in the wake of recent geo-political scenario—(KNO)

India Stands Firmly

the Indian Embassy posted on X.

Meanwhile, in a statement issued Tuesday evening, Qatar's Foreign Ministry strongly condemned the Iranian attacks that targeted the embassies of the United States in Riyadh and Kuwait, deeming them a "blatant violation" of international conventions and laws.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs stresses that the Iranian attacks on the two embassies contravene international agreements and diplomatic norms that criminalize assaults on diplomatic missions and grant immunity to their premises and staff. The Ministry affirms the State of Qatar's full solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait in all measures they take to safeguard their security and the safety of their territories," it stated.

On Monday, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America strongly condemned Iran's "indiscriminate and reckless missile and drone attacks" against sovereign territories across the region, including Bahrain, Iraq - including the Iraqi Kurdistan Region - Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

"These unjustified strikes targeted sovereign territory, endangered civilian populations, and damaged civilian infrastructure. The Islamic Republic's actions represent a dangerous escalation that violates the sovereignty of multiple states and threatens regional stability," read the joint statement.

Precautionary Restrictions

control; however, minor protests were

reported from parts of Sopore, Baramulla, Budgam and Bandipora districts.

Meanwhile, the Home Department of Jammu and Kashmir in an order stated that prepaid mobile internet services across the Valley have been restricted to 2G speed, not exceeding 128 kbps, till 8 pm on March 4.

An official order said the directions were issued under the Temporary Suspension of Telecommunication Services Rules, 2024, and Section 20 of the Telecommunication Act, 2023, after authorities assessed the prevailing situation.

The order stated that precautionary restrictions were imposed across Kashmir on March 1. "The decision was taken in view of apprehensions that high-speed internet services could be misused, potentially affecting public order," it added—(KNO)

Govt Steps Up Vigil To

mechanisms to ensure the safety and welfare of our seafarers and the security of our maritime assets. We remain in constant touch with relevant national and international agencies and are prepared to respond swiftly to any emerging development."

A dedicated Quick Response Team has been set up to enable timely coordination among authorities, ensure immediate response to emerging situations, and facilitate prompt assistance to Indian seafarers and their families. Helpline numbers have also been activated and shared with families of seafarers through recruitment and placement service licensees.

The Ministry, through the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS), has activated enhanced monitoring and security oversight in respect to Indian seafarers and Indian-flagged ships in response to reported threats in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf of Oman and adjoining sea areas, including missile and drone activity, electronic interference and other maritime security concerns.

The Ministry, through the DGS, has also initiated real-time tracking of Indian-flagged vessels with increased reporting frequency and established 24x7 monitoring through the MMDAC DGComm Centre. Mandatory reporting protocols have also been prescribed for vessels, owners and managers.

Close coordination is being maintained with the Indian Navy, the Ministry of External Affairs, the Information Fusion Centre—Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) and Indian missions abroad. Shipping companies and Recruitment and Placement Service Licensees have been advised to exercise caution in crew deployment and maintain regular communication with seafarers and their families.

The Directorate, IFC-IOR, and other agencies are coordinating closely to ensure their safety and well-being. All necessary support and assistance are being extended to the affected seafarers and their families.

Stakeholders have been advised to maintain heightened vigilance and undertake voyage-specific risk assessments. Vessels operating in the region have been directed to maintain an enhanced security posture and bridge watch, ensure continuous communication readiness and report suspicious activity immediately.

Reaffirming the government's commitment, Sonowal said: "India stands firmly with its seafarers and maritime stakeholders. The ministry remains prepared to extend all necessary operational, diplomatic and humanitarian support to safeguard Indian vessels and personnel and will continue active coordination with domestic and international stakeholders to protect India's maritime interests."



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Indian Railways clears Holi rush on war footing

SIANS

NEW DELHI: Indian Railways continues to maintain enhanced operational preparedness this week with the running of special trains to facilitate safe, smooth, timely and comfortable travel for passengers during the ongoing Holi festive rush across the country, an official statement said on Tuesday.



During this period, more than 5.5 million passengers travelled from stations under the jurisdiction of North Western Railway. Notably, around 1.1 million passengers travelled on March 1 and 2 alone, during which 21 trips of new special trains were operated.

In addition, the operational period of 30 special trains comprising 216 trips was extended. To further accommodate increased demand in March, 141 additional coaches of various categories were augmented in 53 regular trains, according to the statement.

A total of 295 trips of newly introduced special

trains were notified for destinations including Gorakhpur, Samastipur, Yog Nagari Rishikesh, Amritsar, Mysuru, Kakinada, Gomti Nagar, Bhavnagar Terminus, Howrah, Tirupati, Mau, Sabarmati, Danapur, Asansol, Chennai Egmore, Vadodra and Kolkata.

In the week preceding Holi, 54 trips of special trains were operated towards major destinations such as Gorakhpur, Mysuru, Kakinada, Bhavnagar Terminus, Howrah, Tirupati, Dana-pur, Kolkata, Sabarmati and Asarva, the statement said.

Civil Defence volunteers are also being deployed at busy stations to strengthen crowd control and passenger support.

At major stations, structured crowd management measures were implemented to regulate passenger movement. Holding areas

and barricades were set up to streamline entry, while adequate Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel and ticket checking staff were deployed to maintain security and order. Help desks provided guidance to passengers, and continuous announcements along with electronic display boards ensured the timely dissemination of train information. Awareness campaigns promoted ticket purchases through ATVMs

and the RailOne App. On-duty staff remained alert for immediate response wherever required.

Punctual operation of special trains was ensured through continuous monitoring, with regular supervision by senior officers at headquarters and divisional levels. Additionally, 24x7 war rooms functioned through coordinated inter-departmental efforts to maintain effective control and oversight during the festive rush, the statement said.

Special trains are being operated across multiple zones to facilitate home-bound travel, while systematic queue management, phased boarding and effective crowd regulation measures are being implemented at major stations. Railway personnel, including RPF teams and Rail Karmayogis, maintain continuous on-ground vigilance, supervise passenger movement, assist elderly, divyang and women passengers, and provide essential guidance throughout the journey, the statement added.

Six children drown in Bihar's East Champaran

SIANS

PATNA: A tragic incident unfolded in Bihar just ahead of Holi, where six children drowned in a river in East Champaran district on Tuesday, police said.

The incident took place in Rakhawa panchayat under the Kesaria police station area while the children were bathing in the Raghava river after a lunar eclipse.

According to local residents, the children had gone to the river on Tuesday evening.

One minor child reportedly ventured into deep water and began drowning. In an attempt to rescue the child, the others entered the river one after another and were swept away.

People present on the riverbank raised an alarm, but before help could arrive, all six children had disappeared under the water.

Upon receiving information, the local administration and police rushed to the spot.

With the assistance of villagers and divers, the bodies were recovered after extensive efforts.

As the bodies were brought out, heart-wrenching scenes unfolded, with grieving family members breaking down, and the entire village plunged into mourning.

The deceased have been identified as Diksha Kumari (12), Sonakshi (9), and Priya Kumari (6), all daughters of Dharmendra Sahani; Prince Kumar (11) and Chhoti Kumari (8), both children of Manoj Sahani; and Sonali Kumari (12), daughter of Kameshwar Sahani.

Kesaria police confirmed that all bodies have been recovered, and further legal procedures are underway.

Officials said the bodies

are being sent for post-mortem examination, and a detailed investigation is being conducted.

Saurabh Jorwal, the District Magistrate of East Champaran, expressed deep sorrow over the tragedy and termed it extremely unfortunate.

He announced an ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh each to the families of the deceased from the Disaster Relief Fund.

Chakia Deputy Superintendent of Police Santosh Kumar and Station House Officer Rahul Kumar also confirmed that the children had drowned while bathing in the river.

The administration has appealed to the public not to allow children to bathe alone in rivers or ponds, especially during festive occasions, to prevent such tragic incidents in the future.

Sahara land case: ED searches premises in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

SIANS

KOLKATA: In fresh action in connection with the Sahara Prime City land case, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) raided multiple premises of the company and its officials in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and seized electronic evidence, an official said on Tuesday.

The ED's Kolkata Zonal Office conducted the search operations on February 2 at Anantapur (Andhra Pradesh), Ballari (Karnataka), Bhuvanewar and Berhampur (Odisha), an ED statement said.

Digital evidences such as WhatsApp communications, contact and call records were recovered and seized during the searches, the central probe agency said.

"The financial records and books of accounts of the concerned entities, as well as other incriminating documents were seized for detailed examination," it added.

"During the searches, statements of various persons were recorded under Section 17 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002," the ED said.

The searches were linked to the sale of a land parcel of Sahara Prime City Limited at Berhampur in Odisha. The searches were carried out under Section 17(1) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, in connection with an ongoing investigation in the case of Humara India and

Others," an ED statement said.

"It was revealed during the search that around 32 acres (out of total 43 acres) of land in Odisha's Berhampur were fraudulently sold in December 2025 based on a revoked Board Resolution in favour of a Sahara employee and in violation of the guidelines of the Supreme Court," the ED said.

"The sale was found to have been carried out on the directions of senior management of Sahara Group. Discrepancies have been noticed between the declared sale consideration and the estimated market value," the ED added.

"Earlier, the ED initiated the investigation based on FIRs registered under Sections 420 and 120B of the IPC, 1860, against Humara India Credit Cooperative Society Limited (HICCSL) and others in several states," the ED statement said.

"More than 500 FIRs have been registered against various Sahara Group entities, with over 300 involving scheduled offences under the PMLA, alleging large-scale cheating of depositors through forced redeposits and denial of maturity payments," the statement added.

The ED investigation revealed that Sahara Group was operating a Ponzi scheme.

The funds collected were managed in an unregulated manner without depositor oversight, maturity proceeds were not repaid instead reinvested, and

books were manipulated to camouflage such non-repayments.

Various intra group transactions reflected that huge liabilities were shifted from one concern to another without any commercial wisdom, the central agency said.

"Finally, huge liabilities were being reflected in four cooperative societies. Despite financial incapacity, the Sahara Group continued to collect fresh deposits. Due to continuous non-repayment of matured amounts of depositors, the outstanding liability, which is having large interest component, has escalated disproportionately as compared to the principal sum originally collected from the depositors over the years," the ED added.

"It is revealed that substantial deposits were siphoned away to create benami assets, extending loans and misused for personal use, thereby depriving depositors of their legitimate dues," the ED said.

In this case, five provisional attachment orders have been issued attaching multiple land parcels of Sahara Group, including benami lands and assets of other individuals.

"Three persons have also been arrested in the case and the arrested persons, Anil Vailaparampil Abraham and O.P. Srivastav, continue to remain in judicial custody. A charge sheet and a supplementary charge sheet have been filed earlier," the ED added.

Centre must resolve Andhra's objections on Alamatti: K'taka govt

SIANS

BENGALURU: Expressing unhappiness over Andhra Pradesh objecting to increasing the height of the Alamatti dam to 524 meters, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday urged the Centre to intervene in the matter. Shivakumar, who also holds the Irrigation portfolio, said that Andhra Pradesh has written a letter to the Centre not to allow land acquisition for the project.

"I appeal to the Centre to intervene and allow the project to progress as per the Tribunal's order."

"In its letter, Andhra Pradesh has written to the Centre not to issue a Gazette notification on increasing the Alamatti dam from 519 meters to 524 meters, and also to stop land acquisition for the project. It is not appropriate for Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra to interfere in this matter," he said.

He said that in the Cabinet held on September 16, 2025, it was decided to acquire 1.33 lakh acres of land for the project.

"We are planning to release Rs 70,000 crore in three phases. I did not think Andhra Pradesh would go to this extent. We have been putting pressure on the Centre to issue a Gazette notification for the last 12 years. The Tribunal in 2010 had allowed increasing the usage of water from 177 TMC to 330 TMC," he explained.

"We have informed

the Board that we would take our share of 30 TMC of water by building the Navile Balancing reservoir, but Andhra Pradesh hasn't been coming to the meetings. Both states have to make a decision together," he said.

He said that the Parliament session would start on March 10. Our MPs must put pressure on the Centre and protect the State's interests. Otherwise, it would affect the state's interests.

"The Union Jal Shakti minister is under political pressure from Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. We will visit Delhi during the session. Andhra Pradesh has been getting its share of water; I don't know why they are objecting. Andhra CM is an experienced politician. I don't know why he is doing this," he said.

He is not coming to the meetings on Tungabhadra, either. We are losing 30 TMC of water, and we are trying to harness that water through a balancing reservoir," he expressed unhappiness.

"We have initiated land acquisition as the cost of land is increasing, but Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh are not allowing us continue with it. We are doing land acquisition in Karnataka, not in their state. We have already spent Rs 20,000 crore for this project. When the Tribunal issued the order, our state went to the Supreme Court, and the decision was bad. I don't know who took that decision, but it is hurting us now," he explained.

Total Lunar Eclipse observed in India, Blood Moon captivates skies

SIANS

BHOPAL/NEW DELHI: Skywatchers around the world witnessed a spectacular "total lunar eclipse", popularly known as a "Blood Moon" due to the Moon's striking reddish hue during totality.

In India, the event was eagerly awaited as "Chandra Grahan", marking the first lunar eclipse of the year and coinciding with cultural significance, including preparations for festivals like Holi in some traditions. A lunar eclipse occurs when the Earth positions itself directly between the Sun and the Moon, casting its shadow across the lunar surface.

During a total eclipse, the Moon fully enters the Earth's umbral shadow,



filtering sunlight through the atmosphere and scattering shorter blue wavelengths, leaving longer red ones to bathe the Moon in a coppery glow—hence the "Blood Moon" moniker.

For observers in India, the eclipse began at 3:20 p.m. with the penumbral phase, when the Moon subtly entered the Earth's outer shadow. The partial phase followed, leading to

totality. However, since the eclipse started in the afternoon, the Moon was below the horizon in India during much of the early stages.

Visibility commenced only after moonrise around 6:26 p.m., allowing viewers to catch the later phases, including the tail end of totality and the maximum eclipse effect. The peak visibility window in India spanned from 6:33 p.m. to

6:40 p.m., when the Moon appeared dramatically reddened low on the eastern horizon. The entire eclipse concluded by 6:47 p.m. The total duration was approximately 3 hours and 27 minutes, while totality itself lasted about 58 minutes globally.

In many parts of India, especially central and western regions like Indore, the Moon rose during or just after the maximum phase, offering a breathtaking view of the eclipsed Moon tinged in red-orange hues against the twilight sky.

Northeastern areas and islands may have glimpsed more of the totality phase. No special equipment was needed—naked-eye viewing sufficed, though binoculars or telescopes enhanced details like

subtle lunar features.

Culturally, the event prompted observance of 'Sutak Kaal', a traditional inauspicious period in Hindu customs. Sutak began around 6:20-6:23 a.m. (or later in some panchangs, like 9:39 a.m. and ended with the eclipse's conclusion around 6:46-6:47 p.m. During this time, many avoided auspicious activities, temple visits were restricted in places like Tirupati, and people followed rituals such as fasting or eating sattvic foods.

This total lunar eclipse was the last until late 2028, making it a rare treat. Enthusiasts shared stunning photos of the Blood Moon rising, capturing the celestial wonder that blended science and tradition seamlessly.

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE WILDLIFE WARDEN, WETLAND DIVISION, KASHMIR.
ZAINAKOOT, SRINAGAR.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
E-NIT No. 11 OF 2025-26 Dated: 27/02/2026
(Please read the tender document carefully before submission of bid)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K, Stage Contract e-tenders are hereby invited (in two cover system) on Percentage Basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD/MES/Central/State/UT Governments for the work detailed below for execution ending financial year 2025-26:

| S.No | Range | Detail of Estimate | GPS Location | Estimated Cost in Lakhs | Cost of Tender Document | Earnest Money CDR/FDR | Time of Completion | Class of Contractor |
|------|---------------------|---|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Kranchoo & Manibugh | Construction/providing of seven (07) demarcation pillar at Kranchoo (WLR) and eight (08) demarcation pillar at Manibugh WLCR. | As per Map of Kranchoo & As per Map of Manibugh | 2.50 | Nil | 2% (two percent) of Advertised Cost at the time of submission of Bid / Tenders online & 5% (five percent) Performance Security of the Allotted Cost to be submitted within 3 (three) days from the date of opening of Financial Bids by successful bidder (L1) pledged to Wildlife Warden Wetlands Division Srinagar. The EMD of 2% (two percent) shall be released thereafter | 15 | DEE |

Position of AA / TS: Accorded/Committed.
 Position of Funds: Partly Available.
 Major Head of Account: CAMPA / CAPEX

Compulsory Note & Instructions:-
 The hard copies of the documents shall be obtained only from the bidder declared as the Lowest First (L1) after the opening of Financial Bids. The Lowest First (L1) bidder must submit hard copies of all documents uploaded at the time of bidding within three (03) days from the date of opening of Financial Bids, without fail. These documents shall include a copy of the JKPWDOMS verified Online Registration Card of the required class duly renewed, GST-linked bank account certificate, GST registration/latest return, PAN card, and any other relevant documents uploaded during the time of bidding

- Only JKPWDOMS online registration contractor cards shall be accepted and the Contractors Name on JKPWDOMS certificate and GST Registration Certificate should be identical (any difference in trade name or spelling mismatch in JKPWDOMS and GST certificate shall not be entertained and rejected outright)
- All contractors/bidders intending to participate in this tender are advised to inspect the locations and nature of works or contact the O/o Wildlife Warden, Wetlands Division, Srinagar in case of any clarification before participating in the tender.
- All contractors / bidders have to submit Earnest Money Deposit and Performance Security in shape of CDR / FDR pledged to Wildlife Warden, Wetland Division, Kashmir, Srinagar remitted/pledged between Tender Inviting Date and Tender Closing Date only. The bid /tender without accompanying Earnest Money Deposit shall be rejected outright.
- The allotment / Lot shall be made strictly & only within or as per the approved, allotted & released budgetary allocation at the time of issuance and shall be valid for the current financial year only.
- The Advertised Amount shall be deemed as Estimated Amount, difference if any shall be rounded off, the competitive percentage shall be applicable to the Advertised Amount.
- Bidders quoting Abnormally Low Bid (ALB) Price shall have to pay additional Performance Security applicable under Rule in addition to Performance Security detailed above
- Works not completed within the stipulated time of completion shall attract fine under rule and no liability shall be accepted / carried forward.
- All the documents listed below should be scanned in 100 dpi and uploaded with the bid, providing of Aadhar Card and Contact Number with Contractor's Registration Card is mandatory.

The online bids must be accompanied with the following documents:-

Part-I Technical Bid
 (Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid)

- Valid Registration Card of required class duly renewed for the year 2025-26.
- GST linked Bank Account verification certificate.
- No Tender Documents Fee (in the shape of Treasury Challan) is required.
- Submission of Earnest Money Deposit in shape of CDR/ FDR as detailed above is mandatory.
- The GST Registration Certificate with GST Clearance ending March-2025.
- PAN Card / Aadhar Card / In use Contact Number.

Part-II Financial Bid
 A) Statement of Advertised Quantity & Consideration Rates on Percentage (Bids) basis to be offered by the Contractor / Bidder towards Department (single amount/percentage) to be quoted by the bidder/ contractor on estimated amount of the advertised quantity of BoQ.
 B) The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria specification, Drawings, bill of quantities, (BOQ), set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be downloaded from the website https://jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given below:

| S.No | Date of issue of Tender Notice | 27/02/2026 |
|------|---|---|
| 1 | Date of issue of Tender Notice | 27/02/2026 |
| 2 | Period of downloading of bidding documents | 28/02/2026 to 09/03/2026 |
| 3 | Bid submission start date | 28/02/2026 |
| 4 | Bid submission End date | 09/03/2026 upto 06:00 PM |
| 5 | Date & time of opening of technical bids (online) | 10/03/2026 at 03:00 PM |
| 6 | Date & time of opening of financial bids (online) | To be notified after technical bid evaluation |

- Clarifications regarding the tendered works will be provided to address any queries raised by contractors/bidders between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM, on any day between the Tender Inviting Date and the Tender Closing Date.
- Bids must be accompanied by the Earnest Money Deposit in shape of CDR/ FDR pledged to Wildlife Warden, Wetland Division, Kashmir, Srinagar remitted/pledged between Tender Inviting Date and Tender Closing Date only.
- The date and time of opening of technical bids shall be notified on website https://jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail address.
- The financial bids of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same website in the office of Regional Wildlife Warden Kashmir Region. (Chairman Tender Opening Committee)
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids (The Bid Validity period is subject to production of documents, Hard Copy within three working days from the date of opening of tenders).
- The earnest money shall be forfeited if:
 - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid /tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Instructions to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download is submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000 Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors. The bidder must use his personal 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' for bidding purpose.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with personal Digital Signature Certificate. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para - 1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary/mandatory documents with the bid.
- All the bids online shall be opened in light of finance department communication O.M No: A/24(2017)-651 Dated: 07-06-2018.
- The bidder must submit the scanned copy of EMD, GST Registration/Latest Return/PAN Card, Contractor Registration Card of required Class duly renewed along with Contact Number GST linked Bank Account Certificate and hard copy of same within the stipulated timeframe.

Note: Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option

- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.
- Scanned copy of EMD in shape of CDR/ FDR to be pledged to Wildlife Warden, Wetland Division, Kashmir, Srinagar must be uploaded with the bid.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the percentage rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- In case of any disputes / differences between contractor and department the jurisdiction shall be J&K UT.
- Price escalation and Taxes: The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rate quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- In case of CRF and any other specified, the relevant guidelines, standard bidding documents shall be followed.
- Instructions to Bidder (ITB) 15.1. All bidders shall include the following information and documents with their bids:
 - Copies of original documents defining constitutions/legal status, place of registration and Principal place of Business
 - Valid GST No & PAN No with GST linked Bank Account Certificate.
- The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.
- Non-attendance of pre-bid meeting will not be cause of disqualification of the bidder.
- All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English language.
- The tender opening authority shall be at liberty to open all bids irrespective of the receipt of hard copies.
- If the bidder does not quote percentage rate for any item of the rate list / quantity schedule, cost of such item / items shall be deemed to be part of the overall / total contract value and no rate shall be allowed for such item / items in the allotment of contract.
- Insurance cover to labour / Machinery / work / Plant Material / Equipment by the contractor shall be mandatory.
- In case of any disputes / differences between contractor and department the jurisdiction shall be J&K UT.
- Corruption (if any) in the uploaded BOQ shall be considered in line with the Technically Vetted Estimate for the work even after opening of tenders.
- Minimum three responsive Bids are required and mandatory for opening financial bids after scrutiny of papers / documents otherwise the work shall be re-tendered.

No. WL/WL/Accts/25-26/295-98
 Date: 27/02/2026
 DHPK-11496-25
 DT: 03/03/2026

Sd/-
 Wildlife Warden
 Wetland Division,
 Kashmir,
 Srinagar

'The most heart-warming story of the week': Shastri hails J&K's fairytale Ranji triumph



IAN S

NEW DELHI: Former Indian cricketer and coach Ravi Shastri congratulated the Jammu & Kashmir team for winning their maiden Ranji Trophy title, describing the historic triumph as a shining example of the domestic tournament providing some fairy tale stories which will be remembered for a very long time.

Shastri feels that despite the ongoing T20 World Cup 2026 moving towards knockouts and providing some great moments, the best story from last week

was Paras Dogra-led team winning its maiden title. "As the World Cup moves into the business end, with all eyes on the big stage... the most heart-warming story of last week came from elsewhere," Shastri wrote on X.

Shastri also lauded the fighting spirit and the self belief of the Jammu & Kashmir team as they beat the eight-time champions Karnataka. "Jammu & Kashmir lifting the Ranji Trophy for the very first time. Let that sink in. What a journey. What a story. Paras Dogra, Ajay Sharma and this

fearless bunch have taken the long road, knocking over heavyweights, game after game, with grit and self-belief. No shortcuts. Just hard cricket and big hearts," he added.

"That's the beauty of the #RanjiTrophy. It throws up fairy tales. And this one will be remembered for a long, long time. Massive congratulations to the boys from J&K. You've made the entire cricketing fraternity proud," he concluded.

J&K scripted history at the Hubli Cricket Ground on Saturday by clinching the Ranji Trophy 2025-26 title based on a

massive first-innings lead against eight-time champions Karnataka. After piling up a formidable 584 in their first innings, Jammu & Kashmir bowled Karnataka out for 293 to take a decisive 291-run lead.

J&K further underlined their dominance by declaring their second innings at 342/4, powered by a marathon unbeaten 160 from opener Qamran Iqbal and an unbroken century stand with Sahil Lotra, before the match ended in a draw and the title was awarded on first-innings lead.

T20 WC: England's Sam Curran focuses on delivering 'perfect game' vs India in semis

IAN S

MUMBAI: After navigating varied conditions across Sri Lanka, all-rounder Sam Curran believes England are peaking at the right time as they gear up for a T20 World Cup 2026 semifinal against India on Thursday at the iconic Wankhede Stadium.

Curran insisted that the focus is on delivering a "perfect game" when it matters most. "Yeah, I guess it doesn't really matter now. It comes down to the World Cup semifinal. If there's ever a time we want to play our perfect game, it's probably Thursday night," Curran said in a press interaction at the Wankhede Stadium on Tuesday.

"We've all been chipping in at different times, but we know in T20 cricket it probably just takes a couple of our guys to come good with the bat and good with the ball. We're a quality fielding side as well, so we know we'll kind of come good on that aspect, but yeah, it's exciting... hopefully the perfect game comes Thursday."

Sanju Samson struck an unbeaten 97 to guide India to the semis with a five-wicket victory over the West Indies at Eden Gardens. England finished first in Group 2 of the Super 8 standings after winning all three of their matches. This confirmed their semifinal match against defending champions and co-hosts India, who are placed second in Super 8s Group 1.

Reflecting on England's journey through the tournament, Curran described it as one that demanded flexibility. "Yeah, it's been,



I guess the word's probably very flexible this tournament. I guess with a different country, playing in Sri Lanka as well, probably suited the spinners a lot more. I think we bowled a lot of spin, so I guess I took the back seat in Sri Lanka a little bit with the ball, but with the bat obviously, just trying to adapt to those conditions.

"I guess I presume on Thursday night it's going to be a pretty good wicket, and I guess I'll probably be used a lot more with the ball. So excited for that challenge. I think the best thing we've done is adapt really well as players, and we've had guys chip in at different stages, and hopefully on Thursday evening I can have a really good game myself."

Curran returned repeatedly to the theme of collective effort. "The word chipping is quite a nice word. If everyone chips in, it generally is a good thing. So we're really excited, and fingers crossed we have a good evening."

Curran also spoke about the personal journey behind this campaign, having spent time on the side earlier.

"Yeah, it's been great.

grounds, and we know what to expect. And the IPL, no question, has helped a lot of that with the players. I think probably the four best teams are in the semi-finals. And yeah, we'll see who takes that trophy."

India and England have faced each other in the 2022 and 2024 T20 World Cups. In 2024, India made up for their earlier loss with a strong 68-run victory against the team led by Jos Buttler in the semi-final.

However, in the 2022 tournament, England took control and handed Rohit Sharma's team a heavy 10-wicket defeat in the semi-final.

The first semi-final of the T20 World Cup 2026 will be played between South Africa and New Zealand at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Wednesday.

Speaking about the semi-final venue, the iconic Wankhede Stadium, Curran acknowledged both the occasion and the atmosphere. "It's a fantastic stadium, obviously very iconic... It's an experience as a young cricketer you dream of. It's normally a pretty good wicket, small ground, so I'm probably expecting a really high-scoring game. It's such a cool occasion and two great teams. This is what the last four or five weeks have been building for."

He also addressed handling the noise and pressure of a big-match crowd. "I think we'll probably start with the National Anthems. It'll be incredibly loud, and I think you've got to look at that as an exciting opportunity. If the crowd is silent, England are probably going to be doing well.

T20 WC: 'Don't hide from pressure, embrace it,' says Gambhir ahead of semi-final clash against England



IAN S

MUMBAI: Indian head coach Gautam Gambhir has said that the team will not hide away from the pressure of knockouts ahead of India's semi-final clash against the two-time champions England at the iconic Wankhede Stadium on Thursday.

"One thing is very clear, make sure that we don't hide away from the pressure. We embrace it, we face it, and if at any time we feel we are under pressure, make sure we take the positive route. Enjoy playing this game, this is what you play this game for, this sport for, this is what you've played all your life," Gambhir said in a video released by BCCI.

Gambhir, who was part of India's 2007 and 2011 World Cup-winning squad, also embraced the pressure of playing a knockout match at home ground. He advised the team to maintain a positive attitude and be brave when they face England.

"Games like this at

home, knockout kind of a game, so make sure we go out there excited, not any under pressure. Anytime for the next 40 overs, if you feel the pressure, make sure we take the positive route. Okay, be brave, be courageous, enjoy it, enjoy playing for the country and most importantly, enjoy playing for each other," Gambhir said.

"Okay, good luck. Skip. Good energy. Let's go, boys, let's go. Let's go," Gambhir added.

India and England, one of cricket's oldest rivalries, will add one more chapter with this clash. But, this is not the first time they have gone toe-to-toe against each other. Both teams are facing each other in a semi-final for the third straight time.

The two sides first met at the semifinal stage of the T20 World Cup in 2022 in Australia, in which England registered a dominating 10-wicket win.

Team met again in the 2024 World Cup when India made a comeback and registered a dominating 68-run win.

T20 WC: India vs WI super 8s clash set new record on ICC streaming platforms

IAN S

DUBAI: The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 super 8s clash between India and West Indies surpassed the previous peak of concurrent streams set during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 final.

T20 World Cup 2026 became the most digitally engaged and globally accessible edition ever, with ICC.tv and the ICC's social media channels set new standards across digital platforms.

ICC.tv has already surpassed the total users and watch time for the entire 2024 event. At this same point in the previous tournament, unique users increased by 28%, and total

the top five streams during the tournament were non-English, with ICC.tv broadcasting in Hindi, Urdu, Nepali, Japanese, and Bahasa Indonesia.

This emphasis on language accessibility continues to be key in fostering connections with viewers across diverse cricket communities worldwide.

The highest percentage increase occurred in non-traditional markets, with a 69 percent growth in users. Germany saw a 150 percent rise in unique users from the 2024 event, while Italy experienced a 136 percent increase. Additionally, Japan and South Korea each achieved growth of over 100 percent in both views and unique users.



viewing time grew by 56%. On social media, the ICC has exceeded 10 billion video views and is expected to surpass the 16 billion views recorded in 2024.

The data indicate that, beyond just scale, more fans are now watching larger portions of the tournament than ever previously recorded.

The average watch time per unique user has risen to 58 minutes, compared to 47 minutes at the end of the Super 8 stage 2024.

Multi-language feeds keep enhancing and customizing the fan experience worldwide, representing nearly half of total playtime. Three of

These remarkable trends show significant progress toward the ICC's goal of creating its most global and accessible event to date.

Data indicates consistent growth in consumption, engagement, and geographic reach, driven by added language feeds and rising participation in emerging European and Asian markets.

With record-high concurrent audiences, longer average watch times, and a substantially larger portion of users and views from non-traditional regions, this has been the most accessible and widely engaged ICC event ever.

رمضان كريم

Ramadan

2026 | 1447 Hijri

Səhəri & İftaar Time Schedule

10 Days Of Rahmat

| RAMADAN | DATE | DAY | SEHRI TIME | IFTARI TIME |
|---------|--------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| 1 | 19 FEB | THURSDAY | 05:49 | 06:21 |
| 2 | 20 FEB | FRIDAY | 05:48 | 06:22 |
| 3 | 21 FEB | SATURDAY | 05:47 | 06:23 |
| 4 | 22 FEB | SUNDAY | 05:46 | 06:24 |
| 5 | 23 FEB | MONDAY | 05:45 | 06:24 |
| 6 | 24 FEB | TUESDAY | 05:44 | 06:25 |
| 7 | 25 FEB | WEDNESDAY | 05:42 | 06:26 |
| 8 | 26 FEB | THURSDAY | 05:41 | 06:27 |
| 9 | 27 FEB | FRIDAY | 05:40 | 06:28 |
| 10 | 28 FEB | SATURDAY | 05:39 | 06:29 |

10 Days Of Magfirat

| RAMADAN | DATE | DAY | SEHRI TIME | IFTARI TIME |
|---------|----------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| 11 | 01 MARCH | SUNDAY | 05:38 | 06:30 |
| 12 | 02 MARCH | MONDAY | 05:37 | 06:31 |
| 13 | 03 MARCH | TUESDAY | 05:36 | 06:32 |
| 14 | 04 MARCH | WEDNESDAY | 05:34 | 06:33 |
| 15 | 05 MARCH | THURSDAY | 05:33 | 06:33 |
| 16 | 06 MARCH | FRIDAY | 05:31 | 06:34 |
| 17 | 07 MARCH | SATURDAY | 05:30 | 06:34 |
| 18 | 08 MARCH | SUNDAY | 05:28 | 06:35 |
| 19 | 09 MARCH | MONDAY | 05:27 | 06:36 |
| 20 | 10 MARCH | TUESDAY | 05:26 | 06:37 |

10 Days Of Najat

| RAMADAN | DATE | DAY | SEHRI TIME | IFTARI TIME |
|---------|----------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| 21 | 11 MARCH | WEDNESDAY | 05:25 | 06:38 |
| 22 | 12 MARCH | THURSDAY | 05:24 | 06:38 |
| 23 | 13 MARCH | FRIDAY | 05:23 | 06:39 |
| 24 | 14 MARCH | SATURDAY | 05:20 | 06:40 |
| 25 | 15 MARCH | SUNDAY | 05:19 | 06:41 |
| 26 | 16 MARCH | MONDAY | 05:18 | 06:42 |
| 27 | 17 MARCH | TUESDAY | 05:16 | 06:42 |
| 28 | 18 MARCH | WEDNESDAY | 05:15 | 06:43 |
| 29 | 19 MARCH | THURSDAY | 05:14 | 06:44 |
| 30 | 20 MARCH | FRIDAY | 05:12 | 06:45 |

DUA FOR IFTAR

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي لَكَ صَبْتُ وَبِكَ آمَنْتُ وَعَلَيْكَ تَوَكَّلْتُ وَعَلَى رِزْقِكَ أَفْطَرْتُ

DUA FOR SEHRI

وَبِصَوْمِهِ غَدًا تَوَيْتُ مِنْ شَهْرٍ مَمَّصَانَ

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