

Good Morning Kashmir

17th Year Of Publication



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CM Convenes Meeting With Religious Leaders, Civil Society Members

Participants Offers Prayers; Urge People To Maintain Peace, Brotherhood



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In the wake of the prevailing situation in West Asia following the killing of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday held an interaction with religious scholars, civil society members and representatives of trade and business bodies at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC).

The meeting was attended by Minister Sakina Itoo, Minister Javid Ahmad Dar, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, several Members of the Legislative Assembly from across Kashmir, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, IGP Kashmir V.K. Birdi, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo

and other senior officers of the divisional and district administration.

Prominent members of civil society, including religious leaders, social activists, retired bureaucrats, academics, educationists and representatives of trade bodies, participated in the interaction convened in the backdrop of the escalating war in West Asia and its possible aftermath in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in the Valley.

The Chief Minister listened attentively to the concerns and suggestions raised by the participants and reaffirmed his government's commitment to maintaining peace and ensuring the smooth functioning of essential services.

Participants expressed deep concern over the developments in the

■ 'Every Passing Hour Increases Our Fear'

J&K Parents Demand Full Evacuation Of Students As Iran Crisis Deepens

JAHANGEER GANAIE

SRINAGAR: Families across Jammu and Kashmir are gripped by fear and distress as hundreds of students from the Valley, enrolled in medical and other professional courses in Iran, continue to face a volatile and uncertain security situation with no clear evacuation plan in sight. The parents of these students are appealing to the Government of India for their immediate evacuation.

Students enrolled in medical and other professional courses in cities such as Tehran, Qom, and Urmia are reported to be living under constant fear as tensions escalate across multiple regions of the country.

Parents said that although some students were recently relocated from Tehran to Qom as a precautionary step by Indian Embassy in Tehran, the overall security environment remains deeply alarming as the whole country is under attack. "There is a widespread sense of fear and helplessness. Even after relocation, no place appears safe at the moment," said a parent from Srinagar.



FILE PHOTO

Fresh reports of loud explosions, including one near a student dormitory in Urmia, have intensified anxiety among students. They said that areas around universities have been affected, with some buildings struck, leaving students shaken and traumatised.

Students relocated to Qom have also reported hearing explosions shortly after their arrival, raising serious concerns about the effectiveness of internal relocation as a safety measure.

"Our children are extremely

scared. Explosions near their hostels have left them mentally disturbed. They are unable to sleep or focus on their studies. We fear for their lives every moment," another distressed parent said.

Parents and student bodies say the crisis has now evolved beyond a security emergency into a mental health one, with students experiencing severe stress, anxiety, panic attacks, and depression amid continuous uncertainty. Families back home are equally affected, with many enduring sleepless nights

and constant worry. "This is not just a security issue anymore—it is a psychological crisis affecting both students and their families," a group of parents said.

While acknowledging the steps taken earlier by authorities, including precautionary relocations, parents and student bodies have now demanded a full-scale evacuation of all Indian students from Iran.

The All India Medical Students Association (AIMSA), along with parents, ●P-06

■ **OUR CHILDREN ARE EXTREMELY SCARED. EXPLOSIONS NEAR THEIR HOSTELS** have left them mentally disturbed. They are unable to sleep or focus on their studies. We fear for their lives every moment," another distressed parent said.

Day Temperatures Stay Above Normal In J&K



SAJID RAINA

SRINAGAR: Day temperatures across Jammu and Kashmir remained several degrees above normal on Wednesday, while no rainfall was recorded in most parts of the Union Territory, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

As per the IMD's evening bulletin shared, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 20.5 degrees Celsius, 7.5 degrees above normal, while the minimum settled at 4.2 degrees Celsius, 1.7 degrees above normal.

Qazigund registered a high of 22.0 degrees Celsius, 9.4 degrees above normal, and a low of 2.2 degrees Celsius. Pahalgam recorded a maximum of 18.9 degrees Celsius, 8.9 degrees above normal, while the minimum dipped to minus 0.1 degrees Celsius.

Kupwara recorded a high of 19.8 degrees Celsius, 7.3 degrees above normal, while Kokernag registered 20.6 degrees Celsius, 9.4 degrees above normal. Gulmarg, the ski resort, recorded a maximum of 12.6 degrees Celsius, 9.1 degrees above normal, and a ●P-06

Iran Crisis Situation Peaceful In Valley, Restrictions To Continue

SIANS

SRINAGAR: The situation remained peaceful in the Valley on Wednesday, as authorities continued to impose restrictions throughout the day.

Authorities said the same restrictions will continue on March 5 as well.

Minor clashes between the protesters and police in the Pattan area of Baramulla district were reported on Wednesday.

Internet services will also continue to be available at 2G speeds, while services on prepaid cell phones will remain suspended till further notice.

A large deployment of police and the CRPF had been made to impose restrictions. Authorities have also lodged FIRs against some people for uploading objectionable content on the Internet.

MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi and former Srinagar

mayor, Junaid Azim Mattu, are among those against whom FIRs have been lodged for allegedly posting "provocative" content.

These restrictions have been imposed as a precautionary measure following protests in parts of the Valley

AUTHORITIES said the same restrictions will continue on March 5 as well.

over the death of Iranian Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in a US-Israeli bombing.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also interacted with members of the civil society, including religious, social and business communities in Srinagar.

Omar Abdullah also offered prayers for those, including Ayatullah ●P-06

FIR Against MP Mehdi, Ex-Mayor For Circulating 'Misleading' Content Online

SIANS

SRINAGAR: Police in Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar district said on Wednesday that they have registered an FIR against MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi and former mayor, Junaid Azim Mattu, for 'circulating misleading content online'.

Police said here, "Acting on credible inputs regarding the circulation of false, fabricated, and misleading content across Digital and Social media platforms with the intent to create fear, disturb public order, and incite unlawful activities, Srinagar Police have registered cases against Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi and Junaid Azim Mattu in connection with the matter." "The content in question, prima facie, reflects the dissemination of Distorted Narratives and unverified information capable of causing Public unrest



and societal disharmony," said the statement.

The police said that such "deliberate attempts to spread misinformation pose a serious threat to peace, security, and overall stability".

"Accordingly, FIR No. 02/2026 and FIR No. 03/2026 have been registered under Sections 197(1) (d) and 353(1)(b) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at Cyber Police Station, Srinagar. Investigation into both cases has been initiated and is underway," the statement mentioned further.

"Srinagar Police reiterates its

firm commitment to maintaining Public peace and law & order. Citizens are advised to verify information through official and credible sources before sharing content online and to refrain from circulating unverified material that may disturb communal harmony or Public order. Further legal action shall follow as warranted under law," the police said.

Police had warned people to refrain from uploading provocative content on social media that has the potential to cause law and order problems.

They also said that many people had been identified as being involved in spreading false, fabricated, and misleading information that has the potential of disturbing peace and tranquility in the union territory.

Meanwhile, authorities have decided to continue restrictions across the Kashmir ●P-06

Army Foils Infiltration Bid Along LoC In Poonch Sector



GMK NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Alert Army troops foiled an infiltration bid on Wednesday along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Bimber Gali sector of Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district.

The Nagrota-headquartered White Knight Corps of the Army said in a statement: "Acting on credible intelligence inputs and persistent surveillance, movement of terrorists was detected in the general area of Bimber Gali along the Line of Control during the early hours of March 4, 2026. Responding with decisive force and showcasing superior tactical execution, alert troops of

White Knight Corps engaged swiftly, foiling the infiltration attempt and denying any breach of the LoC."

The enemy's designs were effectively thwarted through coordinated ground action, the statement said.

"Own troops have been reoriented to ensure relentless domination of the area, supported by integrated ground and aerial surveillance. A robust operational posture and heightened alert remain in force across the sector. The wall stands vigilant -- every infiltration bid will fail," it read.

Jammu and Kashmir has a 740-km-long Line of Control (LoC) and a ●P-06

Tears, Hugs And Relief As 200 Indians Return Home From Jeddah, Thank Govt For Safe Evacuation

SIANS

AHMEDABAD: An IndiGo special relief flight from Jeddah brought back around 200 Indian citizens as airspace restrictions continued due to the ongoing conflict in West Asia. The returnees expressed gratitude to the Government of India for facilitating their safe evacuation.

The flight landed late Tuesday night at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The operation was part of special efforts to repatriate Indians stranded in Jeddah, with multiple airlines deploying relief services along the route.

Emotional scenes unfolded at the airport as families reunited after days of uncertainty and anxiety. Relatives embraced one another, some



in tears, as passengers stepped back onto Indian soil after experiencing fear and disruption abroad.

"After coming to India, we felt like we had returned to our homeland. We feel great

peace and relief now. The government did a great thing; we thank the government for arranging the flights for our safe return," one passenger said.

"The Embassy helped us a

lot. We are very thankful for all the support the government has provided us," another returnee added.

Speaking to IANS, a passenger said, "The government helped us a lot. Otherwise, we did not know how we would return home. They sent a special flight for us, and we came back on that flight."

"We have returned safely. We never thought that we would be able to come back here safely. The government helped us a lot. We thank them a lot," another passenger said, visibly emotional.

"I thank our PM Modi. He ensured our safe return," one of the returnees remarked.

Another passenger told IANS, "PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah helped us. We are very happy to be back in India." ●P-06

Properties Of Two Proclaimed Offenders Attached In Samba

AGENCIES

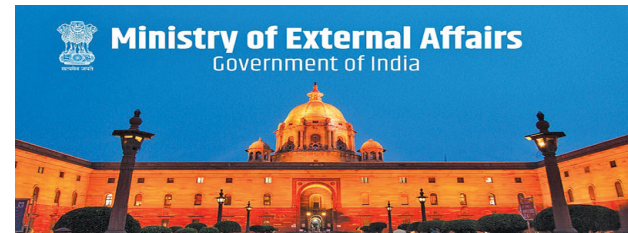
JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Wednesday attached immovable properties belonging to two wanted persons who had been declared proclaimed offenders in a criminal case in Samba district.

The duo are facing charges under various sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita including 109 (attempt to murder) and 111 (organised crime) and the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, the spokesman said.

The action was taken under Section 85 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) following orders issued by a local court, a police spokesman said.

He said Nazir Hussain and Bagh Hussain, both residents of Rakh Barotian village, failed to appear before the court despite proclamation notices issued under Section 84 BNSS in a case ●P-06

MEA Sets Up Control Room As West Asia Conflict Intensifies



Ministry of External Affairs Government of India

SIANS

NEW DELHI: India established a special control room in New Delhi on Wednesday to assist citizens amid escalating US-Israel strikes on Iran, which killed Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and prompted retaliation from Tehran targeting Gulf states.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), where the facility is set up, the control room operates from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. (Indian time) via toll-free number 1800118797 or landlines +91-11-23012113, +91-11-23014104, +91-11-23017905.

Emergency embassy contacts are also listed for coun-

tries including Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, and the UAE.

Iran's retaliatory strikes have spanned several countries, with missiles and drones intercepted over Kuwait, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, prompting temporary airspace closures and resulting in both military and civilian casualties.

The intensifying confrontation has seen US forces launch counter-strikes, including naval operations, marking one of the most severe and sustained face-offs between Washington and Tehran in decades.

Earlier on Sunday, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), ●P-06

DC Kulgam visits Sub-division D.H. Pora, reviews functioning of EMRS Tangmarg

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, Wednesday visited Sub-division, D.H. Pora, where he inspected the functioning of the Sub-District Hospital (SDH) and the Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) at Tangmarg, taking stock of the facilities available at both institutions.

At the Eklavya Model Residential School, the DC reviewed the progress of ongoing projects, including the construction of the hostel, Principal's residential quarters, and other infrastructure works. He directed the concerned Executive Engineer to set clear targets for timely completion of these projects and ensure adherence to the stipulated timelines. He also instructed



that proper landscaping of lawns and surrounding areas be undertaken to enhance the overall campus environment.

During his visit to the school, the DC interacted with students and empha-

sized the importance of providing quality education. He urged the faculty to maintain high academic standards and ensure holistic development of students.

At Sub-District Hos-

pital D.H. Pora, the DC assessed the range and quality of healthcare services being provided to the public. He inspected various wards and sections of the hospital and reviewed the availability of essential facilities.

The doctors apprised him of the additional equipment required to further strengthen healthcare services at the hospital.

Subsequently, the DC visited the Aharbal tourist spot and took stock of the facilities available for visitors, directing concerned officials to ensure proper upkeep and improved amenities.

The visit was attended by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) D.H. Pora, Bashir Ul Hassan, Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Executive Engineer R&B, Tehsildar D.H. Pora and other officers.

DC Kupwara inaugurates Solar-Powered Public Library at Trehgam

GMK NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: In a landmark step towards youth empowerment, Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, Wednesday inaugurated the solar-powered public library and Reading Room at Trehgam.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by ACR, CPO, BDO Trehgam

and Tehsildar Trehgam.

Developed in record time by the Block Development Office Trehgam, the facility is envisioned as a hub of learning, career guidance for students and competitive exam aspirants of Trehgam. The library, powered entirely by solar energy, ensures year-round facility with modern heating and cool-

ing system, furniture as well as CCTVs.

The facility will offer high-speed Wi-Fi, All-in-One PCs and premium digital learning platforms and also has offline collection of more than 300 books.

Block Library will also serve as a career guidance and counselling hub, helping youth for higher education, skill development,

and employment. Locals have hailed the initiative as a transformative step in youth empowerment.

DC Kupwara congratulated youths on the occasion and appreciated efforts undertaken by RDD as well as civil society members of Trehgam. He also directed concerned officers to fulfil further requirements projected by students.

FIR Against Shopian Man for Sharing Videos Prejudicial to Public Order

AGENCIES

SHOPIAN: Police in South Kashmir's Shopian have registered a First Information Report (FIR) against an individual for allegedly circulating provocative content on social media platforms, officials said on Wednesday.

An official said that it came to notice that one Javid Ahmad Khanday, son of Ali Mohd Khanday, a resident of Sazan Keegam, was involved in sharing and propagating certain videos accompanied by captions and comments. The content was prima facie found to be capable of disturbing public peace and adversely affecting the law and order

situation in the area.

"Accordingly, FIR No. 26/2026 has been registered at Police Station Shopian (Police Post Keegam) under relevant provisions of law, and an investigation has been initiated," the official said.

The police reiterated their commitment to maintaining peace and public order. The general public has been advised to exercise responsibility and restraint while using social media platforms and to refrain from posting or sharing any content that may disturb public tranquility.

"Any violation shall be dealt with strictly in accordance with law," the official added. (KNS).

Police Issues Advisory on Protecting Private Photos, Videos Online

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Police has issued a public advisory urging citizens to take preventive steps if someone threatens to share their private photos or videos online.

In a post shared on X, police advised individuals to create a digital hash of their private images or videos. The digital fingerprint, once generated, can be shared with participating social media platforms, enabling them to detect matching content if it is uploaded.

According to the advisory, platforms can automatically block or remove content once a match is identified, thereby prevent-

ing further circulation of intimate material.

The awareness message highlights the use of StopNCII.org, a platform that allows users to generate a digital fingerprint without uploading their actual photos or videos. The hash is then used by social media companies to identify and act against non-consensual intimate image sharing.

The advisory is part of a broader cyber safety initiative supported by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre.

Police have urged citizens to remain vigilant online and use available tools to safeguard their privacy. (KNT)

Chairman DLSA Srinagar reviews functioning of LADCs

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: A review meeting of the Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs) was convened Wednesday at the District Court Complex Srinagar under the chairmanship of Haq Nawaz Zargar, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Srinagar in presence of Tabassum Qadir Parry, Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

The meeting was held to evaluate the functioning, efficiency, and overall performance of the LADCs in delivering free and effective legal services to undertrial prisoners and other eligible beneficiaries, in line with the mandate of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 and the constitutional directive under Article 39A ensuring equal access to justice.

During the proceedings, Chairman DLSA emphasized the importance of timely legal interven-



tion, particularly in cases involving undertrial prisoners and aged persons, and directed that priority be given to the recording of evidence in cases already assigned. The counsels were reminded of their responsibility to maintain proper records and to ensure that no eligible person is deprived of effective representation before the courts.

The Chairman stressed

that access to justice is a constitutional right and urged the Legal Aid Defence Counsels to discharge their duties with dedication, professionalism, and sensitivity towards marginalized sections of society. He clarified that conviction should not be perceived as a failure of legal aid, but rather as part of the judicial process, and encouraged counsels to continue work-

ing diligently to secure fair trials and uphold the rights of the accused.

He further directed that, on a month-to-month basis, the progress of cases at both the Sessions and Magisterial levels, particularly those at the final stages where evidence has been completed and files are posted for arguments must be specifically reviewed.

Special attention was also drawn to bail matters, with instructions to ensure prompt follow-up in cases where bail has been granted but release has not yet taken place. The Chairman reiterated that the Legal Aid Defence Counsel System must serve as a robust mechanism to guarantee that no undertrial prisoner or indigent person is left without effective representation. By strengthening this framework, the District Legal Services Authority Srinagar seeks to reinforce the principle that justice must not only be done but must be accessible to all, especially the most vulnerable.

ADDC Shopian provides Ice Boxes to fishermen to strengthen fisheries sector

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: In a significant step towards strengthening the fisheries sector and enhancing the income of local fishermen, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir

losses and improving market returns.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADDC emphasized the importance of modern facilities and government support in strengthening the fisheries sector and boosting the income of farmers associ-



Ahmed Lone Wednesday distributed 37 ice boxes among beneficiaries of the Fisheries Department under the Jammu & Kashmir Competitive Improvement Project (JKCIP) here at Mini Secretariat, Shopian.

The distribution aims to support local fishermen and fish farmers by ensuring proper preservation and transportation of fish, thereby enhancing quality, reducing post-harvest

ated with the trade.

The initiative marks another step towards promoting sustainable livelihood opportunities and empowering the fishing community in the district.

Beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the district administration for the timely assistance.

Inspector, Fisheries department, Shopian, Sharif Ahmed and other concerned officials were Present.

SKUAST-K celebrates Holi with gaiety, fervour



GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir celebrated Holi on Wednesday, bringing together faculty, staff, and students from various states in a display of cultural unity.

The event, held on the university campus, featured students and staff participating in traditional festivities. The gathering reflected the university's diverse student body and its focus on fostering a harmonious environment.

Vice Chancellor, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, joined the celebrations and extended his greetings to the university community. In his address, he noted that Holi serves as a bridge across regional and social boundaries, encouraging mutual respect among people of different backgrounds.

"In the cultural landscape of Kashmir, these

celebrations strengthen brotherhood and peaceful coexistence," Prof Ganai said. He added that universities play a key role in national integration and cultural exchange beyond academic instruction, urging students to celebrate responsibly while honouring India's composite traditions.

Prof Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension remarked that such events provide a space for students from across the country to connect and build friendships outside the classroom.

The program concluded with cultural interactions and the use of safe, dry colors, marking a successful start to the spring season on the campus.

The celebration was attended by several senior faculty members, including Prof Rohitashw Kumar, Prof Amal Saxena, Prof S. A Wani, Dr. S Narayan, Yogesh Pandey and Dr. Amit Khokhar.

SKUAST-K hosts Bengaluru biotech leaders to strengthen industry-academia ties

GMK NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) hosted a high-level strategic meeting Wednesday to strengthen collaboration between academic research and industrial innovation.

Chaired by Vice Chancellor, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, the session brought together prominent biotechnology and nutraceutical entrepreneurs from Bengaluru, Karnataka, to explore interdisciplinary partnership opportunities. The meeting focused on bridging the gap between laboratory-scale research and commercial technology transfer, specifically targeting sectors like sericulture, biotechnology, and functional food development.

The industry delega-



tion including, Dr. Srinivas, CEO, Aspartika Biotech Pvt Ltd; Dr. Mousumi Mondal, Director, Mallipatra Nutraceutical Pvt Ltd; Aswathy Das, Director, Mightkondria Innovations LLP, and representatives from Lrigo Wellness Innovation LLP.

Coordinated by Dr Aabid Khaliq Tantray of College of Temperate Sericulture, Mirgund, the discussions identified several critical pathways for developing market-ready products.

The entrepreneurs briefed on their existing collaborations with institutions like Sri Paripoorna Sanathana Ayurvedic Medical College, highlighting their experience in the scientific validation of nutraceutical and Ayurvedic formulations.

Primary focus of the deliberations was the establishment of a Common Instrumentation Facility to support advanced research in sericulture and the utilisation of its by-

products. The participants also discussed the design of antibiotic-free poultry feed solutions and the creation of innovative nutraceutical formulations that leverage the unique biodiversity of the region.

The meeting also emphasized the need for industry-oriented academic and skill-based programs, student exchange initiatives, and the strengthening of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) facilitation to protect and commercialize university-led innovations.

The Vice Chancellor commended the visiting delegation for their efforts in building reputable enterprises from the ground up. He emphasized that such industry-academia partnerships are essential for accelerating innovation and translating scientific research into socially impactful, commercially viable solutions.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE FLORICULTURE OFFICER NMBG CHESHMAHAHI SRINAGAR. DEPARTMENT OF FLORICULTURE

Email: fonmbg@gmail.com

GIST of Short term Tender Notice No: 04 of 2025-26 Dated: 04-03-2026

For and on behalf of the Government of J&K Union Territory, sealed tenders affixed with revenue stamp of Rs. 6/- in two envelope system (technical bid and price bid) are invited from Government Registered Manufacturers/Dealers/Suppliers who will fulfill the eligibility prescribed criteria for the supply of wooden poles (Kiker) as indicated below.

S.NO	Particulars	Specifications	Quantity
1	Supply of wooden poles (Kiker)	2"x2" with 48 inches height, pointed base, wood turned circular top, color paint green having holes after every 9 inches as per sample lying in the office of Floriculture Officer NMBG Cheshmashahi- Srinagar	500 Nos.

The sealed tenders addressed to Floriculture Officer, NMBG, Cheshmashahi should reach to the office of the Floriculture Officer, NMBG, Cheshmashahi, Srinagar through Registered post/speed post or in person on 9th March 2026 upto 04 p.m. The tender documents along with terms and conditions can be obtained from the Office of the undersigned against cash payment of Rs.100/- (Non-refundable) as per the schedule given below: -

1	Start date for issue of tender document	04.03.2026
2	Last Date of issue of tender document	09-03-2026 upto 02 PM
3	Tender document submission start date	04.03.2026
4	Last date and timing of tender submission	09-03-2026 upto 04 PM
5	Date and timing of opening of short-term Tender	10-03-2026 at 11 AM

The tenders shall be opened on 10th March-2026 at 11 A.M. in the undersigned office by the committee constituted for the purpose in front of tenderers who may wish to remain present. In case of any eventuality/ Government Holiday then the tender opening date will be considered on other convenient working day.

Note: The Terms and conditions can be had from office of the Floriculture Officer, NMBG Cheshmashahi Srinagar.

No: FO/NMBG/GS-132/1876-77

Dated: 04/03/2026

DIPK-11558-25

DT: 04/03/2026

Sd/-
Floriculture Officer,
Department of Floriculture
NMBG, Cheshmashahi

Orchardists warn of rising threats from counterfeit pesticides as fruit season approaches

JAHANGEER GANAIE

PULWAMA: With the fruit season approaching, orchardists across Kashmir have raised serious concerns over the unchecked sale of substandard and counterfeit pesticides and fertilisers, urging authorities to enforce strict quality control measures before crops are put at risk.

Horticulture, widely regarded as the backbone of Kashmir's economy, supports lakhs of families directly and indirectly. From apple orchards to cherry, pear, and walnut cultivation, the sector plays a vital role in sustaining rural incomes and contributing significantly to the region's economy.

However, growers warn that increasing uncertainty due to pests, diseases, and unreliable farm inputs is putting this crucial sector under stress.

Farmers say that with each passing year, new pest attacks and plant diseases are emerging, making orchard manage-

ment more complex and expensive. The changing nature of these threats has left many growers struggling to adapt.

"Earlier, we had a fair understanding of the common pests and how to control them, but now every season brings a new challenge," said Abdul Hamid, an orchardist from Pulwama. "Without proper guidance and access to quality pesticides, it becomes extremely difficult to protect our orchards."

Experts attribute this growing trend to climate change and erratic weather patterns. Unseasonal rainfall, sudden temperature fluctuations, and prolonged dry spells have created favourable conditions for pests and diseases to thrive, often reducing both yield and fruit quality.

Growers allege that the situation is being worsened by the widespread availability of substandard, counterfeit, or improperly labelled pesticides and fertilisers in the market.

Many farmers claim that



despite investing heavily in sprays and treatments, they fail to achieve desired results

due to poor-quality products. "We spend thousands on sprays every season. If the pesticide

turns out to be fake or ineffective, the entire crop is at risk," said another grower. "There

must be strict checking of these products before they reach the market."

The demand for regulation has gained urgency amid reports of unauthorised and counterfeit agro-chemicals being sold through informal networks and even online platforms.

Industry stakeholders have repeatedly flagged the issue, calling for stronger enforcement and accountability mechanisms.

Agriculture experts warn that the indiscriminate use of unverified pesticides not only harms crops but also poses serious risks to human health, soil fertility, and the broader ecosystem. Weak monitoring and gaps in regulatory enforcement continue to allow unsafe practices to persist, they said.

Fruit growers have urged the horticulture and agriculture departments to take proactive steps, including conducting pre-season quality checks of fertilisers and pesticides, launching

a crackdown on counterfeit and unregistered products, and ensuring timely advisories on disease management.

They have called for awareness campaigns to educate farmers about the proper and judicious use of pesticides, along with the promotion of safer and more sustainable alternatives.

"If the government ensures the availability of genuine inputs and provides proper technical guidance, a major part of our problems will be solved," growers said. "Otherwise, farmers will continue to face losses year after year."

Experts have called for long-term strategies, such as ensuring disease-free planting material and adopting preventive orchard management practices. Programmes focused on clean planting stock and integrated pest management, they say, can significantly reduce dependence on excessive pesticide use while improving productivity and sustainability—(KNO)

Colours, greetings, sweets distribution mark Holi celebration in Jammu

YOGESH

JAMMU: Colours, greetings and sweets distribution marked the Holi celebrations in Jammu on Wednesday.

According to the details available from early morning, people thronged streets and neighbourhoods, smearing each other with colours, exchanging greetings and distributing sweets.

Children were seen splashing colour balloons while youth danced to popular tunes, adding vibrancy to the celebrations. People from all walks of life participated in the festivities.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah extended their warm greetings to the people on the occasion. Leaders conveyed their best wishes for happiness, prosperity and communal harmony.

More over, celebrations were also organized at unit headquarters of security forces including Army, CRPF, ITBP, BSF, and J&K Police stationed in Jammu division. Officers and jawans exchanged greetings and marked the festival in a traditional manner within the camp premises and celebrated Holi with zeal.

In Rajouri, Rajya Sabha MP Ghulam Ali Khatana celebrated Holi with BJP party workers and local residents. He visited villages including Pangrian, Manjakote and Barote, interacting with villagers and extending festive greetings. For the first time, the annual Bhairav



Yatra was organised here with vibrant cultural performances, adding a new cultural dimension to the traditional festivities. The celebrations featured a colourful tableaux (Jhanki) depicting Ashta Bhairav, coupled with an engaging street play (Nukkad Natak), highlighting the significance and heritage of the yatra. The atmosphere was further enlivened by traditional folk performances featuring Dhol and Shehnai, which resonated with the festive spirit of the occasion coinciding with Holi.

DC Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma was chief Guest during the celebrations.

In Kishtwar, Holi was celebrated with enthusiasm as locals joined security personnel in the festivities. MLA Kishtwar Shagun Parihar participated in the celebra-

tions alongside CRPF and Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel, conveying greetings to the people and lauding the spirit of unity displayed on the occasion.

Poonch district witnessed vibrant celebrations, with the main programme organised at Shri Geeta Bhawan under the aegis of Sanatan Dharam Sabha. A religious procession passed through key areas of the town, drawing participation from members of different communities. Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma conveyed greetings and appreciated the peaceful conduct of celebrations.

In Udhampur, a mega Holi procession was organised by Beopar Mandal in collaboration with the district administration. The procession commenced

from Radha Krishan Temple, Adarsh Colony, and moved through the main markets of the city, spreading the message of communal harmony.

Adequate security arrangements were put in place, with DySP Headquarters Prehlad Sharma stating that all necessary measures were put in place to ensure peaceful celebrations. Vice-President of Beopar Mandal Rahul Magotra expressed gratitude for the cooperation of traders and citizens.

Educational institutions including University of Jammu and institutes at district headquarters across the region also organised cultural programmes and colour-themed events, with students and officials participating in celebrations marked by music, dance and distribution of sweets—(KNO)

Dy CM inspects Dhallian Bridge at Nowshera, pays obeisance at Gurudwara

GMK NEWS NETWORK

RAJOURI: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Wednesday inspected the progress on the 90 meter span Dhallian Bridge being constructed over the Tawi River at Nowshera and Rata Galla Bridge at Kalsian.

He called for expediting the pace of work to ensure timely completion and operationalisation of these vital projects.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister reviewed the status of construction works and interacted with the concerned officers and engineers executing the project under



the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development funded scheme. He stressed that the bridge is a vital connectivity project for the area and directed the executing agency to maintain the quality standards while accelerating

the pace of work. Later, on the auspicious occasion of Holi Mohalla, the Deputy Chief Minister paid obeisance at Gurudwara Shri Guru Singh Sabha. He offered prayers and sought blessings for peace, harmony and pros-

perity of the people.

On the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister said that the festival of Holi Mohalla symbolizes courage, devotion and the spirit of selfless service. He prayed that the values and teachings associated with the festival continue to inspire the society towards unity, harmony and collective progress.

Executive Engineer PWD Nowshera Sarwar Mehmoed, Executive Engineer PMGSY Shahid Choudhary, District Officer Rajouri Mohammad Shafiq besides other district and sectoral officers accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister during the visit.

DMO vows strict action, says suspected area will be seized

WARIS FAYAZ

SOPORE: Residents of Manz Seer in Sopore have expressed concern over unabated illegal sand mining along the riverbank, warning that the rampant excavation is posing a serious threat to the stability of embankments and nearby land.

Locals said, that the so-called "sand mafia" continues its operations, particularly during late evening and night hours, using earth-movers and carriers to remove sand and riverbed material without any visible check, even from the "Red Zone".

"Illegal mining patches are deepening day by day," residents told KNO, adding they fear that loosening of the riverbank soil could lead to erosion, landslips and

possible collapse of the bund during the next high-water season.

Locals alleged that despite repeated complaints and occasional drives, the sand mafia remains active. They have called for round-the-clock patrolling, night checks and installation of CCTV cameras at vulnerable spots.

District Mineral Officer (DMO) Baramulla, Zulfiqar Ahmed Bhat, said continuing action is being taken against the sand mafia. "We are seizing vehicles and machinery involved in illegal sand extraction," he said.

Bhat said he will write to Deputy Commissioner (DC) for stricter monitoring and assured that the area under suspicion will be sealed and put under surveillance to prevent further encroachment.

Chadoora Bailey Bridge opens for LMVs, brings relief to commuters

NAVEED UL HAQ

BUDGAM: The newly constructed Bailey bridge at Chadoora in central Kashmir's Budgam district was on Wednesday thrown open for Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs), bringing much-needed relief to commuters who had been facing difficulties following the closure of the main bridge.

The bridge, was inaugurated by MLA Chadoora Ali Mohammad Dar in the presence of officials from the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department, Executive Engineer (ExEn) R&B, Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) Sheikh Rashid, and several locals.

The Bailey bridge has been installed as an alternative route after the vital

Chadoora bridge was closed for vehicular traffic due to structural damage caused by floods last year, forcing commuters to take diversion routes for the past several weeks.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Dar thanked Abdul Rahim Rather, Speaker of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly & MLA Charari-Sharief for his support in facilitating the installation of the Bailey bridge.

Locals expressed relief over the opening of the bridge, saying it will ease traffic congestion and help students, patients and other commuters reach their destinations without facing the hardships that had persisted since the closure of the main bridge—(KNO)

Early Bud Break in Apple Trees Worries Kashmir Orchardists

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Above normal temperatures during February and a noticeable deficit in precipitation have triggered early bud break in apple orchards across parts of Kashmir, prompting concern among orchardists about possible implications for this year's apple production.

Farmers from several apple-growing belts said the early bud activity has appeared weeks ahead of the usual schedule. They fear that premature budding could expose the crop to weather fluctuations during the crucial flowering period.

Orchardists said apple trees require sufficient chilling hours during winter to maintain dormancy and

ensure proper flowering and fruit setting. Warmer conditions during the winter months have shortened the chilling period, leading to an early break in dormancy.

"This year we observed buds appearing much earlier than expected. If temperatures drop suddenly or frost occurs, the tender buds may get damaged which could affect the overall yield," said an orchardist from Shopian district.

Another grower from Pulwama said the lack of adequate snowfall and rainfall during winter has added to the worries of farmers. "Snowfall acts as a natural protection for orchards and helps maintain the chilling requirement of apple trees. This winter was relatively dry and warmer which has

disturbed the natural cycle," he said.

Farmers said the coming weeks will be crucial for the crop as weather stability during the flowering stage will determine the extent of any potential damage. "If the weather remains stable, the crop may recover. But sudden cold spells or frost could prove harmful for the early buds," an orchardist from Kulgam said.

Horticulture experts have also advised orchardists to closely monitor orchard conditions and follow proper management practices to reduce potential losses. They said the impact of early budding on the final yield will largely depend on the weather pattern during the next few weeks. [KNT]

Flight Disruptions Leave J&K Umrah Pilgrims Awaiting Return

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Scores of Umrah pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir are reportedly stranded in Saudi Arabia following widespread flight disruptions triggered by the escalating conflict in West Asia.

Sources said the affected pilgrims are presently in Mecca, Medina and Jeddah after completing or nearing completion of their Umrah pilgrimage. Scheduled return flights to India were either cancelled or delayed due to airspace restrictions and operational disruptions across the region.

Family members of several pilgrims in the Valley said they have been in contact with their relatives, who are currently staying in hotels arranged earlier for the pilgrimage. Many are awaiting

fresh travel advisories and revised flight schedules.

Officials indicated that Indian diplomatic missions in Saudi Arabia are closely monitoring the situation and are in touch with tour operators and stranded nationals. The Embassy of India is understood to be coordinating with Saudi authorities and airlines to facilitate the safe return of Indian pilgrims once normal flight operations resume.

Authorities have advised pilgrims to remain in contact with their respective tour coordinators and embassy helplines and to follow official updates regarding travel arrangements.

The situation remains fluid as regional tensions continue to impact international air travel across parts of the Middle East. [KNT]

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE FLORICULTURE OFFICER DISTRICT SRINAGAR

DEPARTMENT OF FLORICULTURE KASHMIR

Sub: Extension Notice to Short term tender Notice No: 06 of 2025-26 Dated: 21/02/2026.

In view of no response, the date of issue of tender documents and receipt of bids in respect of above quoted tender notice (Supply of grafted ornamental Plum trees at Eidgah Park Srinagar) are hereby extended as under:

- 1) Date of issue of tender forms/document upto 09/03/2026 upto 4.00 PM
- 2) Date of receipt of tenders/bids 13/03/2026 upto 4.00 PM

All terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the relevant tender notice.

No: FOS/NIT-06/2025-26/3202-08
Dated: 03/03/2026

DIPK-11557-25
DT: 04/03/2026

Sd/-
(Mubashir Ahmad Wani)
Floriculture Officer,
Department of Floriculture
District, Srinagar.

Good Morning Kashmir

EDITORIAL

Protecting Dignity In The Digital Age

In today's hyper-connected world, a single threat to leak private photos or videos can cause immense fear and distress. Recognising this growing danger, the Jammu and Kashmir Police have issued an important public advisory, one that focuses not on fear, but on prevention and empowerment. The advisory encourages people to take a simple yet powerful step: creating a digital fingerprint (or hash) of their private images or videos. This fingerprint can be shared with social media platforms so that if anyone tries to upload the same content without consent, it can be quickly detected and blocked. Crucially, this process does not require users to upload their actual photos or videos, ensuring privacy remains intact. At the heart of this initiative is StopNCII.org, a tool designed to help individuals protect themselves from online abuse and blackmail. By using it, people can act early—often before any damage is done, turning technology into a line of defence rather than a source of harm. This awareness drive is part of a wider cyber safety effort supported by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre, reflecting a growing understanding that digital crimes demand modern, victim-focused solutions. Beyond the technology, the advisory sends a humane message: you are not alone, and help is available. Online threats thrive on silence and panic. Awareness, timely action, and community support can break that cycle. As our lives continue to move online, safeguarding privacy is no longer optional—it is essential. This initiative is a reminder that with the right tools and knowledge, people can protect their dignity and take back control in the digital space.

Good Morning Kashmir

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Missing Signature: A Crisis Of Accountability In Land Records

MOHD AMIN MIR

In the intricate architecture of land governance in Jammu and Kashmir, few offices carry as much silent authority and historic weight as that of the Girdawar Qanungo. Positioned between the Patwari at the grassroots and the Tehsildar at the supervisory apex of the tehsil, the Girdawar Qanungo is not merely a supervisory link in the revenue chain; he is the statutory custodian of accuracy, authenticity, and accountability in land records.

Under the framework of the Jammu and Kashmir Land Revenue Act, 1996 (Samvat), the role of the Girdawar Qanungo is not ornamental. It is supervisory, investigative, corrective, and, above all, regulatory. The Act envisages a system where every entry in the Jamabandi, every mutation attested, and every revenue extract issued is subject to structured scrutiny. At the heart of this scrutiny stands the Girdawar.

Today, however, a troubling question echoes across revenue circles: Has the supervisory vigilance that once defined the office of the Girdawar Qanungo faded into procedural complacency? And if so, what are the implications for the integrity of land records in Jammu and Kashmir?

This article seeks to examine the statutory mandate of the Girdawar Qanungo, the historical rigor with which this office once functioned, the present gaps in verification practices, particularly in mutation registers and manually written Jamabandies of 2018-19—and the urgent need to restore institutional accountability.

The Jammu and Kashmir Land Revenue Act establishes a clear hierarchy within the revenue department: Financial Commissioner, Divisional Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Tehsildar, Naib Tehsildar, Girdawar Qanungo, and Patwari. While the Patwari prepares and maintains records at the village level, the Girdawar Qanungo supervises a circle of Patwaris. The Act, read with relevant rules and standing orders, assigns the following core responsibilities to the Girdawar Qanungo:

- Supervision of Patwaris – The Girdawar is responsible for inspecting the work of Patwaris within his halqa or circle.
- Verification of Mutations – Before and after attestation, mutation entries must be checked for procedural cor-



- rectness and documentary backing
- Inspection of Jamabandi and Girdawari – Periodical inspection and certification of village records, including Jamabandi, Khasra Girdawari, and other revenue registers.
- Correction and Rectification – Detection of clerical or substantive errors and initiation of rectification proceedings.
- Reporting to Tehsildar – Submitting inspection notes and compliance reports.
- Custody and Authentication – Affixing signatures as a mark of verification and supervisory approval.

The law does not treat the Girdawar's role as optional oversight; it makes him a statutory checkpoint in the chain of land record authenticity. Those who have examined old mutation registers and Jamabandies from the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s will notice a distinctive feature: the clear, deliberate signatures of the Girdawar Qanungo on mutation registers and other revenue records.

These signatures were not symbolic. They were the outcome of:

- Physical field visits.
- Cross-verification of entries with supporting documents.
- Confirmation of possession and title on the ground.
- Examination of attestation orders.
- Ensuring that entries in mutation registers were carried forward correctly into Jamabandi.

In those times, the Girdawar's inspection was feared and respected. A Patwari knew that any discrepancy, whether in Khasra numbers, share calculations, inheritance mutation, or sale deed incorporation, would be caught during inspection.

Today, one disturbing observation stands out: in many contemporary mutation registers, the signature of the Girdawar Qanungo

is absent.

The mutation register is not a mere ledger; it is the foundational record of change in rights. Every transfer, sale, inheritance, gift, exchange, court decree, finds its legal reflection in the mutation register. If this register is not verified by the supervisory authority, the entire edifice of land governance becomes vulnerable.

The absence of the Girdawar's signature raises serious questions:

- Has the mutation been checked?
- Was documentary evidence verified?
- Were inheritance shares correctly calculated?
- Was there compliance with procedural safeguards?
- Was the attested mutation incorporated in Jamabandi?

If the Girdawar has not signed, either inspection has not taken place, or it has not been documented. In administrative law, undocumented inspection is no inspection. The Girdawar is not a passive bystander. He is a statutory functionary. If mutation registers lack his authentication, the supervisory layer envisioned by law stands weakened. The manually written Jamabandies of 2018-19 constitute one of the most critical record-writing exercises in recent decades. In many tehsils, these Jamabandies were written afresh, often after a considerable gap.

The question that now arises is whether the Girdawars conducted thorough checks of these manually prepared Jamabandies. If rectification files were not initiated where errors existed, it suggests that either errors were not detected or inspections were not rigorous. A Jamabandi written without proper supervisory checking is not merely a clerical deficiency—it is a potential source of litigation for decades. Under revenue practice, when errors are

detected in Jamabandi or other records, rectification proceedings must be initiated. These may involve correction of clerical mistakes, miscalculated shares, or wrongly incorporated mutations. If, after the massive exercise of manual writing in 2018-19, rectification files are minimal or absent, it may not indicate perfection. It may indicate lack of detection. The Girdawar is duty-bound to point out discrepancies. His inspection notes should record irregularities. If inspection notes are silent and rectifications absent, the supervisory system stands compromised.

When land disputes reach courts, revenue records become primary evidence. If records are defective due to supervisory negligence, accountability cannot be evaded. In fact, in many judicial pronouncements across India, courts have observed that revenue entries, though not documents of title by themselves, carry presumptive value. That presumptive value depends upon the integrity of the system that produced them.

The Girdawars of old functioned under difficult conditions, without vehicles, without digital aids, often traveling on foot or horseback. Yet their inspection notes were detailed, their signatures visible, and their authority unquestioned. They understood that land records were not mere files. They were social contracts reflecting ownership, inheritance, and livelihood.

The Girdawar Qanungo stands as the sentinel of record purity. His cent percent responsibility for record checking is not rhetorical exaggeration—it is statutory reality. The time has come to revive the vigilant tradition of the Girdawar Qanungo. The office must not be reduced to administrative routine. It must reclaim its statutory stature.

Signatures must return to mutation registers. Jamabandies must be thoroughly checked. Rectification must not be symbolic but substantive.

Let the present generation of Girdawars work as their predecessors did—with diligence, courage, and pride.

Only then can the revenue records of Jammu and Kashmir stand the test of legality, transparency, and public trust.

The law provides the framework. History provides the example. Responsibility demands action.

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The Mathematics Of Unrest: Why The Mind Refuses To Sit Still



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

You don't need to be a mathematician to understand human unrest. You just need to remember a night when your body was tired, but your mind kept pacing—replaying a conversation, worrying about tomorrow, or asking the same painful question again and again: Why can't I feel settled?

Behind that restlessness—whether it looks like anxiety, irritation, impatience, or a heavy sense of unease—there is a quiet "math" at work. Not the kind of math with complicated formulas on a board, but the kind that runs inside every human being like an invisible calculator: comparing expectations with reality, measuring uncertainty, and deciding whether the situation feels safe, controllable, or threatening.

1) Unrest begins when reality and expectation don't match

Imagine you planned a simple day: you expected respect, stability, success, or even just peace. But the day delivers something else: rejection, loss, confusion, or delay. That gap—between what you expected and what happened—is the first seed of unrest.

In everyday language, we call it disappointment, shock, betrayal, or frustration. In "math language," it's an error signal: the mind says, "Something is off."

2) Uncertainty multiplies the unrest

A problem is painful. But a problem with no clear end is worse. If you lose your job, it hurts. But if you don't know when you



will find another job, the uncertainty becomes the real torture. If you have a health scare, the fear is not only the illness—it is the unanswered questions. If your relationship is unstable, the biggest stress is often not what happened yesterday, but what might happen tomorrow.

Uncertainty works like a multiplier: it makes the mind spin, because the brain hates "open loops." It wants closure. When closure doesn't come, the mind tries to solve the situation repeatedly—through worry, overthinking, and rumination.

3) Lack of control turns worry into helplessness

Here is a simple truth: even difficult situations feel bearable when we believe we can do something about them.

A student feels calmer if there's a clear study plan. A family feels steadier if there's a budget. A patient feels stronger if there's a treatment pathway. But when a person feels powerless—when every effort seems to change nothing—unrest intensifies.

This is why two people can face the same hardship and react differently: the difference is often not the hardship itself, but the sense of control.

Unrest grows when:

- the mismatch is large,
- the uncertainty is high,
- and control feels low.

4) The mind has feedback loops—some heal, some harm

Think of a microphone placed too close to a speaker. A small sound enters, and then it echoes louder and louder until it becomes unbearable noise.

Human minds can do the same. A small worry appears:

"What if I fail?"

Then the mind repeats it:

"What if I fail... what if I fail... what if I fail?"

That repetition is a feedback loop. It is not always bad. Sometimes repeating a thought helps us plan. But when the loop turns into rumination—when it keeps going without solving anything—it becomes mental noise.

This is why unrest can "feed itself." The problem may be outside, but the amplification happens inside.

5) Delays make the system unstable

Another reason unrest grows is delay. We often act today, but results come late: a job application, a medical report, an exam result, a visa decision, a relationship repair.

The human mind is not comfortable with delayed feedback. When results don't arrive quickly, the brain starts imagining outcomes—usually negative ones.

That delay can create emotional instability: sudden spikes of fear, drops into sadness, bursts of anger, and moments of calm that don't last.

It is not weakness. It is how the human "system" behaves under delayed answers.

6) Life has noise—and sometimes sudden shocks

Even when life is stable, there is daily noise: traffic, deadlines, misunderstandings, financial pressure, fatigue, lack of sleep. These small stresses accumulate like tiny drops filling a bucket.

And then sometimes there is a sudden shock: a harsh word, unexpected bad news, a betrayal, an accident. The mind doesn't move smoothly; it "jumps."

That is why unrest can appear suddenly even in people who looked fine yesterday.

7) The biggest unrest is often inner conflict

Finally, the most painful unrest is not caused by the world outside—it is caused by war inside. A person wants success but also wants rest.

Wants dignity but also wants approval.

Wants to forgive but also wants justice.

Wants to move on but also wants answers.

When two strong desires pull in opposite directions, the mind becomes a tug-of-war. This inner conflict is one of the deepest sources of unrest, because no external solution can fully settle a problem that is divided within.

So what is the lesson for common life?

Unrest is not just "overthinking." It is often the mind's way of saying:

"Reality doesn't match what I expected."

"I don't know what will happen next."

"I don't feel in control."

"My thoughts are looping without closure."

"I am waiting for answers."

"I am carrying daily stress and sudden shocks."

"I am torn between two competing needs."

When we understand this, we stop insulting ourselves as "weak," and we start asking better questions:

What expectation was broken?

What uncertainty is haunting me?

What small control can I regain today?

What loop can I interrupt?

What inner conflict needs a wise decision?

Because peace is not luck. It is often the result of reducing mismatch, reducing uncertainty, and rebuilding control—one practical step at a time.

And perhaps that is the simplest mathematics of unrest:

When the mind cannot predict, cannot control, and cannot resolve—it refuses to rest.

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War Creates A Rupture In The Fabric Of Family Life



DR. RATAN BHATTACHARJEE

From the Peloponnesian War to the World Wars, families have been both the silent victims and resilient survivors of conflict. In ancient societies, war often meant the conscription of men, leaving women to manage households and communities. The absence of fathers and sons created new dynamics: women assumed leadership roles, children matured prematurely, and extended kinship networks became lifelines. War has always been more than a clash of armies and ideologies; it is a rupture in the fabric of human life. While historians often record battles, treaties, and political shifts, the most enduring scars of war are found within families.

Across cultures and continents, war reshapes kinship bonds, alters gender roles, disrupts generational continuity, and redefines the meaning of home. In today's interconnected world, the impact of war on family relationships is not confined to battle zones—it reverberates globally, affecting diasporas, refugee communities, and even nations far removed from the frontlines. During World War I and II, millions of families were torn apart by conscription, displacement, and death. Letters became the fragile threads binding soldiers to their loved ones. Widows and orphans formed new social categories, reshaping welfare policies and cultural narratives. Cold War conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, and Afghanistan revealed how ideological battles could fracture families across borders, with relatives sometimes fighting on opposing sides.

War is not only fought on battlefields; it infiltrates the psyche. Families living through war endure constant uncertainty, fear, and grief. The psychological toll manifests in several ways. Veterans often return home carrying invisible wounds, struggling with nightmares, hypervigilance, and emotional withdrawal that strain marriages and parent-child relationships. Children exposed to violence, displacement, or the loss of parents carry deep scars, with higher rates of anxiety, depression, and attachment disorders. Couples separated by war face challenges of fidelity, communication, and emotional distance. Reunions are often bittersweet, as partners must renegotiate roles and expectations. War accelerates social change, particularly in gender dynamics.

When men are absent, women step into roles traditionally denied to them. In many societies, wars forced women into the workforce, reshaping economic and familial structures. The "Rosie the Riveter" phenomenon in the U.S. during WWII exemplifies this shift. The death or disappearance of male family members often leaves women as sole caregivers, altering generational hierarchies. Men returning from war often struggle to reconcile their battlefield identities with domestic expectations, leading to tension and sometimes violence within families.

Modern wars generate unprecedented refugee flows. Families uprooted from their homelands face the dual challenge of survival and cultural adaptation. In refugee camps, families often live in cramped, insecure conditions where traditional family roles collapse under the weight of scarcity and dependency on aid. Diaspora communities reshape family bonds as relatives scattered across continents rely on digital communication to maintain ties, but physical absence erodes intimacy. Children born in exile often assimilate into host cultures, creating identity conflicts with parents who cling to traditions. Family relationships are not only affected during war but also in its aftermath. Memories of conflict are passed down, shaping identities and narratives. Intergenerational trauma becomes a silent inheritance, influencing how families perceive trust, authority, and belonging. In societies scarred by genocide or civil war, storytelling becomes both a burden and a healing practice. Families recount tales of survival, loss, and resilience,



ensuring that the memory of war is never erased, but also risking the perpetuation of fear and division.

The global scenario today reveals both continuity and change in how war affects families. In Syria, Ukraine, Sudan, and other conflict zones, families are displaced, sepa-

In today's interconnected world, the impact of war on family relationships is not confined to battle zones—it reverberates globally, affecting diasporas, refugee communities, and even nations far removed from the frontlines. During World War I and II, millions of families were torn apart by conscription, displacement, and death.

rated, and reconfigured. Technology plays a paradoxical role: while video calls and messaging apps allow families to remain connected across borders, they also highlight the painful distance between loved ones. International humanitarian organizations attempt to reunite families, but bureaucracy and geopolitics often delay or prevent these efforts. Meanwhile, in countries far from war zones, immigrant families grapple with the dual identity of mourning their homeland while building new lives abroad.

The resilience of families in wartime is remarkable. Despite immense suffering, families often become sources of strength and solidarity. Mothers shield children from trauma by creating routines in chaos. Fathers, even in exile, strive to provide guidance through letters or calls. Siblings form protective alliances, and grandparents become

anchors of tradition and memory. Yet resilience does not erase pain; it coexists with grief, shaping families into both survivors and mourners. Globally, war has also redefined the concept of family itself. In many conflict zones, non-biological kinship networks emerge as survival strategies. Neighbors, friends, and fellow refugees become "family," sharing resources and emotional support. Adoption and foster care systems expand to accommodate war orphans, while international organizations encourage community-based care. These reconfigurations challenge traditional notions of family, proving that kinship is as much about solidarity as blood.

The impact of war on family relationships is not uniform; it varies across cultures, economies, and political systems. In collectivist societies, extended families often absorb the shock of war more effectively, pooling resources and responsibilities. In individualist societies, nuclear families may struggle with isolation and lack of support. Economic disparities also shape resilience: wealthier families may escape conflict zones more easily, while poorer families endure prolonged suffering. Political systems

io today underscores both the fragility and strength of family bonds in the face of violence. Families are the first victims of war, but also its most enduring survivors. Their stories remind us that beyond the statistics of casualties and refugees lies the intimate, everyday struggle to preserve love, memory, and hope in a world too often torn apart by conflict.

Indian soldiers have long stood at the crossroads of history, their courage and sacrifice shaping not only the destiny of India but also influencing global conflicts. From ancient times to the modern era, the Indian military tradition has been marked by valor, discipline, and resilience. References to warriors in the Mahabharata and Ramayana reveal that the ethos of duty and sacrifice has been deeply embedded in Indian culture for millennia. The Mauryan Empire under Chandragupta and Ashoka maintained vast standing armies, while the Gupta period saw advanced military organization. These traditions laid the foundation for centuries of martial heritage.

During the colonial era, Indian soldiers became the backbone of the British Indian Army. They fought



influence whether families receive support or neglect, with authoritarian regimes often exploiting family loyalty for propaganda.

Looking ahead, the global scenario suggests that wars will continue to test family bonds, but also that families will remain central to human survival and identity. As conflicts become increasingly complex—driven by climate change, resource scarcity, and political instability—the displacement of families will intensify. Yet the human instinct to preserve kinship will endure. Families will adapt, reconfigure, and resist, proving once again that while war may shatter structures, it cannot extinguish the bonds of love and belonging. In conclusion, war and family relationships are inseparable threads in the tapestry of human history. War disrupts, reshapes, and scars families, but it also reveals their resilience and adaptability. The global scenar-

ions inherit peace and security. In conclusion, the story of Indian soldiers in wars is one of continuity and transformation. From ancient epics to modern conflicts, they have carried forward a legacy of valor. Their sacrifices in global wars, their resilience in regional conflicts, and their contributions to peacekeeping missions reveal a multifaceted role that transcends borders. Indian soldiers are not only defenders of the nation but also participants in shaping global history. Their involvement in wars underscores the profound truth that the strength of a nation lies not only in its armies but in the courage of those who serve, and in the families who stand behind them.

With independence in 1947, the Indian Army inherited this legacy and immediately faced challenges. The first test came with the war in Kashmir in 1947-48, when Indian soldiers defended the newly independent nation against invasion.

This conflict set the tone for decades of military involvement in safeguarding borders. In 1962, the Sino-Indian War exposed weaknesses but also underscored the determination of Indian soldiers who fought against overwhelming odds in the harsh Himalayan terrain. The wars with Pakistan in 1965 and 1971 further demonstrated their resilience.

The 1971 war, leading to the liberation of Bangladesh, remains a defining moment, with Indian soldiers hailed as liberators who reshaped South Asian geopolitics. Beyond conventional wars, Indian soldiers have been deeply involved in counter-insurgency and peacekeeping operations. In Kashmir, the armed forces have faced prolonged insurgency since the late 1980s, balancing combat with humanitarian responsibilities. Their presence has been both protective and controversial, as soldiers navigate the complexities of defending sovereignty while engaging with civilian populations. In the northeast and other regions, soldiers have been deployed to maintain stability, often at great personal cost.

Internationally, Indian soldiers have also contributed to United Nations peacekeeping missions. From Korea to Congo, Lebanon to Sudan, they have earned a reputation for professionalism and impartiality. India is among the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping forces, reflecting its commitment to global peace. These missions highlight the dual role of Indian soldiers: defenders of national borders and ambassadors of peace abroad.

The human dimension of war is most visible in the lives of soldiers and their families. Indian soldiers often come from rural backgrounds, carrying with them the hopes of entire communities. Their absence during deployment reshapes family dynamics, with spouses and children bearing the emotional weight of separation. The stories of widows and orphans remind us that the cost of war is not only measured in battlefield casualties but also in the silent suffering of families. Yet resilience shines through, as families of soldiers often become symbols of pride and inspiration. The modern Indian soldier operates in a rapidly changing environment. Technology, cyber warfare, and new geopolitical realities demand adaptation. Yet the core values remain unchanged: duty, honor, and sacrifice. Whether guarding icy posts in Siachen, patrolling insurgency-hit valleys in Kashmir, or participating in humanitarian missions abroad, Indian soldiers embody the spirit of service.

Their involvement in wars is not merely about combat; it is about preserving the dignity of a nation and ensuring that future genera-

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Air India Increases Flights To Toronto, Frankfurt, And Paris To Clear Rush

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NEW DELHI: Air India announced on Wednesday that it is introducing more flights to Toronto, Frankfurt, and Paris "in response to the high demand" amid the ongoing Middle East crisis.

"From 5 to 11 March, we're operating 3 additional flights between Delhi and Toronto. From 7 to 10 March, we've added three flights between Delhi and Frankfurt, and one flight between Delhi and Paris (Charles de Gaulle)," Air India said in a statement.

"These additional services will provide more flight options to travellers on these select routes with convenient connections beyond Delhi to destinations across Air India's vast domestic India and Southeast Asia networks. We continue to closely assess the situation and will add flights on these select routes beyond 11 March," the statement said.

Air India Express will also continue operating flights to



and from Muscat on March 5, along with additional flights between Muscat and Delhi and Mumbai.

"We are also operating special flights from Ras Al Khaimah connecting Delhi, Kochi, and Mumbai until 7 March 2026," Air India Express said in a statement.

Guests are advised to check their flight status and ensure their contact details are updated in their PNR. For changes or cancellations, visit <http://airindiaexpress.com/management> or #ChatWithTia on our website, app, or WhatsApp

at +91 63600 12345, the statement added.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Civil Aviation said on Wednesday that Indian airlines are set to operate 58 flights between India and the Gulf region to facilitate the movement of stranded passengers in West Asia due to the ongoing conflict. These include 30 flights by IndiGo and 23 by Air India and Air India Express.

The ministry said that it is continuously monitoring the evolving airspace situation in parts of West Asia and its impact on international

flight operations. To date, 1,221 flights by Indian carriers and 388 flights by foreign carriers have been cancelled due to the ongoing situation. The Ministry further stated that Indian carriers have undertaken calibrated adjustments to their schedules, with long-haul and ultra-long-haul operations being progressively resumed through alternative routings that avoid restricted airspace.

The Ministry also said that it is in continuous touch with airlines and is closely monitoring airfares to ensure that there is no undue surge in ticket prices during this period. It added that all airlines have been advised to maintain transparent communication with passengers and ensure adherence to regulatory requirements concerning refunds, rescheduling, and passenger assistance. Passengers are advised to check the latest flight status directly with their respective airlines before proceeding to the airport and to rely only on official sources for updates.

India Focusing On AI For Good Amid US-China Rivalry

IAN S

NEW DELHI: While the US and China are locked in an intense rivalry in the AI race to gain a dominant position in the world, countries such as India, Indonesia, and Vietnam are eyeing the frontier technology with the more modest objective of meeting their developmental goals and maintaining digital autonomy, according to an article.

The United States leads frontier innovation, from large language models to artificial general intelligence (AGI), while China excels in embodied AI, industrial robotics, and hardware integration. Beneath it lies a struggle over chokepoints: advanced semiconductors versus critical minerals and energy infrastructure, states the article authored by Tuhu Nugraha and published in the Modern Diplomacy news portal.

For much of the Global South, the stakes are political and developmental. Concentration of AI value risks structural dependency, where data and profits flow outward while policy space narrows. Without strategic autonomy, developing economies risk absorp-

tion into rival digital blocs, it observed.

Indonesia and Vietnam aim to reach developed-country status by 2045, while India has set 2047, its centenary of independence, as its own milestone. These synchronised horizons anchor deeper technological coordination among three middle powers converging around digital strategic autonomy, the article pointed out.

This coordination reflects shared national interests. For India, Indonesia, and Vietnam, AI is less a prestige contest than a vehicle for structural transformation, echoing earlier waves of East Asian industrialisation. The ambition is to reduce poverty and secure dignity through technological upgrading. The challenge lies in translating aspiration into institutional strategy.

The article highlights that India practices issue-based multi-alignment rather than bloc politics. In the digital domain, this translates into exporting Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI): modular identity systems, payment rails, and governance frameworks that can be adapted across

developing economies.

Through the IndiaAI Mission and projects like BharatGen, India invests heavily in domestic AI capacity while emphasising "safe and trusted AI". Governance is embedded into architecture. India's objective is not alignment but institutionalised autonomy through interoperable public systems, the article said.

Indonesia's long-standing foreign policy doctrine of *bebas dan aktif*, literally "free and active", meaning non-aligned yet proactively engaged, now extends into digital policy. Initiatives such as Sahabat-AI, developed with India's Tech Mahindra, show how private innovation can align with public strategy.

Vietnam contributes supply-chain resilience through what is often described as Bamboo Diplomacy, a posture that bends without breaking. Hanoi absorbs Western investment while maintaining proximity to China, managing tension through calibrated balance rather than overt alignment. This is not ambiguity for its own sake but a survival strategy shaped by history and geography, the article added.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

CM Convenes Meeting

West Asia region, which have engulfed several countries, and conveyed their sympathies to those who lost their loved ones, particularly the targeted assassination of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and several of his family members.

During the meeting, the attendees urged the administration to deal with the protestors & mourners with sympathy and understanding while allowing gatherings to express grief, ensuring that public order is maintained. They also called for the release of detainees held in recent days and to quash FIRs against youth who were out on the streets only to grieve the death of their spiritual leader.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister expressed his grief and condolences over the loss of lives in Iran. He stated that the killing of the Iranian Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, "cannot be described in words." He said that the late leader was a true sympathiser of the people of Kashmir and had always maintained cordial relations with India.

Recalling his visits to Iran twice, as Minister of State for External Affairs Government of India and as Special Envoy of PM Atal Behari Vajpayee, CM Omar Abdullah said that the ties of India with Iran have always been cordial. CM said that the late Iranian supreme leader was a friend of India and a true sympathiser of the people of Kashmir.

The Chief Minister emphasized the importance of maintaining peace and harmony in Jammu and Kashmir while respecting the sentiments of the people and urged people to ensure that expressions of grief remain peaceful and responsible.

Highlighting the purpose of the interaction, he said it was intended to collectively express pain and sorrow over the recent developments and to make a joint appeal for peace. He called for collective condemnation, collective condolence and a joint commitment to maintaining calm during the mourning period.

He underscored the role of the administration and religious organisations in ensuring a peaceful atmosphere and stressed that no one should be harmed during condolence gatherings.

Regarding recent detentions and the filing of cases, the Chief Minister assured the participants that he would take up the matter at the highest level to adopt a soft and lenient approach. He said that he does not want that his people particularly youth should put themselves in harm's way.

Responding to the issue of evacuation of Kashmiri students stranded in Iran, he said he has been in constant touch with the Ministry of External Affairs regarding their safety and safe return. He informed that the students are being shifted to safer locations for their onward journey through land route as flights stand cancelled in the region. He said that parents had met him for stranded students and in some cases students who are interns had refused to come back while some had been barred by medical colleges who have cautioned students that they shall lose one year and have to study academic session all over again in case they go back. CM assured that concerned college authorities in Iran would be requested through diplomatic channels to not to penalise students who want to return to India.

Some civil society members raised the issue of increase in prices of essentials, petrol and stressed the need for uninterrupted supply chains and proper functioning of key sectors such as health and power.

On essential supplies, the Chief Min-

ister directed Deputy Commissioners to closely monitor stock and supply positions to prevent overpricing or hoarding and appealed to the public to bring any grievances to the notice of the administration.

Earlier, the meeting began with condolences over the demise of Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei, followed by Fateha prayers for the supreme leader of Iran, school girls and other who lost their lives in the strikes on Iran.

Several religious leaders & members of civil society spoke in the meeting to express their sentiments and concerns. Those who spoke included Molvi Imran Ansari, Aga Syed Mehmood, MLA Ali Muhammad Sagar, MLA Tanvir Sadiq, Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi, Syed Shakeel Qalandar, M Yaseen Khan, Mushtaq Chaya, Aga Syed Mudassir Rizvi., Khurshid Ahmad Ganai, Ms Tanvir Jehan, Dr Dechen Paljor, Jaspal Singh, G N War, MLA Mubarak Gul, Nasir Shah, Manzoor Pakhtoon, Shamim Ahmad Shah, Maulana Maqbool Hussain, Dr A G Ahangar, Iqram Shafie & others.

J&K Parents Demand

has urged the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to initiate immediate evacuation measures, preferably through nearby land borders into safer countries such as Armenia or Azerbaijan.

Dr Mohammad Momin Khan, National Representative and J&K President of AIMS, expressed serious concern over the rapidly deteriorating situation and emphasised the need for swift and decisive action to ensure the safety of Indian nationals.

"Partial relocation is not sufficient given the current ground situation. A structured evacuation plan must be executed without delay," he said.

Parents said many students remain stranded in different parts of Iran, including high-risk areas, with limited communication and growing uncertainty. The lack of clear timelines and official evacuation plans has further compounded their anxiety.

As of now, no large-scale evacuation advisory has been issued by Indian authorities, though officials said the situation is being closely monitored and efforts are ongoing to relocate Indian citizens from Iran safely.

"With folded hands, we appeal to the Government of India to rescue our children. Every passing hour is increasing our fear," the parents said—(KNO)

Day Temperatures Stay

minimum of 2.0 degrees Celsius.

In the Jammu division, the winter capital recorded a maximum of 30.3 degrees Celsius, 6.0 degrees above normal, and a minimum of 14.3 degrees Celsius. Banihal registered a high of 24.6 degrees Celsius, 9.8 degrees above normal, while Batote recorded 25.3 degrees Celsius, 10.7 degrees above normal.

Katra recorded a maximum of 29.6 degrees Celsius, 7.7 degrees above normal, and Baderwah settled at 25.4 degrees Celsius, 9.1 degrees above normal.

The IMD said no rainfall was recorded in the past 24 hours in most stations across the Union Territory. Relative humidity at 5:30 pm stood at 43 per cent in Srinagar and 43 per cent in Jammu—(KNO)

Situation Peaceful In Valley,

Ali Khamenei and others, killed in recent developments in Iran.

Chief Minister called for peace and

communal harmony after meeting civil society groups in Srinagar, urging people to express their emotions and grievances peacefully while upholding the spirit of brotherhood and unity.

Omar Abdullah emphasised the importance of maintaining peace and harmony in Jammu & Kashmir while respecting people's sentiments and ensuring that expressions of grief and mourning remain peaceful and responsible.

Schools, colleges and universities in the Valley will remain closed till March 7.

FIR Against MP

Valley for the third consecutive day on Wednesday.

All schools, colleges, and universities in the Valley will remain closed till March 7. Exams scheduled for the day have also been postponed by the Kashmir University.

Army Foils Infiltration

240-km-long International Border.

The LoC runs through Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora districts in the Kashmir Valley and through Poonch, Rajouri and parts of Jammu district in the Jammu division.

he International Border lies in Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts of the Jammu division.

The Army guards the LoC, while the Border Security Force (BSF) guards the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir against infiltration, exfiltration, cross-border smuggling and drone activities originating from the Pakistan side.

In the past, drones have been used to drop consignments of arms, ammunition, drugs and cash for terrorists.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police and security forces regularly conduct operations against terrorists, their overground workers (OGWs) and sympathisers.

Drug smugglers, peddlers and those involved in hawala money rackets are also on the radar of security agencies. It is believed that funds generated through such illegal activities are used to sustain terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. (IANS)

Tears, Hugs And Relief

"We were stuck at the airport. The Indian government worked hard for us," an elderly Hajj pilgrim said.

"We were very scared. We are extremely grateful to PM Modi... I love my India," a woman said.

Meanwhile, other carriers, including Air India and Emirates, have also begun facilitating the evacuation of Indian passengers from Gulf countries.

On Tuesday, Air India received passengers and crew arriving from Dubai at Indira Gandhi International Airport, marking the first international arrival by an Indian carrier into the national capital since the disruptions began.

Dubai Airports confirmed that limited flight operations resumed on the evening of March 2 at Dubai International Airport and Al Maktoum International Airport.

The large-scale disruption and airspace closures followed coordinated US and Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28. In response, Tehran launched attacks on Gulf nations, describing them as "legitimate targets," escalating the regional crisis into a renewed military confrontation and prompting widespread flight cancellations across West Asia.

Properties Of Two

registered against them at Samba police station last year.

He said the attached property include a double-storey residential house of accused Nazir and a 'kulla' (thatched house) of Bagh Hussain. (PTI)

MEA Sets Up Control

convened under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, was briefed on the air strikes in Iran on February 28 and the subsequent escalation in the Middle East, as well as the security of the Indian citizens in the region.

According to the official statement, the Committee was briefed on the air strikes in Iran on February 28 and the subsequent escalation, including attacks in several Gulf countries.

"It expressed serious concern over the safety and security of the large Indian expatriate community in the region," the statement added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday expressed concerns over the situation in West Asia and said that India will continue to work closely with all the countries in the region to ensure the safety and security of its nationals.

PM Modi said, "India's stance on the several ongoing tensions around the world is firm. We have always called for maintaining peace and stability, and when two democracies stand together, the voice for peace becomes even stronger."

Speaking on the security concerns in the Gulf nations, he said, "The current situation in West Asia is a matter of deep concern for us. India supports the resolution of all disputes through dialogue and diplomacy. To ensure the safety of all Indian nations, we will continue to work closely with all countries in the region."



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GOC Rising Star Corps reviews security preparedness in Mamun sector



YOGESH

JAMMU: General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Rising Star Corps, also known as 9 Corps, Lieutenant General Rajan Sharawat on Wednesday reviewed the operational preparedness of troops deployed in the strategically significant Mamun sector.

According to the details available, the Rising Star Corps based in Yol, Him-

achal Pradesh oversees key training institutes in the state along with operational responsibilities in the Mamun sector. The Mamun headquarters, located at Pathankot, supervises operational areas spanning Samba, Kathua and parts of Jammu district in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The GOC of Rising Star Corps reviewed operational preparedness of troops in Mamun sector," Army

said in a post on X.

During the visit, Lieutenant General Sharawat assessed the security grid and readiness levels of the formations tasked with safeguarding the sensitive belt.

He commended the troops for their professionalism, high morale and unwavering commitment to the nation, emphasizing the need for constant alertness in view of prevailing security challenges.

The review assumes

added significance amid heightened security in Jammu and Kashmir, triggered by the ongoing conflict in West Asia and its possible ramifications.

The Army's Northern Command has been maintaining close watch over the evolving situation, with the White Knight Corps and the Chinara Corps intensifying surveillance and operational readiness across their respective areas of responsibility—(KNO)

BJP confident of winning autonomous body polls: Tripura CM

IAN S

AGARTALA: Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha on Wednesday asserted that the overall development of the Janajati (tribal) community remains one of the primary goals of the government led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Addressing an organisational programme at the headquarters of the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) in Khumlung, the Chief Minister expressed confidence that the BJP would register a huge victory in the upcoming elections to the tribal autonomous body and Village Committees.

Saha said the BJP would form the government in the 30-member TTAADC, claiming that people's trust and confidence in Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the party have steadily increased.

Earlier in the day, a large procession led by the Chief Minister passed through various roads of Khumlung, with a large number of party workers and supporters taking part.

Referring to the forthcoming TTAADC elections, Saha said a massive rally titled 'Janajati Empowerment and Tripura Empowerment' was organised in Khumlung to galvanise



support.

He maintained that since assuming office in 2014, Prime Minister Modi has prioritised the development of Janajati communities across the country. "In the coming days as well, only the Bharatiya Janata Party can ensure real development of the tribal people. We are committed to working wholeheartedly for their welfare," he said. The Chief Minister further stated that if the present situation in the TTAADC is to change, the BJP must receive the people's full support.

Alleging that the Janajati community had long witnessed "empty promises", he claimed that the BJP is now delivering tangible development on the ground.

Expressing optimism, Saha said the party would secure a decisive mandate in the upcoming TTAADC and Village Committee elections and form the government in the tribal autonomous body, which he described as a vital constitutional institution.

The organisational programme was also attended by Transport and Tourism Minister Sushanta Chowdhury, BJP Pradesh General Secretary Bipin Debbarma, mandal leaders and other party functionaries.

In the run-up to the TTAADC polls, all major political parties -- including the ruling BJP, its allies -- the Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) and the Tipra Motha Party (TMP) -- and opposition parties such as the Com-

munist Party of India (Marxist) and the Indian National Congress -- have intensified efforts to consolidate support among tribal voters.

The crucial elections to the TTAADC are likely to be held in March or April.

Since 2021, the Tipra Motha Party (TMP) has been governing the politically significant 30-member TTAADC, which covers nearly two-thirds of Tripura's 10,491 sq km geographical area and is home to over 12.16 lakh people, around 84 per cent of whom belong to indigenous communities.

Tribals constitute nearly one-third of Tripura's total population of about 4.2 million, making the upcoming elections a key political contest in the state.

Telangana CM meets HM Shah, discusses Maoists' surrenders and security issues

IAN S

NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi on Wednesday and briefed him on the recent surrender of several Maoist leaders in the state.

The Chief Minister, accompanied by Director General of Police B. Shivadhar Reddy and other senior officials, also discussed the possible surrender of remaining Maoist leaders and their rehabilitation.

Stating that significant changes have taken place in the state in the past two years, the Chief Minister told Home Minister Shah that a total of 591 Maoists have laid down their arms and joined the mainstream in Telangana.

According to an official release from the DGP's office, the Chief Minister said it was a positive development that several Maoist

leaders had recently come forward to lead normal lives and explained the facilities being provided to them by the state government.

The meeting also discussed Central support for development activities in backward areas.

Several security-related issues concerning the state and measures to strengthen the police department were also discussed during the meeting.

Principal Secretary V. Seshadri, Additional DGP (Intelligence) Vijay Kumar, IGP (Special Intelligence Bureau) B. Sumati, and other officials were present at the meeting.

The Chief Minister also briefed the Union Home Minister on the policies being implemented by the state government to maintain law and order.

He highlighted the role of the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau in addressing cybercrime and emerging cyber challenges.

DMK-Cong seal TN poll pact: Congress gets 28 seats, one RS berth

IAN S

CHENNAI: Ending days of intense negotiations and uncertainty, the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the Congress on Wednesday formally signed their seat-sharing agreement for the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly elections.

As per the pact, the Congress will contest 28 Assembly constituencies, three more than the 25 seats it contested in the 2021 Assembly elections as part of the alliance.

In addition, the Congress has also been allotted one Rajya Sabha seat as part of the understanding between the two parties.

The agreement was signed at Anna Arivalayam, the DMK headquarters in Chennai, by DMK president and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC) president K. Selvaperunthagai.



The Rajya Sabha berth offered to the Congress is seen as a key component of the broader political arrangement aimed at strengthening the alliance ahead of the crucial Assembly elections.

The deal was finalised after several rounds of negotiations between leaders of both parties, which had briefly reached a deadlock over the number of seats and the Congress's demand for a greater role within the alliance.

At one stage, the talks appeared to be heading

towards a breakdown as the Congress pushed for a higher seat allocation.

The impasse was eventually resolved after senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram stepped in as an emissary of the party's high command and held discussions with Chief Minister Stalin on March 3.

Following these talks, both sides moved towards a compromise, leading to the final agreement. Before the signing ceremony, a Congress delegation led by Girish Chodankar, All India Congress Committee (AICC) in-charge for Tamil Nadu and head of the party's seat-sharing committee, met the Chief Minister.

The delegation included TNCC president Selvaperunthagai, Congress Legislature Party leader K. Rajesh Kumar, and other senior leaders.

Speaking to reporters after the signing of the pact, Selvaperunthagai

said the party was satisfied with the agreement and confident that the alliance would perform strongly in the upcoming elections.

He also said the candidate for the Rajya Sabha seat allotted to the Congress would be announced later by the party high command in consultation with the State leadership.

Chodankar said that formal discussions between the DMK and the Congress on seat sharing for the Puducherry Assembly elections would begin on March 5.

The agreement reinforces the over two-decade-long alliance between the DMK and the Congress, which began in 2004.

Despite occasional differences, including a brief split ahead of the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the partnership has remained a significant political force in Tamil Nadu and continues to play a key role in shaping the State's electoral landscape.

3 arrested in Bengal's Malda; police seize firearms and fake currency

IAN S

KOLKATA: Police in West Bengal's Malda district have arrested three persons after recovering firearms and counterfeit currency during raids conducted ahead of the state Assembly elections, officials said on Wednesday.

Police carried out raids at two separate locations in the district and seized firearms, ammunition and fake currency notes.

According to police sources, acting on a tip-off from a confidential source, the first raid was conducted in the Chanchal police station area on Tuesday night.

A local youth identified as Abdul Barek, a resident of Khanpara in Chanchal, was arrested during the operation. Police recovered fake currency notes worth Rs 5 lakh from his possession.

During questioning, Barek allegedly told

police that he had brought the fake currency from Siliguri in north Bengal to Malda for circulation, officials said.

Police are investigating the case to identify others involved in the counterfeit currency network.

In a separate operation in another area under Chanchal police station, police arrested two alleged arms dealers, identified as Golam Rabbani and Mizanur Rahman.

Both are residents of the Harishchandrapur police station area.

Police recovered four firearms and five rounds of ammunition from their possession. Preliminary investigation suggests that the weapons were brought from Bihar, officials said.

The police are seeking custody of the accused for further interrogation to ascertain the source of the weapons and possible links to a wider network.

Telangana: Singhvi and Narender Reddy are Congress candidates for RS

IAN S

HYDERABAD: The Congress party has decided to field senior leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's close aide and advisor, Vem Narender Reddy, as one of the candidates for Rajya Sabha from Telangana.

The Congress leadership picked Singhvi for another term and preferred Narender Reddy over several senior leaders, who were seen as strong contenders.

Both Singhvi and Narender Reddy will file nominations on Thursday, the last day for filing of nominations.

The elections for two Rajya Sabha seats from the state are scheduled on March 16.

The terms of sitting members Abhishek Manu Singhvi and KR Suresh Reddy will end on April 9, necessitating elections.

Suresh Reddy is currently the BRS Parliamentary Party leader, while Singhvi



was elected to the seat as a Congress candidate in 2024, replacing K. Keshava Rao, who resigned after joining the Congress.

The high command decided to send Supreme Court lawyer Singhvi to the upper House for another term as his legal acumen and articulate presence in Parliament are seen as key assets for the party at the national level.

Several senior leaders were engaged in hectic lobbying for the second ticket. Veteran Congress leader Shyam Mohan

Anantula, Chief Minister's advisor Vem Narender Reddy, former Rajya Sabha member V. Hanumantha Rao, Chairman of the Telangana State Planning Board, G Chinna Reddy, Former MP Madhu Yaskhi Goud, Chairman of the Telangana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Commission, M Kodanda Reddy are among the aspirants.

Meanwhile, Narender Reddy took to social media to thank AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, AICC Gen-

eral Secretary KC Venugopal, MP Priyanka Gandhi, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Congress Affairs In-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud.

A few months after Congress came to power in Telangana, Narender Reddy was appointed as the Advisor (Public Affairs) to the Chief Minister.

He is a former MLA from Mahabubabad representing the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in the combined Andhra Pradesh. He was elected as MLA in 2004.

He unsuccessfully contested the byelection from the Hanumakonda constituency in 2012. He also contested the MLC seat from the MLAs' quota in 2015 but was unsuccessful.

Narender joined the Congress along with Revanth Reddy ahead of the 2018 State Assembly elections. They have shared a warm relationship since their TDP days.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

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T20 WC: Allen's 33-ball century helps NZ storm into final with nine-wicket win over SA

IAN S

KOLKATA: Finn Allen produced one of the most explosive innings in Men's T20 World Cup history by hammering a whirlwind unbeaten century off just 33 balls as New Zealand stormed into the final with a comprehensive nine-wicket win over South Africa at Eden Gardens on Wednesday.

Chasing 170, Allen tore into the in-form South African attack by hitting ten boundaries and eight towering sixes and rewrite the record books with the fastest century ever scored in the men's T20 World Cup and the first in a knockout fixture. It was also his third century in T20Is and the joint-fastest hundred by a full member batter, as he again highlighted his reputation as one of the most destructive openers in the shortest format.

Allen's fireworks, where he played only four dot balls, were complemented by Tim Seifert, who struck a brisk 58 off 33 deliveries. The pair stitched a 117-run opening stand that effectively ended South Africa's hopes of defending their total of 169/8. New Zealand's commanding chase is also their first-ever win over South Africa in the T20 World Cup and sent out a strong message ahead of Sunday's final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

For South Africa, the defeat was another bitter blow in a major ICC knockout match. Unbeaten through the tournament and widely tipped as favourites for the title, they were outplayed in every department. Marco Jansen's fighting 55 had earlier lifted them to a competitive score, but Allen's assault rendered it inadequate, as New Zealand entered their second Men's T20 World Cup final.

Chasing 170 on a pitch eased out by dew, Seifert began with edges off Marco Jansen fetching



him boundaries, before being dropped by Quinton de Kock off Kagiso Rabada. Allen began his fireworks by steering Rabada for four, before clearing the straight boundary with authority off Jansen. Seifert scooped and drove Rabada and Jansen for boundaries as the pair raced past fifty inside four overs.

Allen tore into Corbin Bosch in the final over of power-play by plundering 22 runs including four boundaries and a six, as New Zealand surged to 91/0 – their highest six-over phase score in Men's T20 World Cup history. Seifert soon reached his half-century off just 22 balls by driving Lungi Ngidi for four, while Allen got his fifty off 19 deliveries.

The 117-run opening stand ended when Seifert was castled by Rabada in the 10th over. Rachin Ravindra joined Allen, who was already into the 70s, and ensured the tempo never went off the boil. Allen continued to attack relentlessly by dispatching Bosch, Maharaj and Jansen for boundaries with audacious strokes.

Allen got his hundred in just 33 balls and finished off the chase by launching a flat six over mid-off to let out a roar. His team-

mates erupted with joy in the dugout as New Zealand sealed their passage to Sunday's final in Ahmedabad via one of the most dominant chases in tournament's history.

Previously, South Africa were in trouble at 77/5 in 10.2 overs before Jansen steadied the innings by hitting two fours and five sixes to get his fifty in 27 balls and be unbeaten on 55. For New Zealand, Cole McConchie, Rachin Ravindra and Matt Henry picked two wickets each to stall the Proteas' charge, though they conceded 61 runs in the last five overs.

Pushed into batting first, Quinton de Kock got going with a stylish four and six, before miscuing to mid-on off McConchie in the opening over. A ball later, McConchie struck when he had Ryan Rickelton slashing to backward point for a golden duck.

Aiden Markram and Dewald Brevis attempted to rebuild, with the former, dropped on three by Rachin Ravindra, and the latter taking boundaries off Lockie Ferguson and James Neesham. But Markram eventually fell for 18, caught at long-on off Ravindra in the eighth over.

Brevis continued to be

fluent by hitting Ravindra for a six over cow corner and carting Mitchell Santner for another maximum over mid-wicket. But Brevis fell for 34 – caught at cover off Neesham in the 11th over, while David Miller too departed for six after holing out to long-on off Ravindra.

Tristan Stubbs joined Jansen and the pair steadied the Proteas innings. After taking a boundary off Santner, Jansen cleared the long-on fence twice off Ravindra and Henry each. Stubbs, meanwhile, showed signs of acceleration by pulling Henry for four, before driving and clubbing Neesham for a four and six respectively, even as Jansen took on him to get the same result.

Their partnership lifted South Africa past 150, before Stubbs was castled by Ferguson in the 19th over. But Jansen continued to attack, bringing up his maiden fifty of the tournament with consecutive sixes off Ferguson. He remained unbeaten on 55, despite losing Corbin Bosch and Kagiso Rabada in the final over and ensured South Africa reached a competitive total, which was hunted down in a tornado-like fashion by Allen.

T20 WC: Wins over Sri Lanka, Pak give Brook confidence of overcoming Indian spin threat in semis

IAN S

MUMBAI: England's recent trips to India for the T20I series have all ended on a disappointing note, with the visitors ending on the losing note. One of the major hurdles for England has been spin bowling, which has stumped them on numerous occasions.

In their last T20I series in India in the 2024-25 season, England lost 1-4, suffering a 150-run defeat at the Wankhede Stadium in the last match of the series. Varun Chakravarthy had emerged as the most successful bowler for India in the series, with Harry Brook, who is leading England in the ICC T20 World Cup 2026, falling victim to the mystery spinners on more than a few occasions.

However, on the eve of their semifinal clash with India in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at the Wankhede Stadium, with the threat of spin and Varun Chakravarthy looming large, Brook said England have improved in their handling of spin and have done well in the sub-continent, which gives them the confidence that they can negate the spin threat on Thursday.

"I feel like England always get a bad rap about playing against spin. We've gone to Sri Lanka, and we've won six games in a row against the subcontinent side, who are very good in their own backyard, and we've got a lot of confidence playing on turning pitches. Chakravarthy is one of the best bowlers



in the world, and I'll try my best to face him and score as many runs as I can against him," said Brook in the pre-match press conference at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Wednesday.

The pitch selected for Thursday's semifinal is the same one on which England lost to West Indies, and Italy beat Nepal, with spinners playing a key role in both matches. It was a pitch where the spinners had some assistance; 14 wickets were picked up by the spinners in those two games.

However, Brook presented a confident front to the spin threat and said they

too have very good spinners on their side.

"We have got some very good spinners as well. Our spinners have bowled extremely well throughout this competition, and they have to try to tackle that challenge as well. India have produced and always have produced very good spinners, and we know that, and we accepted that before coming into this competition that we're going to face challenges throughout, especially on pitches that can assist spin bowling.

"But like I said before, we played six T20s, three ODIs against Sri Lanka in this world competition

in Sri Lanka, and we only lost one game, so I think we're going in with a lot of confidence, and like I said before, I feel like England players get a bad rap against spin," said Brook.

Another reason for Brook's confidence against the Indian spin threat, besides the series win over Sri Lanka, is their World Cup Super 8s win over Pakistan, where they fought back from a difficult situation to win.

They will be hoping to carry that confidence into the semifinal against India and hope that they can pass the spin test as easily as they did against Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

India suffer shock injury-time defeat against Vietnam in opener

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PERTH: An injury-time goal condemned two-time runners-up India to a 1-2 defeat against Vietnam in their first match in Group C of the AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026 at the Perth Rectangular Stadium in Perth on Wednesday.

Nguyen Thi Van Su (30', 90+4') scored in each half for Vietnam, while debutant Sanfida Nongrum (52'), who came off the bench in the second half, scored India's lone goal as the Blue Tigresses made a disappointing start to their campaign.

Vietnam controlled more of the possession in the opening exchanges, as India sat deep, looking to exploit openings in the opposition's back line.

India goalkeeper Panthoi Chanu Elangbam made an early save off Van Su before the Blue Tigresses had their first opportunity in the eighth minute. Dangmei Grace chested down a high ball that fell in Sangita Basfore's path. The latter, with time and space, struck it on the half volley, but it was straight at the Vietnam goalkeeper, Tran Thi Kim Thanh.

In the 14th minute, a Sangita mis-pass afforded a golden opportunity to Vietnam, as Nguyen Thi Bich Thuy collected the ball and struck the crossbar from the edge of the area. Panthoi made a few crucial saves in a period dominat-



ed by Vietnam, most notably keeping Bich Thuy out in the 27th minute with a sprawling save at the near post.

Van Su opened the scoring three minutes later, when she ran on to a ball by Thai Thi Thao, and curled it in from just inside the penalty area, putting Vietnam in the lead.

India began to play long and wide into the Vietnam half. Manisha found Grace with a trivela aerial pass, which the latter chested down and gave chase to. Kim Thanh, however, collected it.

India head coach Amelia Valverde made two changes at half-time, bringing on Sanfida for her debut, along with Rimpa Haldar, as Grace and Soumya Guguloth, respectively, made way for them.

The side from Southeast

Asia came out with some intent in the initial stages of the second half. Vietnam thought they had doubled the lead in the 49th minute, when a bit of confusion in the Indian penalty box saw Thi Thao put the ball in the net. She was, however, later deemed offside by the Video Assistant Referee (VAR).

The Blue Tigresses' half-time substitutions paid off soon enough, when debutant Sanfida levelled the score after Rimpa made a run from the left. While the ball was stolen from the latter, a deflection meant that the Vietnam clearance landed in front of Sanfida, who was quick to react to it and blasted it past Kim Thanh with her left foot.

India gained a lot of confidence from that goal and began to push Vietnam back into their half. A

Rimpa cross was met with a header from Pyari Xaxa, but it was saved just past the hour mark. Minutes later, Sanfida produced a header off a Nirmala Devi cross that went over.

However, Vietnam slowly made their way back, creating chances down the wings. Panthoi stood strong through, pulling off a save from a Van Su effort in the 76th.

India had a half-chance in the second minute of injury time when Manisha went for goal from a long-range free-kick. While Vietnam goalkeeper Kim Thanh parried it, India substitute Kaviya Pakkirisamy, who was also given her debut off the bench, immediately gave chase. However, the Vietnamese custodian managed to get to the ball before the Indian forward.

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 صُيْتُ وَبِكَ أَمْنْتُ وَعَلَيْكَ تَوَكَّلْتُ وَعَلَى رِزْقِكَ أَطَّلَعْتُ

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