



HISTORIC GLORY

J&K lift maiden Ranji Trophy after 66-year wait

Script golden chapter in Indian domestic cricket with commanding show against Karnataka

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Feb 28: In a landmark moment for the region, Jammu & Kashmir lifted their maiden Ranji Trophy title, defeating Karnataka cricket team in a one-sided final at Hubballi to script history after more than six decades.

The triumph marks a watershed achievement for J&K cricket, ending a 66-year-long wait and igniting celebrations across the Union Territory, as fans hailed the victory as a symbol of perseverance, belief, and transformation.

Winning the toss, skipper Paras Dogra opted to bat first—a decision that laid the foundation for a memorable triumph. J&K piled up a mammoth 584 in 173.1 overs, riding on a disciplined and collective batting display. Shubham Pundir anchored the innings with a masterful 121, while Yawer Hassan (88) and Dogra himself (70) ensured stability in the top order.

The middle and lower order further consolidated the innings, with Abdul Samad (61),



Kanhaiya Wadhawan (70), and Sahil Lotra (72) contributing vital runs. Despite a five-wicket haul from Prasidh Krishna, Karnataka bowlers struggled to contain the relentless J&K batting unit.

In response, Karnataka faltered under pressure and were bundled out for 293, conceding a massive 291-run first-innings deficit. Captain Mayank Agarwal stood tall with a fighting 160, but lacked support from the other end as J&K bowlers dominated proceedings.

Leading the charge was Auqib Nabi Dar, who produced a sensational spell of 5/54—his seventh five-wicket haul of the season—firmly tilting the contest in J&K's favour. Sunil Kumar and Yudhvir Singh Charak provided able support, ensuring Karnataka never recovered.

With a commanding lead, J&K tightened their grip in the second innings. Qamran Iqbal delivered a stellar unbeaten 160, while Sahil Lotra capped off a dream match | [More on P6](#)

Historic triumph reflects remarkable grit of J&K team: PM Modi



KNO Desk

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated Jammu and Kashmir cricket team for clinching their maiden Ranji Trophy title. PM Modi, | [More on P6](#)

Defining moment in J&K's sporting history: LG Sinha



KNO Desk

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has congratulated the Jammu and Kashmir cricket team on | [More on P6](#)

Peace, prosperity driving force of 'New J&K': HM Shah



KNO DESK

Union Home Minister and Amit Shah on Saturday congratulated Jammu & Kashmir for winning Ranji Trophy for the | [More on P6](#)

CM Omar announces Rs 2 crore reward Joins celebrations



KNO DESK

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday announced a Rs 2 crore cash reward for the players | [More on P6](#)

Youth solution to every challenge: LG Sinha

- Under PM Modi, sports landscape in J&K underwent historic transformation
- Home Minister Shah assured Rs 200 crore for sports development in UT



Yogesh

Jammu, Feb 28: Reminding the people that security forces have rendered innumerable sacrifices to restore peace in Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said that youth are the solution to every challenge.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the 2nd Edition of 'Sikh Cricket Premier League (SCPL)' here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "The new generation embodies possibility itself. I believe our youth are the solution to every challenge. Provide them apt opportunities, robust platforms, and true mentorship, and they will author history."

The Lieutenant Governor

said that the Sikh Cricket Premier League is sculpting multifaceted character and in future it will instill discipline, leadership, teamwork, patience, and self-belief in the young generation.

He said that the commendable initiative of All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee and the Hari Singh Nalwa Cricket Club, Jammu is a declaration that the new generation advances not as spectators, but as bearers of brotherhood and social harmony. "To foster inclusivity, All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee has ensured that each team includes youth from other communities," he added.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that under the leadership Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the sports landscape in | [More on P6](#)

Politicians, former cricketers, Jay Shah, others extend congratulations

Jahangeer Ganaie

Cutting across the lines, every section of the society, including former cricketers, politicians and others congratulated Jammu and Kashmir cricket team for winning its maiden Ranji Trophy title by defeating eight-time champions Karnataka on Saturday. The victory not only ended a 66-year wait but also triggered | [More on P6](#)

CONGRATULATIONS

TEAM JAMMU AND KASHMIR

FOR THE MAIDEN AND HISTORIC WIN OF

Ranji Trophy 2025-26



Jammu and Kashmir Government announces Rs. 2 Crore for Winning Team

DIPK-11440/25 Dated: 28.02.2026

Deputy Chief Minister calls for monitoring, quality execution of projects in J&K

Asks officers to adhere to timelines, financial discipline

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28: Reiterating government's zero-tolerance policy against quality compromise, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary Saturday cautioned of strict action against the use of substandard material or poor execution of works under the Public Works Department (PWD) across Jammu and Kashmir.

Chairing a high level review meeting, as per an official statement held at the PWD Guest House, Jammu, the Deputy Chief Minister assessed the overall functioning, zone-wise physical and financial performance of the department in all districts of J&K.

During the comprehensive review, he underscored strict adherence to quality benchmarks in all ongoing and upcoming projects, asserting that there would be no tolerance for substandard execution, delays or administrative lapses. "There is no room for quality compromise. Accountability must be visible at every level," he stated, directing the officers to ensure close supervision and timely completion of works.

He emphasized that the government is committed to ensure seamless road connectivity to all habitations and is executing a wide range of road, bridge and infrastructure projects under the Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF), NABARD RIDF, R&B and Cities & Towns initiatives



to accelerate the developmental transformation of J&K.

"Officers must adhere to stipulated timelines and financial discipline. Delays in completion will invite strict action, including blacklisting of contractors and accountability of the concerned officers responsible for lapses," he warned.

Expressing concern over slow tendering and low expenditure in certain sectors, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the officers to ensure 100 percent utilization of allocated funds by the end of March, cautioning that negligence would be viewed seriously. He strongly discouraged abnormally low bidding and subletting of

contracts, terming such practices detrimental to quality, transparency and timely execution of projects.

He further instructed that fresh tendering should not be undertaken without proper justification and prior approval from the competent authority.

"Contractors securing multiple projects through low bids must be closely monitored to ensure adherence to quality standards and progress timelines," he added.

To enhance accountability and transparency, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the field officers to maintain proper movement registers and conduct regular site inspections. The officers posted in far-flung areas were instructed to

mark attendance through geo-tagging to strengthen monitoring mechanisms and work culture.

Among key projects, he directed for ensuring expeditious completion of Seerbagh-Chadoora Bridge, Ramban Bridge, Inderpati-Paragwal Bridge, Dak Bungalow-cum-Conference Hall Hyderpora and Dak Bungalow Rajouri.

The Commissioners were also asked to submit detailed proposals for beautification works in Jammu and Srinagar, with specific instructions to ensure completion of works in Srinagar well before the Darbar Move to the summer capital.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner SMC/JMC and senior

engineering officers, including Chief Engineers of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Jammu/Kashmir, R&B Jammu, Pir Panjal, Chenab, Central, North and South Kashmir, Design Inspection and Quality Control J&K (DIQC), and Mechanical & Hospital Engineering Department J&K (MHED) besides Superintending and Executive Engineers from all Circles and Divisions.

The chair was informed that during FY 2025-26, the Road Sector recorded substantial financial progress, with expenditure reaching 62 percent under CRIF projects and 45 percent under NABARD RIDF works. Region-wise performance remained steady, with South Kashmir achieving 64 percent expenditure, Chenab Zone 57 percent, Central Kashmir 56 percent, and Jammu Zone 55 percent, reflecting balanced infrastructure development across the Union Territory.

Under PMGSY, 99.7 percent of targeted habitations under Phase-I have been connected, with 18,009 km of road length completed. PMGSY-IV aims to provide connectivity to 2,513 additional eligible habitations, further strengthening rural road infrastructure.

It was further informed that 697 permanent restoration works have recently been approved, reaffirming the government's commitment to build resilient, durable and high-quality public infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir.

Sakeena Itoo inaugurates HDU at district hospital Kulgam



KT NEWS DESK

KULGAM, FEBRUARY 28: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Saturday inaugurated the High Dependency Unit (HDU) at District Hospital Kulgam reaffirming the government's commitment to enhancing accessible and quality healthcare services at the grassroots level.

Deputy Commissioner, Kulgam, Shahzad Alam; CMO Kulgam, senior officers of district administration and other concerned officers were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Health Minister, as per an official statement, highlighted the Government's focused approach to upgrade district-level healthcare institutions with modern facilities and trained manpower. "Operationalisation of this HDU marks a major milestone in strengthening the secondary healthcare framework in Kulgam district and adjoining areas", she stated.

The Minister underlined that the HDU will act as an essential bridge between ICU and routine inpatient services, ensuring timely intervention and improved patient outcomes. She added that this facility will provide enhanced monitoring and treatment for patients who require higher care. "HDU facility will significantly strengthen emergency and critical care services at the hospital by reducing referrals to tertiary care institutions and ensuring stabilization of critically ill patients within the district Kulgam", the Health Minister said.

Minister Sakeena further said that the establishment and

functioning of HDU at District Hospital Kulgam reflects the commitment of Omar Abdullah led Government to enhance secondary healthcare services, improve patient safety and provide accessible, quality care to people near their vicinities.

"Upgrading healthcare infrastructure in rural and semi-urban regions remains Government's top priority, with sustained investments being made to bridge gaps in service delivery", the Minister said.

The Minister, on the occasion, also interacted with the doctors and paramedical staff, and sought detailed and urgent requirements at the hospital. She also interacted with the patients and took feedback from them about the healthcare services being provided at the DH Kulgam.

Pertinently, the roll-out of HDU at DH Kulgam marks a landmark development in improving the critical care services across the district. The HDU is equipped with advanced monitoring systems including multiparameters, oxygen supply, suction apparatus, infusion pumps, defibrillator, and emergency resuscitation equipment. The unit will cater to patients with serious medical and surgical conditions like severe infections, respiratory distress, cardiac ailments, post-operative cases requiring close observation, obstetric complications and other high-risk conditions.

The HDU is staffed by trained medical officers, nursing personnel, and paramedical staff who will provide round-the-clock monitoring and prompt management of patients requiring advanced care.

CS extends condolences to Rohit Sharma on father's demise

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28: Chief Secretary, Atal Duloo, has expressed profound grief and sorrow over the passing away of Dr. Brahm Dev Sharma, father of Rohit Sharma, Additional Secretary, General Administration Department.

In his condolence message, the Chief Secretary, as per an official statement, said that he was deeply saddened to learn about the demise of Dr. Brahm

Dev Sharma, who left for his heavenly abode Saturday. He described the loss as irreparable and conveyed that the void created by his passing will be difficult to fill.

The Chief Secretary extended his heartfelt condolences to Sh. Rohit Sharma and the bereaved family members in this hour of grief. He prayed for strength and fortitude to the family to bear this immense loss with courage and patience.

He also prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul.

J&K Judicial Academy holds workshop on Court Management, Mediation, Dowry Offences

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28: Under the patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), Arun Palli and guidance of Chairperson and Members of Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy, the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy organized a one day Integrated Workshop (A-059/25) on "Court Management, Mediation and Dowry-Related Offences" for Judicial Officers of Jammu Province Saturday at its Jammu campus. The programme, as per an official statement, commenced with registration, followed by an introduction and welcome address by Naseer Ahmad Dar, Director, J&K Judicial Academy. He underscored the importance of judicial leadership, effective court administration and sensitivity while dealing with

socially complex offences.

The first session on Judicial Leadership & Court Management was delivered by Pawan Dev Kotwal, Former District & Sessions Judge, High Court of J&K. It focused on the role of a Judge as an institutional leader, court and case management principles, control of docket flow, time management techniques and best practices including the use of technology to enhance efficiency in the justice delivery system.

The second session on Role of Judges in Mediation & Drafting of Referral/Settlement Orders was conducted by M.S. Parihar, Former District & Sessions Judge, High Court of J&K. He elaborated on the statutory framework under Section 89 CPC and relevant rules, identification of cases fit for mediation, stage and manner of referral, components and ethics of mediation, drafting of effective referral and settlement orders and practical challenges faced in mediation proceedings.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
(R&B) DIVISION AWANTIPORA.

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
NIT No: 188/EEA/R&B of 2025-26/10585-95 Dated: 27-02-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest money (In Rupees)	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class of Contractor	Project Authority
1.	Construction of ADC office Tral Pulwama.	24.97	800/-	2% of Adv cost	45 days	UT-Capex Budget 2025-26	BEE, CEE	DDCP

Position of AAA: Committed. Accorded vide order No.32-DDCP of 2026 Dated: 25.02.2026

Position of funds: Committed.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	27-02-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	27-02-2026
3	Bid submission Start Date	28-02-2026
4	Bid Submission End Date	06-03-2026 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	07-03-2026 12:00 PM

. Every participating contractor to mandatorily disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payments shall be released by the Government Department/Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder. (As per circular No. 01(ADM) FD of 2025 Dated 08-07-2025 of J&K Finance Department) (The participating contractor may disclose his Bank Account as per the format, devised as Annexure- A of the NIT and submit/upload the same accordingly at the time of submission of the bid).

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No., Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender inviting authority)
- All the bidders must upload Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority) (The Date of earnest money/Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, otherwise bids shall be rejected).
- The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority) as per rule-171 (I) of GFR 2017. The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP/maintenance period.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Awantipora (tender receiving authority).
- The earnest money/ Bid security in favour of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of original Treasury Challan.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120-days from the date of opening of Technical bids
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "BiddersManualKit" option on website www.jktenders.gov.in to familiarize themselves with the bid submission process.

DIPK-11448/25
DATED: 28-02-2026

No: 188/EEA/R&B / 2025-26/10585-95
Dated: 27-02-2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Division Awantipora.

Sd/- Draftsman Sd/- Tech. Officer

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR SHEEP BREEDING FARM
POSHNAR HANDWARA
(e mail:- sbfposhnar-shdk@jk.gov.in)

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

The Sheep Breeding Farm Poshnar is conducting auction of 09 (Nine) animals (sheep) at its office campus "Sheep Breeding Farm Poshnar Handwara" on 07/03/2026 at 10:30 am. As such all the interested persons/stake holders are hereby informed through the medium of this notice to participate in the process of auction of the said animals at above mentioned place and date, on following Terms & Conditions which shall be binding on the bidders.

- The animals shall be disposed off strictly as per WHO/VPH protocol where ever required.
- The payment shall be accepted only through cash to be deposited on spot.
- No partial payment shall be accepted from the successful bidder.
- The committee shall have the final authority to accept or reject a bid without assigning any reason thereto.
- Other terms and conditions as required shall be discussed on spot.

Sd/=
Assistant Director
Sheep Breeding Farm Poshnar
Handwara

No: AD/SBF/P/Tech/2025-26/917
Date:- 27/02/2026

DIPK-11447/25
DATED: 28-02-2026

Kashmir logs hottest February day ever

SAJID RAINA

Srinagar, Feb 28: Kashmir recorded its highest-ever maximum temperatures for February, with all major weather stations across the Valley registering new records.

According to official data, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 15.6°C, surpassing the previous February record of 14.9°C set in 2016.

Qazigund recorded 15.2°C, exceeding its earlier record of 14.1°C from 2016.

In north Kashmir's Kupwara, the maximum temperature reached 14.8°C, crossing the previous high of 14.7°C recorded in 2016.

Kokernag in south Kashmir recorded 13.5°C, higher than its previous February record of 12.8°C set in 2016.

Pahalgam registered 12.1°C, surpassing its



earlier record of 11.6°C from 2016.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum temperature of 7.0°C, breaking its previous February record of 5.9°C set in 2006.

Kashmir Weather said the

rise in daytime temperatures was recorded across plains and hill stations, marking the highest February maximums in the available records for these locations.

February in Kashmir is generally associated with

winter conditions, but this year's data places the month among the warmest in terms of maximum temperatures recorded during the period, as per the figures shared by Kashmir Weather—(KNO)

LG Manoj Sinha presented with books



KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Feb 28: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday was presented with books

authored by Commodore Dalbir Singh Sodhi (Retd). The title of the books are "Kashmir Divine Connect and Sikh Rule" and "Woman of Substantial Character".

HPV vaccination campaign kick-starts across J&K

KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Feb 28: In a landmark step towards safeguarding the health of adolescent girls and preventing cervical cancer, the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Campaign was officially kick started in Jammu and Kashmir from Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar here on Saturday.

The campaign was started in J&K after the nationwide launch of the campaign by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi today from Ajmer, in which all States and Union Territories participated virtually.

Minister for Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, joined the nationwide launch of the campaign virtually from District Hospital Kulgam.

MLA Bahu, Vikram Randhawa; Commissioner Secretary Health & Medical Education, M. Raju; MD NHM, Akriti Sagar; Director Family Welfare MCH & Immunization, Dr. Poonam Sethi; Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar and other senior officers of the health department participated in the launch from Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. The participants described

the day as historic milestone in public health. The nationwide launch of the HPV Vaccination programme under the leadership of Prime Minister reflects the Government's unwavering commitment to protecting adolescent girls from cervical cancer and ensuring a healthier future for the nation.

The initiative aims to vaccinate eligible adolescent girls 14 to 15 years of age in campaign mode across J&K, marking a significant stride toward eliminating cervical cancer as a public health concern. Family Welfare MCH & Immunization department has made comprehensive arrangements for vaccine supply, cold chain management, training of vaccinators, and public awareness to ensure smooth implementation of the programme.

Notably, on the very first day of the campaign, around 850 eligible girls (14-15 years) were successfully vaccinated across the Union Territory, reflecting the strong response and coordinated efforts of the health and inter-sectoral departmental teams.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

'Israel-Iran strikes' Indian students in Iran urge evacuation

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

Srinagar, Feb 28: As tensions erupt in the Middle East, Indian students in Iran said they are facing an unprecedented situation following renewed military strikes by Israel on Iranian cities, including Tehran and Urmieh.

The Indians caught in the escalating tension recalled hearing explosions, seeing rising smoke and emergency measures in the capital, which have heightened fear and uncertainty among foreign nationals, especially Indian students pursuing medical and professional courses.

In a video message, Mehak Hussain, an MBBS student from Zadibal, Srinagar, described the tense situation.

"The embassy advised us to leave immediately, but our university did not allow us. There is panic everywhere. We request the Indian government to take urgent steps for evacuation," she said.

Mehak added, "We urgently request the Indian government and the embassy to take immediate action to evacuate all Indian students and citizens before the situation worsens."



Pertinently, when tensions erupted between Iran and Israel in June 2025, India had launched 'Operation Sindhu' to evacuate its citizens from conflict-affected areas, bringing back thousands of Indian nationals, many of them students, safely to India.

As fresh tensions emerged, the All India Medical Students Association (AIMSA) raised alarm over the escalating violence in Tehran, stressing the need for immediate evacuation and protection of Indian nationals.

"We urge External Affairs Minister

Dr.S. Jaishankar to take proactive measures to safeguard all Indian citizens in the region, ensure timely communication with students and families, and issue clear advisories," said Dr Mohamad Momin Khan, AIMSA National Representative and President J&K.

AIMSA further reaffirmed its commitment to the welfare of Indian students abroad and stressed that a swift and transparent government response is critical to protect students and reassure anxious families.

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir

Students Association (JKSA) also wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking urgent intervention to ensure the safety, academic protection and possible evacuation of Indian students in Iran. "The rapidly evolving security environment has created fear, uncertainty and grave risks for thousands of Indian students, many from Kashmir, pursuing MBBS and allied courses. Coordinated diplomatic engagement and structured contingency planning are now imperative," said Nasir Khuehami, National Convener of JKSA.

JKSA also highlighted the emotional toll on families in Kashmir and urged the government to coordinate with the Indian Embassy in Tehran, Iranian authorities and university administrations to provide safe transit corridors if needed.

It is important to mention that the Israel-Iran conflict, which escalated in June 2025, intensified again this week with Israeli airstrikes on Iranian nuclear and military sites. Iran reportedly responded with countermeasures, causing civilian alarm, communication disruptions and concerns among foreign nationals—(KNO)

Div Com reviews developmental works progress

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Feb 28: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Saturday undertook an extensive tour of Srinagar city to review the progress of ongoing developmental works at various locations.

He was accompanied by Commissioner SMC/CEO SSSL, General Manager SRTC, Deputy Director Planning (DDP), and other senior revenue officers.

During the visit, the Divisional Commissioner inspected the e-bus charging station at Zoonimar, Soura, and assessed the status of the ongoing works. He was informed that the facility is expected to be commissioned by March 15.

He directed the concerned officers to evaluate the operational impact of the charging station, particularly in terms of service efficiency, traffic decongestion, circulation management, and public convenience.

The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the construction of residential houses being developed for eight families



from Habakadal at a nearby site and stressed timely completion of the project.

While visiting the proposed site for an additional e-bus charging station at Hazratbal, he instructed the CEO, Srinagar Smart City, to prepare detailed site drawings and examine the feasibility of the project in consultation with the Vice Chairman, LCMA.

Taking note of the

deteriorating condition of the Habakadal Foot bridge, the Divisional Commissioner directed the CEO SSSL to consult local representatives and expedite necessary renovation measures.

He further inspected the proposed riverfront development project at Habakadal near the ghat, which aims to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the area and facilitate water transport infrastructure.

DC Srinagar flags off free HPV vaccination for adolescent girls

KT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, Feb 28: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Saturday launched Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for girls aged 14-15 Years as a part of nationwide campaign to prevent incidences of cervical cancer among young women here at UPHC Batmaloo.

Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tahir Sajad; District Health Officer, Dr Rubeeena; Zonal Medical Officer, Batmaloo, Dr Sameena; ZMO SR Gunj, Dr Shafiqat; Medical Superintendent Government Gousia Hospital, Dr Arshid, other senior health functionaries and other concerned were present on the occasion.

Speaking at the launch event, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of early vaccination in protecting adolescent girls against HPV infections, which are a leading cause of cervical cancer. He stated that cervical cancer remains one of the most preventable yet prevalent cancers affecting women, and that timely immunization can significantly reduce long-term health risks.

Emphasizing coordinated efforts, the DC urged parents, guardians, school authorities and healthcare workers to ensure maximum participation and coverage across the district. He directed health officials to meticulously follow the laid-down guidelines and adopt a systematic approach to identify and take awareness to all eligible girls in the target age group, ensuring effective and time-bound implementation of the campaign.

During the launch event, the DC was informed that about 13,700 HPV vaccine doses have been arranged for Srinagar district. They also apprised the DC of the arrangements regarding vaccine storage, logistics and cold chain management to ensure smooth implementation of the campaign.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Your mother is your university: SSP Nighat Aman to students

REHAN QAYOUM MIR

Srinagar, Feb 28: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Nighat Aman, on Saturday said the youth of Jammu and Kashmir are blindly copying others, while the greatest education a child receives comes not from classrooms, but from their mother.

Speaking at the District Level Youth Parliament held at Government Women's College, Srinagar, organised by MY Bharat, SSP Aman used the imagery of a mirror to drive her point home.

"Our mother is our university. She knows everything about us, from our walking, sitting, and playing. Without us even saying a word," she said. "When we get such an education from our parents, nothing



will be lacking. We will be bright in a bright future."

Nighatwarned students against imitation. "We should not copy anybody. Whatever we are, let us go with that," she said, adding that awareness is key to correcting a person's mindset and that such programmes must continue across the region.

"When we focus on the mirror, it tells us clearly what we

are. Remove the dull mirror and keep a clear mirror," she said.

The senior officer said clarity of vision is the single most important asset a young person can carry. "Their vision should be very clear. It will be properly calculated in their mind," she said, expressing confidence that the youth of J&K know where they need to stand—(KNO)

Police arrest 2 drug peddlers in Sopore

KNO

Srinagar, Feb 28: In its continued efforts to curb drug trafficking and eliminate the menace of narcotics from society, J&K Police arrested 02 drug peddlers in Sopore and recovered Psychotropic substance from their possession. According to a statement, a police party of Police Post Warpora, during Naka checking at Janwara Crossing intercepted a vehicle (EECO) bearing registration number JK05N-4224 with 02 persons onboard.

Upon search of the vehicle, psychotropic substances were recovered and seized as per due procedure. They have been identified as Mohammad Arif Chopan, son of Ghulam Mohiuddin Chopan, and Aatif Mushtaq Mir, son of Mushtaq Ahmad Mir, both residents of Janwara Sopore. Both accused were arrested and accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 41/2026 has been registered at Police Station Sopore and investigation has been initiated.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

Locals demand removal of unsafe structure at SDH Chadoora

NAVEED UL HAQ GANAIEE

Budgam, Feb 28: An abandoned and allegedly unsafe structure within the premises of Sub District Hospital (SDH) Chadoora has become a cause of concern for patients and attendants, with locals urging authorities to dismantle it for better utilisation of space.

Residents said that the building has remained unused for a long time, with no department currently operating from the structure. They said the building has already been declared unsafe by the concerned authorities, yet it continues to stand within the hospital premises.

According to locals, the building's presence not only creates inconvenience for patients and visitors but also poses potential safety risks. "The

structure is situated between the hospital premises and serves no purpose at present. It should either be dismantled or renovated for public use," said a local. Some residents suggested that if the structure is removed, the space could be utilised for parking facilities, which would greatly ease congestion within the hospital premises. Others proposed that a new and safer building could be constructed to expand medical facilities.

As per official records, SDH Chadoora operates round the clock, including 24x7 surgical services under the First Referral Unit (FRU). Nearly 1,500 patients reportedly visit the hospital every 24 hours, increasing the need for proper space management and infrastructure planning.

Continued on www.kashmirthunder.in

India's Trade Partnerships Powering Global Integration And Growth

Press Information Bureau

India's role and share in global trade are poised for a major leap in line with the country's ambition and journey towards Viksit Bharat. Over the past decades, India has significantly deepened its integration with global markets, supported by strong export performance, resilient services trade, and an expanding network of trade partnerships, reflecting growing competitiveness and adaptability to changing global demand dynamics.

The country has not only increased its share in global trade but has also diversified its trading partnerships. According to UNCTAD's Trade and Development Report 2025, India ranks third among Global South economies in terms of the diversity index of trade partnerships. With an index score higher than that of all countries in the Global North, India's trade ecosystem underscores resilience in the face of tariff uncertainties and emerging global challenges.

An expanding network of FTAs strengthens India's trade strategy by ensuring reliable market access. These agreements help reinforce the country's trajectory towards a stronger global trade presence by supporting export-oriented firms expand production and integrate more deeply into global value chains.

India's Trade Partnerships Enter a New Phase in 2026

Bilateral and multilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) constitute a key pillar of India's trade strategy, designed to expand trade and investment through enhanced market access, greater trade in services, reduction of non-tariff barriers, promotion of investment, and strengthened economic and technical cooperation. By leveraging trade complementarities, these agreements boost export potential, create new opportunities for industry and farmers, and generate employment across sectors.

India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA)
Hailed as the "Mother of All Deals," the conclusion of negotiations between India and the European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in January 2026, marks a significant milestone in one of India's most strategic economic partnerships. Structured as a modern, rules-based trade framework, the agreement aims to address contemporary global economic challenges while enabling deeper market integration between the two major economies.

Increased Market Access: The agreement provides preferential access across 97% of EU tariff lines, covering 99.5% of trade value, while preserving policy flexibility for sensitive sectors and supporting India's developmental priorities.

Immediate Duty Elimination: 70.4% of tariff lines, accounting for 90.7% of India's exports, will see immediate duty elimination, benefiting labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, leather and footwear, tea, coffee, spices, sports goods, toys, gems and jewellery, and selected marine products.

Phased Duty Elimination and Preferential Access: Zero duty over three to five years will apply to 20.3% of tariff lines covering 2.9% of exports, while 6.1% of tariff lines covering 6% of exports will receive preferential access through tariff reductions or tariff-rate quotas for products including processed foods, preserved vegetables, bakery items, cars, steel, and certain shrimp and prawn products.

Boost to Labour-intensive Industries: Labour-intensive industries such as textiles and apparel, marine products, leather and footwear, chemicals, plastics and rubber, sports goods, toys, gems, and jewellery, accounting for exports exceeding INR 2.87 lakh crore (USD 33 billion), will gain competitiveness, deeper integration into European value chains, and generate employment as duties move to zero.

Market Access in Services: The EU has extended commitments across 144 sub-sectors, including IT/ITeS, professional, education, and business services, providing Indian service providers a stable environment to expand exports and support innovation, productivity and business growth across both economies.

India Protects what Matters

Carefully calibrated liberalisation under trade agreements is designed to support and propel initiatives such as Make in India. Accordingly, highly sensitive agricultural products along with dairy, meat, poultry and cereals continue to be fully safeguarded.

Advancing Trade Cooperation with Other Key Partnerships

In the fiscal year 2025-26, India advanced its trade engagement by concluding FTAs with the United Kingdom (UK), Oman and New Zealand marking a significant expansion of India's economic partnerships across key global markets. Alongside these new agreements, India has, over the past few years, operationalised several major trade pacts that continue to support export growth and investment flows.

India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

India signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with Oman in December 2025, marking a significant step in strengthening economic engagement with the Gulf region. The agreement opens new export opportunities for India's labour-intensive sectors- such as agriculture, textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, engineering, pharmaceuticals, and automobiles- supporting job creation and empowering artisans, women-led enterprises, and MSMEs.

Market Access for Goods: CEPA provides unprecedented market access for Indian goods, granting zero-duty access on 98.08% of Oman's tariff lines, which together account for 99.38% of India's exports by value.

Global Recognition and Market Access for Traditional Medicine and AYUSH

The agreement also marks the first time any country has extended commitments on traditional medicine across all modes of supply, creating significant opportunities for India's wellness and AYUSH sectors through a structured institutional framework supporting traditional medicine.

Services and Mobility Commitments: Oman has, for the first time, offered commitments across key mode 4 categories, providing high-quality provisions for temporary entry and stay of intra-corporate transferees, contractual service suppliers, business visitors, and independent professionals.

India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

Concluded in 2025, the India-New Zealand FTA stands out as one of India's fastest-concluded trade agreements, significantly strengthening economic engagement between the two countries. The agreement enhances market access and tariff preferences for Indian exports to New Zealand while also positioning the partnership as a gateway to the wider Oceania and Pacific Island markets.

Increased Market Access for Farmers and MSMEs: Under the agreement, New Zealand has eliminated duties on 100% of tariff lines, granting zero-duty access for all Indian exports from the date of entry into force.

Through an Agricultural Productivity Partnership, the agreement aims to support farmers, improve productivity, and integrate them into global value chains.

Additionally, the agreement boosts MSMEs and employment by providing zero-duty access for labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, apparel, leather, footwear, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, and processed foods.

Investment and Workforce Opportunities: The FTA is also supported by an investment commitment of USD 20 billion over 15 years, strengthening long-term economic and strategic cooperation.

It also opens opportunities for India to emerge as a key provider of skilled workforce, alongside future cooperation in areas such as AYUSH and services including yoga instructors, Indian chefs, and music teachers, as well as priority sectors like IT, engineering, healthcare, education, and construction.

This cooperation is expected to create new opportunities for professionals and further strengthen economic ties between the two countries.

India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)

India and the United Kingdom signed the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) in 2025, marking a major milestone in their long-standing economic partnership. Bilateral trade between the two countries has already reached USD 56 billion, with both sides aiming to double this level by 2030. The agreement is also expected to significantly boost India's agriculture and processed food exports, which are projected to grow by over 50% in the next three years.

Market Access for Goods: CETA grants unprecedented duty-free access to nearly 99% of India's exports to the UK, covering nearly 100% of the trade value and benefiting key sectors such as textiles, leather, marine products, gems and jewellery, engineering goods, chemicals, and auto components.

Eased Mobility for Indian Professionals in the UK

In a first-of-its-kind arrangement with the UK, the agreement eases mobility for professionals in areas such as IT, healthcare, finance, and education, enabling smoother entry for contractual service suppliers, business visitors, intra-corporate transferees, and independent professionals.

Social Security Benefits: Another major achievement under the agreement is the Double Contribution Convention, which eliminates the need for dual social security contributions, resulting in estimated savings of over 4,000 crore for Indian companies and professionals working in the UK.

The agreement's comprehensive provisions are expected to significantly expand market access, boost exports and investment, and deepen economic cooperation between India and the UK in the years

ahead.

India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)

The India-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), signed in 2024 and effective from October 2025, marked the first FTA signed by India to incorporate commitments directly linked to investment flows and job creation.

Market Access for Goods: The EFTA countries have offered market access covering 92.2% of tariff lines, accounting for 99.6% of India's exports, including 100% coverage of non-agricultural products along with tariff concessions on processed agricultural products (PAP).

Services Cooperation: The agreement will also strengthen cooperation in services by opening new opportunities for Indian service providers in sectors such as IT, business services, education, cultural and recreational services, and audio-visual services.

Investment and Employment Commitments: A distinctive feature of the agreement is the investment commitment to increase foreign direct investment (FDI) into India by USD 50 billion within 10 years of the agreement's entry into force and an additional USD 50 billion in the subsequent five years, amounting to a total of USD 100 billion over 15 years.

These investments are expected to generate 1 million direct jobs in India. Importantly, this commitment excludes foreign portfolio investment (FPI), ensuring that flows are directed toward long-term productive investments that build domestic capacity.

Through expanded market access, strengthened services cooperation, and investment-led growth commitments, TEPA is expected to significantly deepen India's trade and investment ties with EFTA economies while creating new opportunities for exporters, businesses, and workers.

India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (India-UAE CEPA)

Signed in 2022, the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) marked India's first such accord in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, ushering in a new era of strategic economic cooperation between the two countries. The agreement was concluded with the potential to raise bilateral trade to USD 100 billion over five years while creating substantial employment and business opportunities in both economies.

Strong Trade Growth and Export Gains: The impact of the agreement is already visible in trade outcomes, with bilateral trade surpassing USD 100 billion in FY 2024-25, registering strong growth and reaffirming the UAE's position among India's key trading partners.

In terms of India's exports, non-oil exports reached USD 27.4 billion in FY 2023-24 recording an average growth of 25.6% since entering into force of CEPA.

At the sectoral level, electrical machinery and equipment, light & medium high technology goods like boilers, generators and reactors and organic & in-organic chemicals have been major achievers.

Smartphones have also emerged as a major item of export with shipments valued USD 2.57 billion bound for the UAE during FY 2023-24.

The CEPA has strengthened economic partnership and diplomacy between the two countries by empowering MSMEs, supporting job creation, and creating new business opportunities. Both nations are committed to further enhance their economic partnership and leveraging the agreement to unlock greater trade and investment potential.

India-Australia Economic Cooperation & Trade Agreement (Ind-Aus ECTA)

The India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) signed in April 2022, marked India's first trade agreement with a developed economy in over a decade, signalling a renewed momentum in expanding partnerships with advanced markets. A key milestone was the signing of a Mutual Recognition Arrangement on organic products, which facilitates smoother trade and reduces compliance costs for exporters.

Market Access and Tariff Liberalisation: The agreement covers almost all tariff lines traded between the two countries, granting India preferential market access across 100% of Australian tariff lines. Also, India has extended preferential access to Australia across more than 70% of its tariff lines, particularly benefiting India's imports of raw materials and intermediate goods such as coal and mineral ores.

Services Market Access: In services trade, Australia has offered commitments across around 135 sub-sectors and granted Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment in 120 sub-sectors, covering key areas of interest to India such as IT, IT-enabled services, business services, health, education, and audio-visual services.

Extended Benefits for Indian Exports: From January 2026, Indian exports enjoy zero-duty access across 100% Australian tariff lines, opening new opportunities, especially for labour-intensive sectors.

Trade and Export Performance Gains: Over the past three years, the agreement has delivered sustained export growth, improved market access, and stronger supply-chain resilience, benefiting Indian exporters, MSMEs, farmers, and workers.

India's exports to Australia grew by 8% in FY 2024-25, helping improve the bilateral trade balance, with strong gains across sectors such as manufacturing, chemicals, textiles, plastics, pharmaceuticals, petroleum products, and gems and jewellery.

Agricultural exports also recorded broad-based growth, with notable increases in fruits and vegetables, marine products, spices, and particularly strong growth in coffee exports.

Gems and jewellery exports continued their upward momentum, rising 16% during April-November 2025.

As negotiations progress towards a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement, the ECTA continues to anchor India-Australia economic engagement across the Indo-Pacific, strengthening trusted trade and shared prosperity.

Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement with Mauritius
India and Mauritius signed the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) in 2021, marking India's first trade agreement with a country in Africa. The agreement establishes an institutional mechanism to strengthen bilateral trade and investment ties.

It provides preferential market access for over 300 Indian export products, including food and beverages, agricultural products, textile and textile articles, base metals and articles, electricals and electronic items, plastics and chemicals, and wood products. The agreement also opens significant opportunities in services, granting Indian service providers access to around 115 subsectors from the 11 broad service sectors such as professional services, computer related services, research & development, telecommunication, construction, education, financial, tourism & travel related, yoga, audio-visual services, transport services, etc. further deepening economic cooperation between the two countries.

Domestic Enablers that Strengthen Export Competitiveness

Enhancement in export competitiveness increasingly depend on effective implementation in providing infrastructure, regulatory clarity, and administrative support needed for export-oriented businesses to grow.

Digital and Policy Support for Exporters:

To enable the exporters to leverage the benefits of FTAs and preferential trade agreements, the tariff explorer service on the Trade Connect ePlatform provides information on tariff concessions available to eligible exports from the country. Furthermore, the Export Promotion Mission (EPM) establishes a comprehensive, flexible, and digitally driven framework for enhancing export initiatives.

Financial and Credit Support Measures:

The government has also implemented the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters to provide additional financial assistance to Indian exporters during periods of uncertainty, thereby ensuring liquidity, promoting business continuity, and creating opportunities to expand into new markets.

REI Measures Supporting Exporters: The EPM's effectiveness is further reinforced by complementary steps announced by the Reserve Bank of India.

These measures include a moratorium or deferment on payment of instalments for eligible borrowers, extension of export credit tenor up to 450 days for pre- and post-shipment credit disbursed till 31 March 2026, and flexibility for regulated entities to maintain liquidity by reducing margins or reassessing working capital limits.

Under the Foreign Exchange Management (Export of Goods and Services) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2025, the period for realisation and repatriation of export proceeds has been extended from nine months to 15 months, and the shipment period against advance payments has been increased from one year to three years.

Support under Union Budget 2026-27: The Union Budget 2026-27 outlines a range of measures aimed at further enhancing India's trade competitiveness.

These include the removal of the existing value cap of 10 lakh per consignment on courier exports to facilitate smoother export operations.

Duty-free imports of specified inputs have also been extended to cover leather or synthetic footwear and inputs used in processing seafood products for export.

The time limit for export of final products has been extended from six months to one year for exporters of leather or textile garments and leather and synthetic footwear,

Key Takeaways

- India ranks 3rd among Global South economies in trade partnership diversity (UNCTAD Trade and Development Report 2025)
- "Mother of All Deals" India-EU FTA concluded in January 2026
- In FY 2025-26, India concluded FTAs with the United Kingdom (UK), Oman and New Zealand
- India concluded 1st round of Israel FTA and formally launched trade negotiations with GCC in February 2026
- India is expanding its trade negotiations agenda with ASEAN, Mexico and Canada

providing greater operational flexibility.

In addition, export cargo using electronic sealing will now be allowed clearance directly from factory premises to the ship, helping reduce logistics time and costs.

Together, these regulatory and fiscal measures provide an integrated framework of support to exporters, maintaining liquidity, protecting credit discipline and aligning with the EPM's goal of an enhanced export ecosystem.

India's Expanding Negotiation Agenda

Besides these concluded agreements, several major economies are currently engaged in active negotiations with India to deepen trade and investment ties through FTAs and comprehensive economic partnerships:

In February 2026, India reached a framework understanding with the United States for an Interim Agreement aimed at promoting reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade. The framework reaffirms the countries' commitment to the broader US-India Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) negotiations, which will include additional market access commitments and support more resilient supply chains.

India and Israel signed the Terms of Reference for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in November 2025. Subsequently, the first round of FTA negotiations were concluded in February 2026, establishing a structured framework for discussions on identified areas to enhance trade and economic cooperation. The proposed agreement is expected to deepen cooperation in sectors such as fintech, agri-tech, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, machine learning, pharmaceuticals, space, and defence.

Discussions for the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITGA) is also underway, which holds potential to unleash the full economic potential of the member countries and further strengthen regional cooperation.

India and Mexico meetings have been centered on strengthening bilateral trade and investment relations, with discussions focused on expanding trade, investment, expanding economic cooperation, fostering business collaborations, and exploring opportunities across diverse sectors.

With Canada, India continues discussions on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, supported by agreed terms of reference. The proposed agreement aims to raise bilateral trade to around \$50 billion by 2030 through tariff reductions and clearer frameworks for services and investment.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the India-GCC Free Trade Agreement (FTA) were signed in February 2026, followed by the signing of a Joint Statement formally launching negotiations for a comprehensive and mutually beneficial agreement. The FTA will enable seamless flow of goods, and services and attract investments while expanding job opportunities and fostering food and energy security for the region, elevating deep economic ties.

The expanding network of concluded agreements and ongoing negotiations reflects a broader shift in India's international economic engagement. Together, these partnerships position India to play a central role in shaping contemporary trade architectures anchored in mutual growth, resilience, and strategic trust.

Conclusion

India's trade partnerships in 2026 signal a decisive shift toward deeper global economic integration, supported by a broad network of modern and outcome-oriented trade agreements. Landmark agreement with the European Union, alongside other strengthened partnerships, are expanding market access, boosting exports, attracting investment, and creating new employment opportunities across sectors. Complemented by domestic policy, financial, and regulatory measures to strengthen exporter competitiveness, India's trade ecosystem is becoming more resilient and globally integrated.

Together, these efforts position India as a trusted and dynamic partner in global trade, driving sustainable growth and shared prosperity in the years ahead.

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Sakeena Itoo virtually participates in nationwide launch of HPV vaccination campaign

Depts asked to intensify information, education, communication activities regarding campaign across J&K



KT News Desk

KULGAM, FEBRUARY 28: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo Saturday virtually participated in the launch of nationwide Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination campaign for 14-year-old girls.

The campaign, as per an official statement, was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday from Ajmer, Rajasthan, marking a historic milestone in

India's fight against cervical cancer.

Speaking on the sidelines of virtual launch ceremony at Kulgam, Minister Sakeena highlighted that this campaign is a significant step towards strengthening preventive healthcare services and safeguarding the health of young girls. "Cervical cancer remains one of the leading causes of cancer-related morbidity among women and this campaign can drastically reduce the incidence of the disease", she stated.

The Minister also said that the department has been asked to intensify Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities regarding the campaign across Jammu and Kashmir to encourage informed participation of young girls.

The Minister also reaffirmed the commitment of the Government to prioritize women's health and strengthen preventive healthcare systems, aligning with the broader vision of accessible and affordable healthcare for all.

Deputy Chief Minister greets J&K cricket team on historic Ranji Trophy championship win



KT News Desk

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28: The Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, Saturday extended warm greetings to Team Jammu and Kashmir on their historic triumph in the 2025-26 Ranji Trophy Championship, defeating Karnataka cricket team in the final at Hubballi.

Termining the victory a remarkable achievement, the Deputy Chief Minister, as per an official statement, said it is a moment of immense pride not only for the players of the Jammu and Kashmir team but also for their families and the entire people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said that the prestigious title has been clinched through sheer hard work, discipline, and dedication displayed by the players, team management, coaching staff, and all those associated with the team's success.

"It is great honour for all of us to win this championship, that too against an eight-time champion, Karnataka," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister reiterated that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir remains committed to creating adequate sports infrastructure and providing necessary platforms to the youth to excel in their chosen fields.

Satish Sharma felicitates J&K team on maiden Ranji Trophy win

KT News Desk

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28: Minister for FCS&CA, IT, Transport, Youth Services and Sports and Science and Technology, Satish Sharma, Saturday extended warm congratulations to the Jammu and Kashmir cricket team for achieving the rare and remarkable victory as champions of the prestigious Ranji Trophy.

In his felicitation message, Satish Sharma, as per an official statement, hailed the victory as a landmark moment in J&K's sports history, crediting the team's unyielding spirit, skill and perseverance. "This triumph showcases their unwavering dedication and pursuit of excellence," he said.

The Minister lauded the entire team, coaching staff and support personnel for their outstanding commitment and teamwork,



noting that their collective efforts have brought immense pride and joy to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He remarked that winning the Ranji Trophy, one of India's most prestigious and competitive domestic cricket tournaments, is a monumental accomplishment that will be remembered for generations.

Highlighting the broader significance of the achievement, the Minister said the triumph marks a major milestone in the development of sports in Jammu and Kashmir and underscores the immense talent

and potential that exists among the region's youth. He expressed confidence that this historic success will inspire a new generation of aspiring cricketers and sportspersons to pursue excellence with renewed passion and dedication.

The Minister further reaffirmed the government's continued commitment towards strengthening sports infrastructure, expanding training opportunities and promoting grassroots development across the Union Territory to ensure that young athletes receive the support and encouragement they need to excel at national and international level.

He expressed hope that the team will continue its winning momentum in future competitions and serve as proud ambassadors of Jammu and Kashmir, bringing further laurels to the region.

Rs 666 Cr worth claims receives approval under PMJAY-SEHAT

CS favours robust claim scrutiny for swift disbursals

KT News Desk

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Saturday chaired the 11th Governing Council Meeting of the State Health Agency (SHA) to review the progress and performance registered under PMJAY-Sehat under the current Policy Stage which commenced on April 17, 2025.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Commissioner Secretary, H&ME; Secretary, IT; Secretary, RDD; Secretary, L&E; DG, Codes; CEO, SHA; Principal, GMC Jammu and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for putting in place a robust and fool-proof mechanism to weed out fake or fraudulent claims received by the State Health Agency. He stressed that safeguarding the integrity of the scheme is paramount to ensuring that the benefits reach genuine beneficiaries.

The Chief Secretary further underscored the importance of instituting an effective third-party monitoring mechanism to strengthen oversight and accountability. He observed that such independent scrutiny would play a vital role in ensuring that



only genuine claims under PMJAY-SEHAT are processed and disbursed by the agency in a timely and transparent manner.

While highlighting the performance of SHA the CEO, Ananth Dwivedi informed that the scheme has registered substantial utilisation across public and private healthcare institutions, reflecting enhanced access to cashless treatment for beneficiaries across Jammu and Kashmir.

As per the details presented during the meeting, it was revealed that from April 17, 2025 to February 25, 2026, a total of 3,52,563 pre-authorizations have been approved under this policy term. Of these, 2,43,967 approvals were accorded to public hospitals and 1,08,596 approvals to private hospitals, demonstrating significant participation from both sectors.

In financial terms, the total amount of pre-authorizations

approved during the period stands at 666.34 Cr, with 444.75 Cr accounted for by public institutions and 221.59 Cr by private hospitals.

The Governing Council was further apprised that 3,23,468 claims have been submitted so far, including 2,21,642 claims from public hospitals and 1,01,826 claims from private hospitals. The total value of claims submitted amounts to 604.46 crore, with public sector claims accounting for 395.36 Cr and private sector claims for 209.10 Cr.

In terms of claim settlement, 1,16,667 claims have been paid to date including 85,570 claims in the public sector and 31,097 claims in the private sector thereby translating into a total disbursement of 183.09 Cr. Of this, 123.86 Cr has been released to public hospitals and 59.23 Cr to private healthcare providers.

The meeting was also informed

that 28,631 claims have been rejected after due scrutiny, comprising 27,110 claims from public institutions and 1,521 claims from private hospitals. The total amount associated with rejected claims stands at 55.58 crore, including 52.19 crore in the public sector and 3.39 crore in the private sector.

It was highlighted that the total pre-authorization amount of 666.34 crore has been achieved over a period of 315 days (April 17, 2025 to February 16, 2026). On a pro-rata basis, the projected pre-authorization outgo for the full 365-day policy period is estimated to reach approximately 772 crore, indicating sustained demand and growing trust in the scheme.

The Governing Council underscored the importance of timely claim processing, strengthened monitoring mechanisms, and enhanced coordination between public and private healthcare institutions to ensure seamless delivery of benefits to eligible beneficiaries.

The performance under the current policy period reflects the continued commitment of the State Health Agency towards providing financial risk protection and expanding quality healthcare access across Jammu and Kashmir.

PM Vishwakarma: Awareness programmes held in multiple districts

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 28: The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, through the Branch MSME Development and Facilitation Office, Srinagar, in association with the District Administration, as per an official statement, organised one-day Awareness Programmes under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme across the districts of Kulgam, Budgam, Srinagar, and Shopian for beneficiaries who had successfully completed third-stage verification.

Officials from the District Administration, including Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian; Dr. Zahid Rashid Khan, Functional Manager, DIC Shopian; General Manager, DIC Budgam; Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Budgam; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Budgam; Principal, IIT Kulgam; IPO Kulgam; and other officials from the district administrations, underscored the significance of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme in empowering traditional artisans and crafts people by enhancing their skills, providing financial assistance, and facilitating



market linkages.

Mohammed Tariq Ishtiaq, IEDS, Assistant Director, Br. MSME DFO Srinagar, provided insights into the objectives of the PM Vishwakarma Awareness Programme. He stated that the Ministry is committed to ensuring that the scheme's benefits reach every corner of the region and emphasized the capacity building of artisans through enhanced skills, modern tools, and improved market access. He highlighted that the scheme enables traditional artisans to transform their inherited skills into sustainable enterprises and stressed the importance of digital empowerment and onboarding onto e-commerce platforms to enhance competitiveness.

An E-Commerce and Digital Marketing session was delivered by faculty members from Islamic University of Science

and Technology (IUST). The session focused on online marketing strategies, effective use of social media for brand promotion, adoption of digital payment systems such as UPI, and onboarding onto various e-commerce platforms. The experts provided practical guidance to help participants expand their market reach, enhance customer outreach, and adopt technology-driven approaches for sustainable business growth.

Financial Literacy sessions were conducted by the respective Cluster Heads of the districts from Jammu & Kashmir Bank. They provided guidance on basic banking services, credit support available under the scheme, and responsible borrowing practices. They also emphasized the importance of secure digital transactions such as UPI and mobile banking, along with maintaining financial discipline and ensuring timely repayment for sustainable business growth.

All four events collectively witnessed the participation of more than 300 Vishwakarma artisans and concluded with interactive discussions and an assurance of continued hand-holding support to all registered beneficiaries under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme.

J&K targets 100% business reform compliance in next 3 months

CS directs for holding stakeholder conference for smooth rollout

KT News Desk

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28: JAMMU, FEBRUARY 28, 2026: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo Saturday stressed the need for holding a comprehensive stakeholders' conference to ensure smooth, time-bound and effective implementation of reform-oriented deregulations introduced under the 'Reduction of Compliance Burden' initiative aimed at strengthening Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) across Jammu & Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary, as per an official statement, was chairing a high-level review meeting to assess the progress achieved under Phase-II of the Ease of Doing Business reforms and subsequently reviewed the District Business Reforms Action Plan (D-BRAP) in a separate session. These reforms are being implemented under the guidance of the Government of India's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

The meeting, coordinated by the Industries & Commerce Department, was attended by the Administrative Secretaries and senior officers including

ACS, Power Development Department; ACS, Agriculture Production Department and Tourism; ACS, Finance; Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretaries of FCS&CA, Forests, Housing & Urban Development, Industries & Commerce and Law; Secretary, Labour & Employment; Secretary, Transport; Director, Industries, Jammu; and other concerned officers.

Taking a comprehensive department-wise review of services and reform parameters mandated under EoDB-II and D-BRAP, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of bringing all public and private stakeholders on board.

He directed the Industries & Commerce Department to convene a stakeholders' conference at the earliest to sensitize entrepreneurs, industry representatives, district officials and service providers about their roles and responsibilities under the revised framework.

He observed that significant progress has been made in notifying designated services under the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA), with clearly defined timelines for delivery. He stressed that all such services



had been made available strictly through online mode, as envisaged under the D-BRAP framework, ensuring transparency, accountability and reduced physical interface.

The Chief Secretary further advised the department to draw upon the successful model of Mission YUVA, where a Single Business Development Unit (SBDU) is already operational. He suggested upgrading this mechanism into a more robust institutional support system to create a conducive ecosystem for innovation, entrepreneurship and investment across the Union Territory.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to reform-driven governance, the Chief Secretary

directed all departments to ensure complete implementation of the prescribed reforms within the next three months without fail. He emphasized that the pace of reform must not slacken and that tangible results must be achieved under all circumstances.

Calling for seamless coordination from the grassroots to the highest administrative level, he stressed that the reforms must translate into real benefits for businesses and citizens by simplifying procedures, minimizing compliance requirements and enhancing service delivery standards.

Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, presented the overall framework of D-BRAP

and informed the meeting that 46 services have been identified by DPIIT for mandatory digitization.

He further added that these services have already been notified under the PSGA, are being delivered through online platforms and are being monitored through a real-time dashboard by the concerned authorities in accordance with the scheme's requirements.

Director, Industries, Jammu, Arun Manhas, apprised the meeting of the department-wise categorization of services and outlined the specific responsibilities of departments and district administrations for their effective implementation. He presented the current online

status of each service along with their PSGA notification status.

It was informed that a real-time monitoring dashboard, developed in compliance with DPIIT guidelines, showcases key components of both e-services and inspection modules, enabling effective oversight and performance tracking.

The meeting was also informed that DPIIT has launched D-BRAP 2025 comprising 154 reform points to be implemented by all States and Union Territories. All concerned departments in J&K have been tasked with developing new or modifying existing services to ensure 100 per cent compliance by March 31, 2026.

The D-BRAP framework encompasses a broad spectrum of citizen-centric and business-related services. These include land demarcation and boundary verification, change in land use permissions, property registration and mutation, digitization of land records, approvals and registrations for setting up play schools and private educational institutions, and issuance of Mandi licenses (APMC).

The reforms also mandate online issuance of licenses and

permissions for establishment of health clinics and diagnostic centres, goods and passenger transport permits, new electricity connections, building plan approvals, demolition and reconstruction permissions, certificates of vending for street vendors, parking licenses, No Objection Certificates for hotels, restaurants and entertainment establishments, water supply connections, and shop and establishment registrations, among others.

In addition, the action plan seeks to strengthen District Industries Centres and promote development of industrial parks to attract sector-specific investments. The overarching objective is to create an enabling, investor-friendly ecosystem at the district level, fostering sustainable economic growth and employment generation across Jammu & Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary reiterated that these reforms are aimed at transforming governance through digitization, transparency and time-bound service delivery, thereby positioning Jammu & Kashmir as a competitive and investment-ready destination for all times to come.

DC Baramulla holds introductory media interaction



KT News Desk

Baramulla, Feb 28: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, S. F. Hamid, on Saturday held an introductory interaction meeting with media persons from across the district here at the DC Office meeting hall.

Speaking during the meeting, the DC emphasized that the media and the administration must work hand in hand in the larger interest of society, with a shared objective of ensuring responsive and people-centric governance.

The DC underscored that the media fraternity shall act

as partner in the developmental journey of the district and suggested media fraternity to actively disseminate information regarding various government welfare schemes and flagship programmes so that the benefits reach the intended beneficiaries.

Speaking during the interaction, the speakers appreciated the DC for initiating a direct dialogue with the media at the outset of his tenure and assured full cooperation to the district administration in highlighting issues faced by the public, promoting transparency and the overall betterment of society.

All US, Israeli bases in Middle East 'legitimate targets': Iran envoy in Delhi

PTI

New Delhi, Feb 28: Iran has declared all US and Israeli bases and assets in the Middle East as "legitimate targets" in the event of military aggression against it, Iran's Ambassador to India Mohammad Fathali said on Saturday.

Fathali invoked Iran's right to self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter and affirmed that, as a sovereign state, Iran would take all necessary measures to protect its territorial integrity, independence and the safety of its people.

"If we are attacked militarily, all bases and assets of the United States and the Zionist regime in the region will be considered legitimate targets," the ambassador said at the Iranian Culture Centre in New Delhi.

He stressed that Iran's armed forces were fully prepared for defence, just as they had been for dialogue. "We exhausted every avenue to prevent war. Now, we will defend our

homeland," he declared.

The envoy underlined that the aggression took place despite ongoing diplomatic efforts between Iran and the US on the nuclear issue.

"Despite deep reservations stemming from past experiences, including the recent 12-day war, Iran persisted with negotiations to demonstrate our commitment to peace and to remove any pretext for conflict," he stated.

"However, today's coordinated action by the United States and the Zionist regime once again confirms their unreliability. It reveals their real aim: continued pressure, threats and direct military aggression to pursue illegitimate interests," the envoy added.

The Iranian ambassador urged the neighbouring Gulf nations "to understand the current situation" and work for the stability of the region.

"We respect our neighbours and we seek stability in our region. We expect these

countries to understand the current situation and to help prevent further escalation by putting pressure on the aggressors," he emphasised.

The ambassador urged the United Nations and the Security Council to fulfil their responsibilities. "This serious violation of international law and the UN Charter cannot remain unaddressed. The international community must act against an action that endangers peace in the region and beyond," he said.

Iran has been retaliating against Israeli military targets and US-affiliated sites in the region, including bases in Gulf countries such as the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Jordan.

As a joint military strike by the US and Israel on Iran triggered fears of a wider conflict in the Middle East, India on Saturday urged all parties to exercise maximum restraint and avoid escalation, emphasising that sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states must be respected.

Railways allow trans-shipment at specific stations, locations for faster delivery of parcels



KT News Desk

Jammu, Feb 28: In a major step towards enhancing parcel logistics, Indian Railways has announced a new policy to improve efficiency, transparency, and customer service.

According to guidelines issued by the Railway Board, trans-shipment — the transfer of goods from one train to another — will now be permitted at select stations for dedicated parcel trains and leased parcel vans (VPS/SLRs). This change aims to reduce transit times and ensure faster delivery of parcels to merchants and customers.

Previously, trans-shipment of parcels between trains was not allowed, leading to delays that impacted merchants and reduced parcel revenue. To address this, Railways has revised its provisions to enable trans-shipment only at notified stations, preventing operational disruptions.

The move is expected to simplify parcel dispatching for

small businesses and the general public, making it easier to send goods across the country. The primary goal of this initiative is to promote ease of doing business by lowering logistics costs through reduced delivery times and seamless transportation, especially benefiting perishables and time-sensitive consignments.

This policy also enables trans-shipment at smaller stations, making rail transport a more economical alternative to road transport. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Mr. Uchit Singh, stated, "The Railways' primary goal is to reduce transit time for parcel logistics. Previously, delays occurred due to lack of direct connectivity. Now, with trans-shipment permitted at specific stations, we can connect various routes more effectively. This will enhance operational efficiency and help small traders and e-commerce companies ensure safe and quick delivery of their goods."

EAM Jaishankar speaks to foreign ministers of Iran & Israel

PTI

New Delhi, Feb 28: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday held separate phone conversations with Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi and his Israeli counterpart Gideon Sa'ar as the Middle East reeled under massive tension following a joint US-Israel military offensive against Iran.

Jaishankar conveyed to

Araghchi India's deep concern over the developments in Iran and the region.

"Had a telecon with Iranian FM Seyed Abbas Araghchi this evening. Shared India's deep concern at the recent developments in Iran and the region," Jaishankar said on social media.

On his conversation with Sa'ar, Jaishankar said he reiterated "India's call for dialogue and diplomacy to de-escalate

tensions".

Following the attack by the US and Israel, Iran launched retaliatory military strikes targeting Israeli and American military bases across the region, including in Qatar, the UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain and Jordan.

Earlier in the day, US President Donald Trump, announcing the military offensive against Tehran, called on the people of Iran to "take over" the government, saying it will

"probably be your only chance for generations".

The US-Israel joint strikes on Iran came after weeks of negotiations between Washington and Tehran on the Iranian nuclear programme did not produce any tangible outcome.

At least 57 people were killed at a girls' school in southern Iran in the US-Israel strikes, Iranian state media reported.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said India is

deeply concerned about the recent developments in Iran and the Gulf region.

"We urge all sides to exercise restraint, avoid escalation, and prioritise the safety of civilians," the MEA said.

"Dialogue and diplomacy should be pursued to de-escalate tensions and address underlying issues. Sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states must be respected," it said in a statement.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K lift maiden

with an unbeaten century (101). Their unbeaten stand extinguished any hopes of a Karnataka comeback.

Though the match ended in a draw, J&K's overwhelming first-innings lead secured them the title, as per tournament rules.

The historic occasion was witnessed by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who was present at the venue and applauded the team's remarkable achievement.

J&K's path to glory was anything but easy. After a modest start, including a defeat against Mumbai cricket team, the team bounced back with resilience. A dominant win over Rajasthan reignited their campaign, while consistent performances in the league stage ensured qualification to the knockouts.

They outclassed Madhya Pradesh cricket team in the quarterfinal and overcame a strong Bengal cricket team side in the semifinal, showcasing steady growth and belief.

A major architect behind this transformation has been coach Ajay Sharma, whose experience and guidance reshaped the team's approach to red-ball cricket. From an aggressive, inconsistent unit, J&K evolved into a disciplined and formidable side.

Captain Paras Dogra described the victory as the biggest moment of his career, crediting team unity and lessons learned from last season's narrow heartbreak. "Every run mattered this season, and we made sure not to repeat past mistakes," he said.

Player of the Series Auqib Nabi Dar termed the triumph "unbelievable," highlighting years of struggle and hard work. He emphasized the importance of process over results and dedicated the win to the people of J&K.

Player of the Match Shubham Pundir called the achievement "surreal," stating that the team's focus was always on batting long and building partnerships rather than chasing numbers.

Karnataka captain Devdutt Padikkal sportingly acknowledged J&K's superiority, praising their consistency and admitting his side fell short under pressure.

This historic win is being widely regarded as a turning point for cricket in Jammu & Kashmir. From underdogs to champions, the team's journey has inspired a new generation of cricketers across the region. (KNO)

Politicians, former

celebrations across the Union Territory, marking a defining chapter in J&K's sporting journey.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), ICC Chairperson JayShah wrote on X: "Congratulations to the Jammu & Kashmir team in India for scripting a remarkable story of grit and perseverance. While the players are fully deserving of the adulation they receive, one must also remember the contribution of the coaching staff, management and administrators from J&K who have toiled behind the scenes to fashion this landmark achievement. I am sure that this win will ignite belief in the hearts of the current generation from the region and drive the next one to pick up a bat or ball. Our sport is rich with such stories of inspiration from around the world and I hope this one also receives its fair share of

admiration."

"Heartiest Congratulations to J&K Cricket Team for winning its maiden Ranji Trophy at Hubli today...it is a classic instance of how well the game of cricket is spread across India despite challenging conditions. Relentless efforts of BCCI & its former Secretary & present ICC Chair Mr @JayShah's vision laid the roadmap, through a 3- members Sub-Committee in place since June, '21 till date to manage cricket activities, has made the glorious success possible... Indian Cricket continues to flourish!" Devajit LON Saikia secretary BCCI said in a post on X.

Legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar described the journey as "beautiful," highlighting the team's consistency and resilience, and singling out Auqib Nabi's standout performance.

"The Kashmir willows have been a part of many champions' kits. To see Jammu & Kashmir's journey from being an enabler of champions, to becoming champions themselves, is beautiful.

The season was built on consistency, resilience, and season-long excellence. Auqib Nabi's impact with the ball stood out in a demanding campaign. A historic moment for the team, coaches, and support staff. Journeys like these define the beauty of domestic cricket," said Tendulkar on X.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh and several other leaders also extended their congratulations, calling the victory a proud moment for the entire nation. "You made it boys! You've made history!

Heartiest congratulations to the #JammuAndKashmir cricket team for this remarkable Ranji Trophy victory. You have not only made everyone proud but also vindicated the trust reposed in you by your selectors and vindicated also the departure from the past considerations that determined the earlier selections," he said in a post on X.

Jammu and Kashmir Police in its congratulatory message said, "J&K cricket team has made everyone proud."

The Awami Itihaad Party (AIP), through its Chief Spokesperson Inam Un Nabi, termed the achievement a "defining moment" for J&K's youth. The party noted that the victory reflects the resilience and talent of young cricketers and called for further investment in sports infrastructure and grassroots development.

The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCC&I) also hailed the triumph as a moment of immense pride. The Chamber stressed that the success demonstrates the importance of merit-based selection and professional governance in sports.

KCC&I urged authorities to upgrade key sporting venues such as Sher-i-Kashmir Stadium, Polo Ground, Bakshi Stadium, and other district-level facilities, emphasizing the need for world-class infrastructure to nurture emerging talent.

Former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti described the triumph as a "rare moment of joy" and a powerful symbol of unity, noting that the team's diverse composition reflects the strength of collective effort.

"Today's stupendous success of the Jammu & Kashmir in the Ranji Trophy has given the people a rare moment of joy after a long time. This victory is also a powerful reply to those

forces that seek to divide our society on religious lines. The triumph was made possible by the united effort of a team made up of both Hindu and Muslim players proving once again that unity is our greatest strength. Together we rise, together we succeed, and today's win is a reminder to the world that the spirit of J&K can never be broken." Mehbooba said in a post on X.

Other political leaders, including Sajad Lone and Altaf Bukhari, also congratulated the team, calling the victory a long-awaited achievement and a source of pride for every citizen of Jammu & Kashmir.

"Jammu and Kashmir finally are the champions of cricket in the country. Congratulations to the team. Congratulations to the team management. And congratulations to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. What a long wait it has been." Said PC president Sajad Lone on X.

"Heartfelt greetings to Team J&K for winning their first-ever Ranji Trophy title. This remarkable triumph marks a historic milestone not only for the team but for the entire people of the Union Territory. This is truly a moment of celebration and pride, representing a historic achievement. I congratulate each and every member of the team, as well as everyone who played a role in this tremendous victory. May this historic accomplishment be the beginning of many more successes in the years to come." Said Altaf Bukhari, President Apni Party on X.

Heartiest Congratulations to our Jammu & Kashmir team on winning the Ranji Trophy Final. Our team has made the entire Jammu Kashmir proud with their hard work and determination. This historic victory belongs to every citizen of J&K. Proud moment for all of us!" said LOP Sunil Sharma in a post on X.

Having made their debut in India's premier domestic competition nearly seven decades ago, Jammu & Kashmir had come close to glory in previous seasons but never crossed the final hurdle—until now.

This historic win not only places J&K firmly on India's cricketing map but also serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for thousands of aspiring sportspersons across the region.

Hakeem Yaseen President of the People's Democratic Front (PDF) congratulated the Jammu and Kashmir cricket team for scripting history by lifting the Ranji Trophy title for the first time in the Union Territory's history.

In a statement issued here, Hakeem Yaseen termed the victory as a "landmark moment" for Jammu and Kashmir's sporting fraternity and said the triumph would inspire generations of young cricketers across the region.

Former J&K Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad in his congratulatory message wrote on X: "A triumph of talent, grit and discipline that makes the entire nation proud. May this be the first of many such achievements." (KNO)

Historic triumph reflects
according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), wrote on X: "Congratulations to the Jammu and Kashmir team for their first ever Ranji Trophy win! This historic triumph reflects remarkable grit, discipline and passion of the team. It is a proud moment for the people of Jammu and Kashmir and it highlights the growing sporting passion and talent there. May

this feat inspire many young athletes to dream big and play more."

Pertinently, J&K scripted history by defeating eight-time champions Karnataka in a dominant Ranji final. (KNO)

Defining moment

winning their maiden Ranji Trophy title, describing it as a defining moment in the Union Territory's sporting history.

Praising the players and coaching staff for their exceptional performance and dedication throughout the tournament, he said the victory marked J&K's "finest hour."

In a post on X, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) wrote, "J&K's finest hour has arrived. Emotions surge beyond words as I watch our cricket team claim the Ranji Trophy. To every fierce player who carved history through sheer grit, thank you from the entire UT beaming with pride. You have immortalised history—embrace it with honour."

He added that the sporting revolution in the UT had gained momentum in recent years and urged the youth to draw inspiration from the landmark achievement.

Pertinently, Jammu and Kashmir made their debut in India's premier domestic competition 67 years ago. Despite reaching the quarterfinals in previous seasons, the elusive championship had remained out of reach — until now. (KNO)

Peace, prosperity

first time ever.
In a post on X, Shah, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "On Jammu and Kashmir winning the Ranji Trophy for the first time ever, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to every youth of the region and especially to Team J&K that scripted this history. It is a moment that fills every citizen with immense pride and mirrors the reality that the new changes that have swept Jammu and Kashmir are the new identity of its youth.

The mantras of peace, progress, and prosperity are the driving force of the New Jammu and Kashmir." (KNO)

CM Omar announces

and support staff of Jammu and Kashmir cricket team for lifting maiden Ranji Trophy title. Describing the triumph as a defining chapter for J&K cricket, the Chief Minister, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said the victory has ignited celebrations across the region and inspired a new generation of young sportspersons.

He declared that members of the title-winning squad would be eligible for government appointments under the newly notified policy for outstanding athletes.

Facing eight-time champions Karnataka on their home ground, J&K showcased grit and composure to secure the trophy on the strength of a commanding 291-run first-innings lead. The team tightened its grip on the contest by piling up 342/4 in the second innings, stretching the overall advantage to 633 runs by the end of the fifth and final day at the KSCA Rajnagar Stadium in Hubballi.

Opener Qamran Iqbal led from the front with an unbeaten 160 — his second century in

first-class cricket — while Sahil Lotra struck a fluent maiden hundred (101 not out), ensuring J&K remained firmly in control.

With the ball, Auqib Nabi once again proved decisive.

The pacer claimed a five-wicket haul for the seventh time this season, underlining his consistency and impact throughout the campaign.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who was present at the stadium to witness the historic occasion, met the players after the match and congratulated them personally.

He applauded Qamran Iqbal and Sahil Lotra for their remarkable innings and commended Auqib Nabi for his match-winning spells, noting that his disciplined bowling was instrumental in steering the team to the title.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq and Members of JKCA accompanied the Chief Minister.

Pertinently, Jammu and Kashmir made their debut in India's premier domestic competition 67 years ago. Despite reaching the quarterfinals in previous seasons, the elusive championship had remained out of reach — until now. (KNO)

Youth solution to

Jammu & Kashmir has undergone a historic transformation over the past few years.

Driven by substantial financial assistance under the Prime Minister's Development Programme (PMDD), the Union Territory has built a world-class foundation for sports excellence, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, during his recent visit to Jammu Kashmir, has assured Rs. 200 crore assistance for sports development in UT, with support of BCCI, FIFA and other sports organizations.

The Lieutenant Governor spoke to players on training with ferocious discipline and competing with unbreakable unity, on and off the ground.

He emphasised that the true societal wealth and strength reside not in bricks and mortar, but in fresh ideas.

"The energy of our youth is like a river. When guided with purpose, it becomes a source of life and progress.

I am confident in the journey of nation-building, our youth will not stop, not bow, and they will not tire," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that vital sporting events like Sikh Cricket Premier League must cultivate youth who view sports not as pastime, but as forge for life's enduring values.

"When youth align with purposeful missions, they grasp that grand transformations demand grand visions. Entrepreneurship and sports harbor that very alchemy," he said.

Ajit Singh, Chairman, All J&K Sikh Coordination Committee; heads of various Sikh organisations, prominent citizens, players, coaches and youth in large number attended the inaugural ceremony.

Vikram Randhawa, Member of Legislative Assembly from Bahu; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Shakti Pathak, Director Anti-Corruption Bureau and other senior officials were also present. (KNO)

INC has become Muslim League-Maoist Cong, tries to defame country anywhere it can: PM

PTI

Jaipur, Feb 28: Attacking the Congress over its youth wing's "shirtless protest" at the AI summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the opposition party has become "Muslim League-Maoist Congress", which does not let go of any opportunity to malign the country.

The Muslim League's hatred towards India was the reason for the Partition and today, the Congress is acting in the same manner, Modi said at a rally at Kayad Vishram Sthal in Rajasthan's Ajmer.

He was in Ajmer to lay the foundation stones of and inaugurate various development works worth over Rs 16,600 crore.

When the world praises India, it fills Indians with pride. The Congress, however, attempts to insult the nation on global platforms, the prime minister said.

"When the world speaks well of India, every Indian feels proud. But the Congress tried to create drama and defame the country before foreign dignitaries," he said, referring to the "shirtless protest" by the Indian Youth Congress (IYC) at the recently concluded India AI Impact Summit in Delhi.

During the summit, IYC workers entered the venue on February 20 wearing or holding white T-shirts with images of Modi and US President Donald Trump printed on them, along with slogans such as "India-US Trade Deal", "Epstein Files" and "PM is compromised". The protesters also scuffled with security personnel and police staff deployed at the venue.



Several people, including IYC president Uday Bhanu Chib, were arrested in connection with the protest. Chib has been granted bail in the case.

"The Congress has been continuously losing (elections) across the country, and due to its anger, it is taking revenge by tarnishing India's image," Modi said.

There was a time when INC stood for the Indian National Congress, he said.

"The Indian National Congress no longer exists in that form. Today, it has become MMC -- Muslim League-Maoist Congress," he said.

History bears witness to the Muslim League's hatred towards India. It was the reason behind India's partition. Today, the Congress is doing the same, he said.

"Maosists, too, resent India's prosperity, our Constitution, and our successful democracy. They carry out ambush attacks. Similarly, the Congress sneaks in anywhere it can to malign the nation. The country will never forgive such actions of the Congress," he added.

The prime minister further

said that defaming the country and weakening the armed forces has been an old habit of the Congress.

"The Congress had left our soldiers longing for weapons and uniforms. This is the same Congress that deprived the families of our soldiers of One Rank, One Pension for years, and during whose tenure major scams took place in defence deals with foreign countries," he said.

In the past 11 years, Modi said, India's armed forces have delivered strong blows to terrorists and the enemies of the nation on every front.

"Our Army has been victorious in every mission and every battlefield. From surgical strikes to Operation Sindoor, they have proven their bravery. But even in these matters, Congress leaders chose to promote the lies of the enemies," he said.

"The Congress opposes everything that is good for the country and benefits the people of India. This is why the nation is teaching the Congress a lesson today," he said. During the Congress' tenure, news of corruption

and paper leaks were common in Rajasthan and farmers were deceived, Modi said.

The BJP's "double-engine" government in Rajasthan has completed two years and is taking the state on a new path of growth.

"Now paper leaks have been curbed and strict action is being taken against the culprits," he said.

In Ajmer, the PM inaugurated development projects worth over Rs 16,680 crore and launched a nationwide campaign for human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for girls aged 14.

Modi said the projects will accelerate Rajasthan's growth.

He said before 2014, many women faced hardship and humiliation while girls dropped out of school because of lack of toilets and poor women could not afford sanitary pads.

"For us, the dignity and health of our sisters and daughters is a serious matter," he said, adding that the BJP government addressed these problems in mission mode.

Modi said the government is also focusing on modern connectivity in Rajasthan and the expansion of infrastructure is increasing investment opportunities.

Referring to the development taking place around the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, he said efforts are being made to turn Rajasthan into a land of opportunities.

Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagade, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, senior BJP leader Vasudhara Rajee, among others, attended the programme.

To understand RSS, one must experience it from within: Bhagwat

PTI

Kurukshetra, Feb 28: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat on Saturday said culture, values, morality and righteous conduct formed the core foundation of the Sangh, and to understand it, one must experience it from within.

Addressing a gathering of educationists, retired administrative officers and judges at the auditorium of the Kurukshetra University, Bhagwat also said that a harmonious blend of moral values, disciplined conduct, cultural grounding and committed effort was essential to build a healthy and strong society.

The event was organised as part of the centenary celebrations of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

In his speech, Bhagwat highlighted the importance of "Kutumb Prabodhan" (family awakening), stressing that families must nurture a culture of meaningful dialogue, according to a press statement issued by the RSS.

"Homes should foster heart-to-heart communication where children learn the difference between right and wrong," Bhagwat said.

He added that sermons alone were insufficient, as only a nurturing and value-oriented atmosphere can prevent individuals from going astray.

While many stand together in times of prosperity, it is during adversity that the strength of family and societal values is tested, he said. "If someone fails



or falls into bad company, it is the responsibility of the family and society to guide and support them. Creating a value-based environment is the need of the hour, as it shapes responsible and sensitive individuals of strong character," Bhagwat said.

Speaking about the RSS, Bhagwat said the Sangh cannot be understood merely through external observations or prevailing narratives.

"To understand the Sangh, one must experience it from within," he said, claiming that its style of functioning was unique.

Eminent personalities from across the world visit the Sangh to understand its organisational framework, and often seek guidance to replicate similar youth-oriented structures in their own countries, Bhagwat said.

"Our volunteers are active in diverse fields, from arts and sports to social and public life, yet character-building remains

the organisation's core mission," Bhagwat said.

He also stressed that the RSS did not emerge out of competition or reaction, but commitment to national reconstruction.

Bhagwat also paid a special tribute to RSS founder K B Hedgewar, calling him a born patriot whose early life reflected great national pride and commitment.

"Hedgewar believed that political freedom alone was insufficient without social organisation and character development. After years of experiments, he evolved a unique working methodology that led to the establishment of the RSS (in 1925)," Bhagwat said.

To mark the occasion, an exhibition was organised depicting the 100-year journey of the RSS, along with displays by affiliated organisations and 'Swadeshi' product stalls.

Indian Embassy in Israel advises citizens to immediately register with it to ensure swift assistance

PTI

Jerusalem, Feb 28: To ensure the safety of Indian nationals residing in Israel, the Indian Embassy in Tel Aviv on Saturday advised all its citizens to register with it immediately to facilitate swift assistance after the country launched a joint attack with the US against Iran.

More than 40,000 Indian nationals currently live and work in Israel.

"Indian nationals residing in Israel who have not yet registered with the Embassy are requested to kindly do so using the link below: https://indembassyisrael.gov.in/indian_nationa," said a post by the mission on its official X handle.

"Registration will enable the Embassy to contact you promptly and provide necessary updates and assistance during the developing situation," it said.

Earlier on Saturday, the embassy advised its nationals in Israel to "exercise utmost caution,

remain vigilant" and "avoid all unnecessary travel" in view of the prevailing situation.

In its advisory, India said, "In view of the prevailing security situation in the region, all Indian nationals in Israel are advised to exercise utmost caution and remain vigilant at all times."

"Indian nationals are strongly advised to strictly adhere to the safety guidelines and instructions issued by the Israeli authorities and the Home Front Command," the post on X said.

"All Indian nationals should remain in close proximity to designated shelters and familiarise themselves with the nearest protected spaces in their area of residence or work," it said.

"Indian nationals are advised to avoid all non-essential and unnecessary travel within Israel until further notice. Citizens are encouraged to monitor local news, official announcements, and emergency alerts regularly," it added.

AI a huge opportunity and serious risk for climate: UNEP official

PTI

New Delhi, Feb 28: Artificial Intelligence (AI) offers significant potential to help the climate crisis, but its high energy and water requirements could worsen environmental challenges if not managed properly, a senior official of the United Nations (UN) said.

In an interview with PTI Videos, Martin Krause, Director of the Climate Change Division at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), said from a climate perspective, AI presents both a huge opportunity and a serious risk. Citing examples of AI as part of the climate solution, the official highlighted AI-driven early weather warning systems, renewable grid integration, and satellite-based alert systems to track emission sources promptly, while also voicing concerns over the significant water and energy demands of the data centres.

"AI is already helping to predict early weather warnings, such as floods and storms, with



much greater accuracy, and if deployed at scale, it could protect hundreds of millions of people," Krause, who attended the recently concluded AI Impact Summit in Delhi, told PTI.

"Secondly, integrating renewable energy into the national grid, as is currently happening in India, requires recalibrating and balancing the grid, and AI is already helping to achieve this," he said. The India AI Impact Summit, held from February 16-20 in New Delhi, focused on AI's transformative potential across governance, innovation, and sustainable development.

High proportion of law graduates opting for corporate jobs is worrisome: CJI

PTI

Ahmedabad, Feb 28: Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant on Saturday said if a high proportion of law graduates are opting for jobs in corporate firms instead of practising in courts, then the situation is worrisome.

Addressing law graduates at the 16th convocation of the Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) in Ahmedabad, he also advised the students that the classroom cannot teach what practical experience can.

"As (GNLU) Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr S Shanthakumar pointed out, if 93 per cent of you have been hijacked outside the gates of this university by corporate entities, then it increases my worry. Because I presume, as a very selfish head of the Indian judiciary, that the national law schools will produce more and more members of the bar and the bench," the CJI said.

He advised newly-graduated law students about their career as a lawyer, and explained the difference between studying law and actually practising it in a real courtroom.

"From experience, I remember the early months of practice with clarity that decades have not dulled. There is a particular disorientation in discovering that the law you studied so carefully bears only a partial



resemblance to the actual profession," CJI Surya Kant said.

"The textbooks gave you doctrines. Your seniors now give you deadlines. In moot courts, you are cocooned by your mentor, but in real courtrooms, you argue within constraints you do not choose and may not even agree with. This is not a failure of education. It is simply the friction between learning the map, and navigating the territory," he added.

The classroom cannot teach what years of practical experience can. Initial years of practice also teach you things no classroom ever could. You learn to read the mood of a bench before you have spoken even a word. You figure out how to sit with an anxious client and say something useful before you have the answers, he said. You discover

how to disagree with a senior without damaging a relationship you will need the very next week, and how to lose a case and still leave your client with the impression that the system, not indifference, hurts them. No curriculum details any of this, and only you can discover where within all of it you truly belong, he added.

CJI noted that the discipline of knowing the "game" is important.

Drawing an analogy from the recent T20 World Cup, he emphasized, "Some of you might be cricket followers, and if you have been catching the T20 World Cup between hearings, you may have noticed something relevant here. The teams that succeed are not built on the assumption that every player must excel at everything."

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Movies Schedule
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O' Romeo
SAJJID NADIAADIPWALA
VISHAL BHASKARWALA

HINDI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES - 11:45 PM, 06:00 PM

Viyaah Kartaare Da

VIIAAH KARTAARE DA (U/A 13+)
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US, Israel launch strikes on Iran, Tehran hits back across region

AFP

Tehran, Feb 28: The United States and Israel launched strikes against Iran on Saturday, with Israel's public broadcaster reporting that supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei had been targeted, as the Islamic republic retaliated with barrages of missiles at Gulf states and Israel.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards, the ideological arm of the Islamic republic, said they had targeted the US Fifth Fleet in Bahrain, other American interests in the Gulf and Israel.

Iran's regionwide missile salvo could be heard in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE, as well as Israel and Iraq, in the hours following the first strikes, after it had repeatedly vowed to retaliate fiercely should it be attacked.

A strike on a school in Iran killed 24 people, an Iranian provincial official said, while in Israel the army deployed search and rescue teams to multiple locations following reports of fallen projectiles.

In the UAE, the defense ministry said Iranian strikes had killed one civilian, and witnesses in Dubai heard an explosion and saw missiles streak across the sky.

Smoke was rising over Tehran's Pasteur district, site of the home of Khamenei, and there was a huge security deployment in the capital.

"Iranian Supreme Leader Khamenei and President Masoud Pezeshkian were



among the targets of the attack," Israel's Kan reported, citing an Israeli source.

Iranian state television said Pezeshkian was "safe and sound," while the Fars news agency said "missile impacts were reported in the Keshvardoost and Pasteur districts" of Tehran. Witnesses said correspondents they had heard at least three blasts in the area. AFP journalists also saw long lines of people queuing at bakeries at various locations in Tehran.

The attacks came after US President Donald Trump expressed frustration at

Iran's stance in negotiations over its nuclear and missile programs.

Trump said Washington's goal was "eliminating imminent threats" from Iran, and Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the operation was to remove an "existential threat."

"The United States' military began major combat operations in Iran," Trump said in a video message posted on his social media site while he spent the weekend at his Florida golf club.

Totally 'obliterated' "We are going to destroy

their missiles and raze their missile industry to the ground. It will be totally, again, obliterated. We're going to annihilate their navy," Trump said, warning of possible US casualties.

He offered Iranian forces including the Revolutionary Guards "immunity" should they surrender, or "certain death" if not, and told Iranians the "hour of your freedom is at hand," urging them to rise up and "take over your government."

Israel's Netanyahu echoed this call, telling Iranians that the time had come to "cast off the yoke of tyranny."

Global airlines suspend Middle East flights

REUTERS

Dubai, Feb 28: Global airlines suspended flights across the Middle East on Saturday after the United States and Israel launched strikes on Iran, plunging the region into a renewed military confrontation.

Flight maps showed the airspace over Iran virtually empty as Israel said it struck Iran and the U.S. military initiated a series of strikes against targets in the country. Iran retaliated with a salvo of missiles. The escalation dimmed hopes for a diplomatic solution to Tehran's nuclear dispute with the West and reignited conflict after weeks of U.S. military buildup

in the region. It marks the latest upheaval for air travel in the usually busy region amid escalating tensions in the Middle East. With Russian and Ukrainian airspace closed to most airlines due to years of war, the Middle East has become a more important route for flights between Europe and Asia. Conflict zones are an increasing operational burden on airlines as aerial attacks raise worries about accidental or deliberate shoot-downs of commercial air traffic. Longer flight times also require more fuel, adding to their costs.

Israel, Iran, Iraq and Jordan closed their airspace following the attacks and a map of the region on FlightRadar24 showed

airplanes avoiding these areas. LUFTHANSA, WIZZ AIR SUSPEND FLIGHTS

A number of Qatar Airways flights departed on Saturday morning, circled over Kuwait or Saudi Arabia before returning to Qatari airspace and were circling off Doha, according to FlightRadar24. The Russian Ministry of Transport said on Saturday that Russian air carriers had suspended flights to Iran and Israel. Germany's Lufthansa said it was suspending flights to and from Dubai on Saturday and Sunday and halting temporarily the Tel Aviv, Beirut and Oman routes until March 7. Air France cancelled flights to and from Tel Aviv and Beirut.

India calls for immediate de-escalation

Urges respect for sovereignty

PTI

New Delhi, Feb 28: As a joint attack by the US and Israel on Iran triggered a massive military confrontation in the Middle-East, India on Saturday urged all sides to exercise restraint and avoid escalation, asserting that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries must be respected.

In its first reaction to the fast-evolving situation in the region, New Delhi said it is "deeply concerned" over the developments in Iran and the Gulf region.

Following the attack by the United States and Israel, Iran launched retaliatory military strikes targeting several American military bases in the

Middle-East, including in Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"We urge all sides to exercise restraint, avoid escalation, and prioritise the safety of civilians," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

"Dialogue and diplomacy should be pursued to de-escalate tensions and address underlying issues. Sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states must be respected," it said.

The MEA said its missions in the Middle-East are in touch with Indian nationals and have issued appropriate advisories, asking them to remain vigilant and follow local security guidance.

Auqib Nabi: The 'Baramulla Express' who powered J&K to historic Ranji Trophy title

PTI

Srinagar, Feb 28: From the dusty playfields of Sheeri village in Baramulla to the pinnacle of domestic cricket, Auqib Nabi's journey is a testament to unyielding resolve.

Refusing to let circumstances dictate his future, the pacer, now known as the 'Baramulla Express', honed his skills through relentless dedication and rose through the ranks to deliver the ultimate glory to his native state Jammu and Kashmir.

To say that the 29-year-old has played a vital role in Jammu and Kashmir's maiden Ranji Trophy title triumph would be an understatement.

"He has been part of one dream, there is one more to go -- the dream to play for the country," Nabi's father, Ghulam Nabi Dar, told PTI over phone after the landmark triumph was achieved



in faraway Hubballi, against eight-time champions Karnataka on Saturday.

Jammu and Kashmir won the title on the basis of their massive first-innings lead of 291 runs in the summit showdown.

Nabi emerged as the stand-out performer of the domestic season with 60 wickets, earning widespread praise from legends like Sourav Ganguly, who backed him for a national call-up. His wickets came at a miserly average of less than

12 runs per wicket.

Nabi's father said while luck played its role, his son worked hard to achieve his goals.

"The only thing he did not do was to give up. He studied at a local school in Sheeri and would spend a lot of time playing in dusty uneven playfield here," Dar, a school teacher, said.

Nabi moved to nearby Baramulla town for high school which provided him a foundation to work on his basic skills.

Pakistan knocked out of T20 World Cup despite win against Sri Lanka

■ New Zealand enter semifinals



PTI

Pallekele (Sri Lanka): Pakistan were on Saturday knocked out of the T20 World Cup despite winning against Sri Lanka by five runs in their Super Eights match here, with New Zealand sneaking into the semifinals on the basis of better net run rate.

Invited to bat, Pakistan made a formidable 212 for 8 with Sahibzada Farhan (100) hitting a stunning century and his opening partner Fakhar Zaman scoring 84.

Pakistan needed to restrict Sri Lanka to 147 or less to surpass New Zealand's net run rate and reach the semifinals from Group 2 of the Super Eights.

But they failed to do so as co-hosts Sri Lanka, who were already out of reckoning for a semi-final spot, ended at 207 for 6.

Pakistan and New Zealand ended on three

points each in the Super Eights stage but the Kiwis qualified for the semifinals as the second-placed team from the group on the basis of better NRR.

England have already qualified for the semifinals after winning all their three Super Eights matches.

Captain Dasun Shanaka top-scored with 76 not out off just 31 balls while Pavan Rathnayake contributed 58.

For Pakistan, Abrar Ahmed was the most successful bowler with three wickets for 23 runs.

Brief Scores: Pakistan: 212 for 8 in 20 overs (Sahibzada Farhan 100, Fakhar Zaman 84; Dilshan Madushanka 3/33, Dasun Shanaka 2/42).

Sri Lanka: 207 for 6 in 20 overs (Dasun Shanaka 76 not out, Pavan Rathnayake 58; Abrar Ahmed 3/23).

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

رَمَضَانَ الْمُبَارَكِ

1447 H / 2026 CE

وقت افطار	اعتقاص سحری	رمضان المبارک	تاریخ	وقت افطار	اعتقاص سحری	رمضان المبارک	تاریخ
06:34 PM	05:31 AM	16	06	06:21 PM	05:49 AM	1	19
06:34 PM	05:30 AM	17	07	06:22 PM	05:48 AM	2	20
06:35 PM	05:28 AM	18	08	06:23 PM	05:47 AM	3	21
06:36 PM	05:27 AM	19	09	06:24 PM	05:46 AM	4	22
06:37 PM	05:26 AM	20	10	06:24 PM	05:45 AM	5	23
06:38 PM	05:25 AM	21	11	06:25 PM	05:44 AM	6	24
06:38 PM	05:24 AM	22	12	06:26 PM	05:42 AM	7	25
06:39 PM	05:23 AM	23	13	06:27 PM	05:41 AM	8	26
06:40 PM	05:20 AM	24	14	06:28 PM	05:40 AM	9	27
06:41 PM	05:19 AM	25	15	06:29 PM	05:39 AM	10	28
06:42 PM	05:18 AM	26	16	06:30 PM	05:38 AM	11	01 MAR
06:42 PM	05:16 AM	27	17	06:31 PM	05:37 AM	12	02
06:43 PM	05:15 AM	28	18	06:32 PM	05:36 AM	13	03
06:44 PM	05:14 AM	29	19	06:33 PM	05:34 AM	14	04
06:45 PM	05:12 AM	30	20	06:33 PM	05:33 AM	15	05

DUA FOR SEHRI

وَبَصُومٍ غَدَ نُؤَيِّتُ مِنْ شَهْرِ رَمَضَانَ
I intend to keep the fast for tomorrow in the month of Ramadan

DUA FOR IFTAAR

اللَّهُمَّ إِنِّي لَكَ صُمْتُ وَبِكَ آمَنْتُ [وَعَلَيْكَ تَوَكَّلْتُ] وَعَلَى رِزْقِكَ أَفْطَرْتُ
O Allah! I fasted for You and I believe in You and I put my trust in You and I break my fast with Your sustenance

Kashmir Thunder
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