

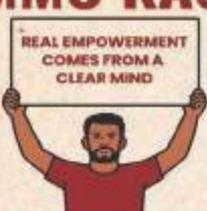
NASHA MUKT JAMMU KASHMIR ABHIYAAN



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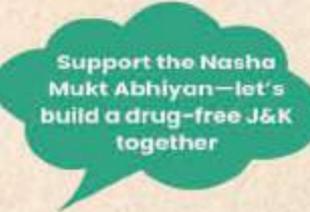


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Dated: 03-03-2026
DIPK-11540/25

LG Sinha chairs back-to-back security review meetings in Kashmir

Calls for heightened alert to maintain peace | Reviews law & order with security officials | Appeals to citizens, leaders to uphold harmony

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Mar 03: A day after Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued a nationwide security alert to all States and Union Territories, warning of possible violence and sporadic protests in the wake of recent US and Israeli attacks on Iran, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday called on security top brass to maintain tight vigil.

Chairing back-to-back high-level security review meetings here, LG Sinha, according to news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), asked the officers to remain on heightened alert and take all necessary

measures to ensure public peace and tranquillity.

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

LG Sinha held in-depth deliberations on the prevailing security scenario with top Army officers and Director General of Police at Lok Bhavan, Srinagar this morning. "The LG discussed the emerging situation with the top brass," he added.



The meeting was attended by General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GoC-in-C), Northern Command Lieutenant General Pratik

Sharma; DGP Nalin Prabhat; GoC 15 Corps Lieutenant General Prashant Srivastava and MGGS, Northern Command Major General

Balbir Singh. Pertinently, Kashmir has witnessed processions and rallies after the killing of Iran's Supreme leader Ayatollah

Ali Khamenei, in the joint strikes. For the past three days Kashmir has remained under "precautionary restrictions."

LG REVIEWS LAW AND ORDER

An official said that later in the day LG Sinha chaired another meeting at Police Control Room, Kashmir to review the law-and-order situation. The meeting was attended by senior police and civil administration officials, including Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat, Special DG (Coordination) SJM Gillani, ADGP Armed, Anand Jain; ADGP CID Nitish Kumar, IGP Kashmir VK Birdi, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir,

Anshul Garg, DIG, CKR, Rajiv Pandey, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, and other senior officials.

After chairing the meeting the Lieutenant Governor shared on X: "Chaired a meeting of senior police & civil administration officials at the Police Control Room, Kashmir, to review the law & order situation. Directed the officers to remain on heightened alert and take all necessary measures to ensure public peace and tranquillity. I also appeal to the citizens and community leaders to uphold harmony and contribute to an atmosphere of calm and goodwill in society. | More on P6

Precautionary restrictions to remain in force today

Decision on increasing 2G to high-speed internet after review

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Mar 03: Precautionary restrictions imposed in Kashmir on Monday will continue tomorrow, while the decision on increasing mobile internet services from 2G to high speed will be taken after review.

A top official told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that the situation is under review but the curbs would remain in force on Wednesday to maintain law and order.

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

Another official said the situation was | More on P6

Northern Army Commander reviews 'evolving' security situation in Kashmir

Engages with formation commanders, representatives of sister agencies



Yogesh

Srinagar, Mar 03: Army's Northern Commander Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma reviewed evolving security situation in Kashmir on Tuesday.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir

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

Lieutenant General Sharma | More on P6

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

- ◆ Condemns Khamenei's killing, attack on Iran
- ◆ Says miscreants trying to foment trouble
- ◆ Asks stranded J&K residents to follow embassy advisory

Yogesh

Jammu, Mar 03: Condemning the killing of Iran Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and attack on Iran, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday appealed to the mourners to maintain calm and not to take law into their hands.

Talking to reporters here, CM Omar, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "I understand the emotions and anger, but it is important to exercise restraint. I do not



want the police or central forces to misuse force, nor do I want anyone to be injured or lose their life."

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

Referring to restrictions imposed at mourning gatherings at Lal Chowk, the Chief Minister said, "If there is permission for celebration, there should also be permission for mourning. However there are reports about miscreants trying to foment trouble. There were reports of violence, including an alleged attempt to assault a police DySP. My earnest appeal to all is maintain

calm and not to allow the situation to deteriorate."

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

Condemning the attack on Iran, the Chief Minister said no international law permits the use of external force to bomb a country or impose regime change. "If such actions are justified, it sets a dangerous precedent for the world," he said. "Just as people in India, the US or Israel choose their leaders, the people of Iran have the right to decide their own | More on P6

LG, CM greet people on Holi

KT News Desk

Srinagar, Mar 03: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday extended heartiest greetings to the people on the eve of Holi which will be celebrated tomorrow on March 04.

In his message, the Lieutenant Governor said: "On the festive occasion of Holi, I convey my warm greetings to the people. I hope that the festival of colours, which is celebrated with traditional fervour, heralds happiness and success for all. May this festival of colours, bring joy and prosperity in the society and foster the spirit of harmony amongst our citizens."

In his felicitation message, CM Abdullah described Holi as a vibrant celebration that symbolises togetherness, joy and the triumph of harmony over discord. He expressed hope that the "Festival of Colors" would further strengthen communal harmony, promote mutual respect and deepen the enduring bonds of brotherhood across the region.

The Chief Minister prayed for sustained | More on P6

National Governance Conference

Viksit Bharat will remain a slogan unless every region develops: CM Omar

Calls for district-led reforms, tech-driven governance, inter-state sharing of best practices

Yogesh

Jammu, Mar 03: Asserting that the vision of a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047 can only be realised if development reaches every corner of the country, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that inclusive and equitable growth across all states and Union Territories is the cornerstone of a truly developed India.

Addressing the day-long National Conference on "Holistic Development



of Districts: Transforming Governance for Viksit Bharat" in Jammu, Abdullah said that

progress confined to a handful of states or regions would leave the national dream unfulfilled.

"The truth is that Viksit Bharat or a developed India will only be a | More on P6

World Hearing Day: Experts flag rising hearing loss in J&K, 0.2% population affected

Link condition to ageing, noise exposure; call for early screening, awareness

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Mar 03: Health experts in Jammu and Kashmir have raised concerns over the growing burden of hearing impairment, revealing that nearly 0.2 per cent of the population in the Union Territory is affected by hearing disabilities.

Medical professionals attribute this largely to ageing and chronic exposure to loud noise, cautioning that hearing loss is often gradual but largely

preventable with timely care and awareness.

Dr Neelofar Jan, an ENT specialist, speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that hearing loss is broadly classified into three types—conductive, sensorineural, and mixed.

She explained that conductive hearing loss occurs due to problems in transmitting sound waves through the outer or middle ear. "This can result from | More on P6

Dry conditions to prevail in J&K till March 6: IMD

Cloudy skies with isolated rain, snow forecast after March 7

Sajid Raina

Srinagar Mar 03: The India Meteorological Department on Tuesday said weather in Jammu and Kashmir will remain largely dry till March 6, with chances of light rain and snow at isolated places thereafter.

According to the Meteorological Centre in Srinagar, the region is expected to witness partly cloudy weather from March 3 to 6, with a brief spell of light snow over isolated higher reaches | More on P6

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

Stresses strengthening infrastructure, fast-tracking recruitment to address staff shortages within Depts

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 03: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Tuesday called for a comprehensive study and exploration of emerging job opportunities at the local, national and international level to enhance employment prospects for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

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

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Secretary, SDD, Rajiv Ranjan; Director, SDD, Owais Ahmad; MD, Skill Development Mission, Leena Padha; Principals, Superintendents of Polytechnics and ITIs,



besides other senior officers while officers from the Kashmir region participated virtually.

Taking a comprehensive review of the department's

functioning, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the officers to conduct area-wise assessments of job markets and undertake detailed studies of employment trends at the national and international levels. He emphasized introducing latest, innovative and job-oriented trades across ITIs and Polytechnics to meet the local industry needs and tap employment avenues in European and Middle Eastern

markets. He also called for roping in reputed job consultancies and strengthening placement cells to facilitate employment-driven training programmes.

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

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

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, MARCH 03: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Transport, IT, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, on Tuesday extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Holi.

In his message, the minister said that Holi, the vibrant festival of colours, symbolises the victory of truth over falsehood and good over evil. He noted that the festival, celebrated with great enthusiasm

across the country, reinforces the spirit of unity, love, compassion and brotherhood among communities and strengthens the bonds of togetherness in society.

Satish Sharma, as per an official statement, highlighted that Jammu and Kashmir has always been a shining example of communal harmony and composite culture, where festivals of all faiths are celebrated with mutual respect and shared joy. He said that Holi offers an opportunity to renew relationships, forgive past differences and move forward with a spirit of positivity and cooperation.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER

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NOTICE

Dated: 02.03.2026

Whereas, vide Notification No. PSC/Exam/2025/03 dated 20.05.2025, application forms for appearing in Secretariat Assistant Course, Foundation Course & J&K Secretariat Training Course Departmental Examination were invited from eligible candidates. In response 4155 (SAC- 80, FC- 250 & SATC 3825) application forms were received and;

Whereas, on scrutiny of the application forms, it has been found that out of 4155 candidates, 354 (SAC- 39, FC- 76 & SATC 239) candidates have not submitted Hard Copies of their Application Forms/MPA Certificate/Eligibility from Competent Authority/Domicile/Resident Certificate. Accordingly, vide Notice dated 28.01.2026, 354 (SAC- 39, FC- 76 & SATC 239) candidates were advised to submit the requisite documents shown against each by or before 09.02.2026, failing which their candidature will be rejected; and

Whereas, despite giving ample opportunity for submission of requisite documents, the following 150 (SAC- 24, FC- 55 & SATC- 71) candidates failed to submit the requisite documents.

Now, in view of the above, the candidature of below mentioned candidates is hereby rejected owing to the reason(s) as shown against each:

SECRETARIAT ASSISTANT COURSE (SAC)

S. No.	Application No.	Name of the candidate	Parentage	Deficiency
1	2504031010003	VARUN JAMWAL	BISHAN SINGH	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
2	25040310100010	TSEWANG LAMO	NAWANG YOUNTAN	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
3	25040310100013	BASHIR AHMAD WAGAY	GH QADIR WAGAY	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
4	25040310100016	SHANAZ TABASSUM	SHANAZ AZEEM PERWAIZ	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
5	25040310100026	ROOPAK SONDI	KRISHAN CHAND SONDI	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
6	25040310100027	VIKAS SHARMA	ROMESH CHANDER SHARMA	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
7	25040310100028	SHAHANZ BANO	GULAM RASOOL	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
8	25040310100029	REYAZ AHMAD	GHULAM NABI	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
9	25040310100031	ROHIT SHARMA	D N SHARMA	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
10	25040310100033	RAJINDER KUMAR	SOM DUTT	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
11	25040310100038	REHANA BANO	LUTUF ALI	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
12	25040310100042	NISHU PANDITA	PREM NATH PANDITA	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
13	25040310100045	ATTHER GUL	GH MOHD BHAT	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
14	25040310100059	JEGMETH NORZOM	RIZGEN NAMGAIL	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
15	25040310100054	VIKAS SHARMA	GHULAM NURBO	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
16	25040310100054	GHULAM ABASS	MOHD YOUSUF KHAN	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
17	25040310100055	SAIMA SULTAN	MOHAMMAD SULTAN	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
18	25040310100064	KOUNSAR HUSSAIN	GULAM HUSSAIN YATOO	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
19	25040310100071	VINOD KUMAR	BANSI LAL	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
20	25040310100081	SHAFIQA BANO	AB AZIZ RATHER	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
21	25040310100085	KHURSHID AHMAD DAR	MOHAMMAD SHABAN DAR	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
22	25040310100086	ASHIQ HUSSAIN AH- ANGER	GHULAM MOHAMMAD AHANGER	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
23	25040310100097	JAMMIL BADIYAL	JAMMIL CHAND	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
24	25040310100098	MEHRAJ UD DIN BEIGH	MOHD SHAFI BEIGH	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE

FOUNDATION COURSE (FC)

S. No.	Application No.	Name of the candidate	Parentage	Deficiency
1	25040310200005	FAYAZ AHMAD HAFIZ	HABIBULLAH HAFIZ	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
2	25040310200013	MOHAMMAD AAQIB MAKHDOOMI	PARWAZ AHMAD MAKHDOOMI	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
3	25040310200016	ASHU TOSH	DHARAM PAUL	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
4	25040310200017	ASHISH GUPTA	KULDEEP KUMAR GUPTA	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
5	25040310200030	JEET RAM	MUNSHI RAM	ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE
6	25040310200040	SYED HUMAIRA	SYED AB WAHEED	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
7	25040310200041	SHASHI KUMARI	KASHI NATH	IMPA CERTIFICATE
8	25040310200049	SAHIL	RAJINDER SINGH	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
9	25040310200053	ZAHID HASSAN MIR	GH HASSAN MIR	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
10	25040310200056	SONIA SADOTRA	PREM SHARMA	IMPA CERTIFICATE
11	25040310200057	KALEEM UL RAHMAN	ABDUL RAHMAN DAR	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
12	25040310200058	NELOFAR HASSAN	GH HASSAN KHAN	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
13	25040310200059	STANZIN DOLKAR	TASHI GAILSON	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
14	25040310200062	SAJAD AHMAD SHEIKH	ALI MOHAMMAD SHEIKH	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
15	25040310200069	ZAHID SHARIF WANI	MOHD SHAHRIEF WANI	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
16	25040310200073	SHAISTA SHOKWAT	SHOWKAT AHMAD NAJAR	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
17	25040310200078	PARTH PANDITA	AVTAR KRISHAN PANDITA	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
18	25040310200084	STANZIN YANGCHEN	YOUNTAN PUNCHOK	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
19	25040310200086	AKHON ABUZAR	AKHON MOHD MUSSA	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
20	25040310200091	SHABIR HUSSAIN	ALI RAHIM	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
21	25040310200093	GORAV SHARMA	VIJAY KUMAR	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
22	25040310200116	POOJA SHARMA	ASHOK KUMAR	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
23	25040310200119	SUDESH KUMAR	KASHI NATH	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
24	25040310200126	SHABIR AHMAD MALLA	GHULAM MOHAMMAD MALLA	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
25	25040310200132	MOHD LATIEF LONE	MOHD RAMZAN LONE	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
26	25040310200151	UMER BASHIR BHAT	BASHIR AHMAD BHAT	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
27	25040310200157	MAIRAJ UD DIN RESHI	GHULAM AHMAD RESHI	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
28	25040310200161	OPENDER SHARMA	RAJINDER PARSHAD SHARMA	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
29	25040310200163	IRFAN BASHIR ZARGAR	BASHIR AHMAD ZARGAR	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
30	25040310200164	SHASHI BHUSHAN JASROTA	JAGDISH SINGH	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
31	25040310200170	GHULAM ALI	MOHD ALI BALTI	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
32	25040310200171	MOHD AKBAR	MOHD ALI KHAN	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
33	25040310200176	RAFIQ AHMAD GOJER	JUMAH GOJER	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
34	25040310200182	RAVINDER KAUR	JAGAT SINGH	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
35	25040310200186	SHOWKET AHMAD RATHER	MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH RATHER	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
36	25040310200193	ANITA KUMARI	SURAJ RAM	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
37	25040310200199	DANISH SHAFI RATHER	MOHD SHAFI RATHER	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
38	25040310200201	MAAWISH ALTAF	ALTAF HUSSAIN MIR	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
39	25040310200202	BILAL AHMAD BHAT	MOHAMMAD SHAFI BHAT	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
40	25040310200209	ALJAZ AHMAD LONE	MOHD RAMZAN LONE	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
41	25040310200213	MUNEER ASSADULLAH DAR	MOHD ASSADULLAH DAR	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
42	25040310200214	JYOTI SHARMA	SURESH CHANDER SHARMA	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
43	25040310200215	SUNITA KUMARI	DYAN CHAND	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
44	25040310200222	JUNAB MUSHTAQ HAFIZ	HAFIZ MUSHTAQ AHMAD	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
45	25040310200226	TARIQ AHMAD SHEIKH	MOHD RAJAB SHEIKH	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
46	25040310200228	RAHUL AHMAD MIR	AB MAJED MIR	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
47	25040310200232	JYOTI RANI	VAISHNO DUTT	IMPA CERTIFICATE
48	25040310200237	POONAM KOTWAL	BALWANT RAI KOTWAL	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
49	25040310200251	SYED AHNAF	SHOWKAT AHMAD ZARGAR	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
50	25040310200256	VIVEK SHARMA	ROMESH CHANDER	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
51	25040310200263	SHARIKA FERDOSE	MOHD SHAFI	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
52	25040310200264	AYAZ AHMAD MALIK	GH AHMAD MALIK	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
53	25040310200272	KAJAL SHARMA	BABU RAM SHARMA	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
54	25040310200277	ROHAF AHMAD SEH	MOHAMMAD ANWAR SEH	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
55	25040310200279	GHULAM AHMAD DAR	LATE GHULAM AHMAD DAR	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE

SECRETARIAT ASSISTANT TRAINING COURSE (SATC)

S. No.	Application No.	Name of the candidate	Parentage	Deficiency
1	25040310300030	SUNNY KOUL	BHARAT JI KOUL	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
2	25040310300162	SHOAH AHMED	SHAKEEL AHMED	IMPA CERTIFICATE
3	25040310300205	JOGESH KUMAR	JAGDISH KUMAR	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
4	25040310300629	FHEYAZ AHMED	ABDUL AZIZ	IMPA CERTIFICATE
5	25040310300693	ARJUN SINGH	SHAM SINGH	IMPA CERTIFICATE
6	25040310300749	RIYAZ RASOOL MIR	GULAM RASOOL MIR	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
7	25040310300859	ANURADHA	CHARAN DASS	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
8	25040310301078	LOBESANG PALDAN	SONAM MOTUP	DOMICILE/RESIDENT CERTIFICATE
9	25040310301155	MOHAMAD SHAFI SHEIKH	GH MOHAMMAD SHEIKH	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
10	25040310301260	MOHAN KUMAR	NANDU RAM	IMPA CERTIFICATE
11	25040310301332	AMINA BANO	MOHD HASSAN	DOMICILE/RESIDENT CERTIFICATE
12	25040310301334	MEHRAJ UD DIN DAR	AB REHMAN DAR	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
13	25040310301361	SHALINDER SINGH JAMWAL	GOVERDHAN SINGH JAMWAL	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
14	250403103013571	ANITA DEVI	SHAM SINGH	IMPA CERTIFICATE
15	250403103013681	MUSHTAQ AHMED	MOHD BASHIR	IMPA CERTIFICATE
16	250403103013730	MUSHTAQ AHMAD SHAH	MOHAMMAD RAMZAN SHAN	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
17	250403103013754	GH MUSTAFAH	VARIATION IN NAME	
18	250403103013773	HAMIDA BANO	ABDUL AHAD MIR	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
19	250403103013816	RAJESH KUMAR	HANS RAJ	IMPA CERTIFICATE
20	25040310302077	BILAL AHMAD SOFI	NAZIR AHMAD SOFI	IMPA CERTIFICATE
21	25040310302099	MIR ARIF MUSHTAQ	MUSHTAQ AHMAD MIR	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
22	25040310302198	MOHD YOUNOUS SHAIK	VAISHNO DUTT	ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE
23	25040310302022	PADMA YOUTEN	ROMAL CHAND	IMPA CERTIFICATE
24	25040310302441	SAMEER KHURSHED	MOHD KHURSHED	IMPA CERTIFICATE
25	25040310302468	NASSIR AHMAD MALIK	RAFIQ AHMAD MALIK	IMPA CERTIFICATE
26	25040310302470	SWARAN KUMAR	SHANKAR DASS	IMPA CERTIFICATE

S. No.	Application No.	Name of the candidate	Parentage	Deficiency
27	25040310302480	BEAUTY RAINA	KRISHANLAL RAINA	IMPA CERTIFICATE
28	25040310302623	ANITA DEVI	MUNSHI RAM	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
29	25040310302627	ABDUL WAHID GANI	MOHAMMAD MAQBOOL GANI	IMPA CERTIFICATE
30	25040310302638	RENU DEVI	SH HARISH KUMAR	IMPA CERTIFICATE
31	25040310302640	AFSHAN SHAWL	JAVAJD AHMED	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
32	25040310302664	NAZIR AHMED	QAMIR DIN	IMPA CERTIFICATE
33	25040310302766	SUNIL DUTT	CHUNI LAL	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
34	25040310302769	SYED MURTAZA	SYED HADI	DOMICILE/RESIDENT CERTIFICATE, IMPA CERTIFICATE & FEE RECEIPT
35	25040310302809	SUMAN DEVI	GURDASS CHAND	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
36	25040310302844	AUSHTAQ AHMED	SAID MOHD	IMPA CERTIFICATE
37	25040310303042	ROHIT SHARMA	KANWAL NAIN SHARMA	ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE
38	25040310303044	TANVIR AHMED	ABDUL MAJID	IMPA CERTIFICATE
39	25040310303061	ZAHOR AHMED	NAZIR AHMED MAGRAY	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
40	25040310303075	SAJAD AHMAD WANI	ABDUL KHALIQ WANI	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
41	25040310303086	IMTIAZ AHMED	ABDUL LATIEF RATHER	IMPA CERTIFICATE
42	25040310303108	ROHIT KUMAR	KULDIP RAJ	IMPA CERTIFICATE
43	25040310303143	RAJESH KUMAR	HARI SINGH	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
44	25040310303155	SHIVAM	RAJENDER KUMAR	IMPA CERTIFICATE
45	25040310303170	NELOFAR ABDULLAH	MOHAMMAD ABDULLAH	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
46	25040310303199	AJAZ AHMED	MOHD YOUSUF	IMPA CERTIFICATE
47	25040310303257	ANURADHA	TARSEEM RAJ	IMPA CERTIFICATE
48	25040310303268	RAYEECE AHMED	ABDUL QAYOUM DEV	IMPA CERTIFICATE
49	25040310303336	SHEHNAZ AKHTAR	MOHD HUSSAIN	IMPA CERTIFICATE
50	25040310303372	HIMANSHU GUPTA	RAKESH GUPTA	IMPA CERTIFICATE
51	25040310303440	REYAZ AHMAD DAR	GH HASSAN DAR	IMPA CERTIFICATE
52	25040310303502	SURESH KUMAR SHARMA	MADAN LAL SHARMA	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
53	25040310303503	ADARSH BANATHIA	KULDEEP RAJ BANATHIA	IMPA CERTIFICATE
54	25040310303508	STANZIN NORBO	SONAM CHETAN	DOMICILE/RESIDENT CERTIFICATE
55	25040310303520	HAPPY KUMAR	DARSHAN KUMAR	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
56	25040310303525	KHURSHID AHMAD DAR	MOHAMMAD SHABAN DAR	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
57	25040310303543	RAHMATULLAH NAIK	MOHD MUNWAR NAIK	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
58	25040310303549	VEER JI	OMKARNATH KAR	HARD COPY OF APPL. FORM ALONG WITH IMPA CERTIFICATE
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Kashmir educational institutions to remain closed till March-07

RIYAZ BHAT

Srinagar, Mar 03: Following the widespread protests across the Valley against the killing of Supreme leader of Iran Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, J&K government on Tuesday decided to shut educational institutions till March-07 as a precautionary measure.

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

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

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

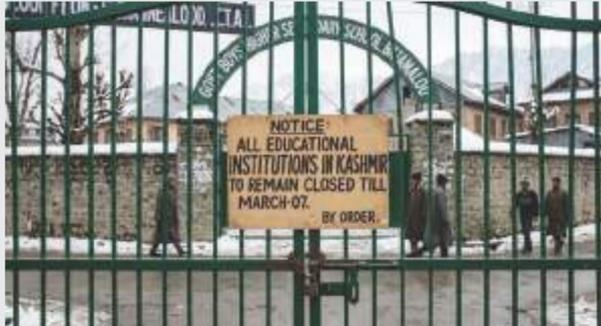
Following the killing of Supreme leader of Iran Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in joint US-Israeli strikes, a widespread protest erupted across Jammu and Kashmir.

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

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

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

Earlier on February-23, schools from 9th to 12th standard classes resumed



academic activities in Kashmir division and winter zones of Jammu division following a winter break of over 70 days.

The government had ordered the students of 9th class and onwards to observe the winter vacations from December-11-2025 to February-22-2026.

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

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

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

It also said that the winter break for 9th to 12th standard shall commence from December-11 to February-22.

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

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

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

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

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

Anxiety mounts for JK students in Iran

J&K families want students home

JAHANGEER GANAIE

Srinagar, Mar 03: Even as Indian students studying in Iran were safely relocated from Tehran to Qom as a precautionary measure, anxious parents across Jammu and Kashmir continue to demand their immediate evacuation, citing safety concerns amid escalating tensions.

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

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

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

"We are thankful that our children have been moved to a safer place, but this is not enough. They are still in Iran, and the situation remains unpredictable," a parent from Srinagar said. "We want the Government of India to evacuate them at the earliest."

February goes dry: Srinagar breaks 1960 record, Jammu at zero

SAJID RAINA

Srinagar, Mar 03: February 2026 has emerged as one of the driest months on record across Jammu and Kashmir, with several meteorological stations reporting either their lowest-ever rainfall or figures close to historic lows, according to data.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

J&K Ranji heroes receive grand welcome in Jammu

YOGESH

Jammu, Mar 03: Days after scripting history with their maiden triumph in the Ranji Trophy, the Jammu & Kashmir cricket team received a rousing reception on their arrival in Jammu on Tuesday, as jubilant fans thronged the airport and lined city streets to celebrate the landmark achievement.

The players were greeted with flower garlands, drum beats and traditional dances as supporters waved banners and chanted slogans in praise of the team. The celebratory scenes outside the airport soon turned into a procession, with fans escorting the victorious squad through various parts of the city amid tight security arrangements.

The historic victory marked a watershed moment for J&K cricket, ending a 66-year wait for the prestigious domestic title. The team's remarkable campaign culminated in a commanding win over the Karnataka cricket team in the final, earning accolades from across the country.

Among the players who drew loud cheers was pacer Yuvvir Singh Charak, who described the reception as an unforgettable and proud moment for the entire team.

"It feels overwhelming to see



so much love and support from the people of Jammu & Kashmir. This victory belongs to every fan that stood by us through the years," Yuvvir said while interacting with the media amid the celebrations.

Crediting the collective effort behind the triumph, he said the win was the result of teamwork, discipline and belief. "Every player contributed at crucial moments. It was not about individual brilliance but about playing as a unit. We backed each other in tough situations,

and that made the difference," he added.

Yuvvir also expressed gratitude to the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for their consistent support and infrastructure development, which he said played a vital role in nurturing talent from the Union Territory.

"The facilities, exposure and encouragement provided by JKCA and BCCI have been instrumental. This win shows that

with the right backing, players from J&K can compete at the highest level," he said.

The celebrations continued across Jammu city, with youth performing bhangra and traditional Dogra dances to the rhythm of dhol beats. Firecrackers lit up the sky as residents distributed sweets to mark the occasion.

Officials said a formal felicitation ceremony for the team is being planned in the coming days to honour their achievement—(KNO)

Dy CM, Sakina Itoo extend Holi greetings

KT NEWS DESK

Jammu, Mar 03: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, on Tuesday extended warm Holi greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, wishing for joy and prosperity to all.

In his message, the Deputy Chief Minister said that Holi holds deep religious and cultural significance and is celebrated with great fervor and enthusiasm by the people cutting across religious and social lines.

"My warm greetings to all. May this auspicious occasion fill our lives with colors of joy, strength and good health," he said.

He observed that Jammu and Kashmir has always stood as an example of harmony, mutual respect and brotherhood, where people wholeheartedly participate in each other's festivals and celebrations, reinforcing the spirit of unity in diversity.

The Deputy Chief Minister expressed hope that the festival would further strengthen communal harmony, promote peace and deepen bonds of love and



understanding among all sections of society.

Meanwhile, the minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Tuesday extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the joyous occasion of Holi-festival of colors.

In her greetings, the Minister said that Holi symbolizes unity, harmony and triumph of goodness, encouraging people to celebrate the festival with mutual respect,

compassion and spirit of togetherness. "These cultural festivals strengthen our social fabric by promoting inclusiveness and brotherhood across communities," she said.

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

She also prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of entire Jammu and Kashmir.

DDC Kulgam unveils Rs 1800 Cr NABARD credit plan



KT NEWS DESK

Kulgam, Mar 03: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, along with AGM NABARD and other district-level officers on Tuesday unveiled the Potential Linked Credit Plan (PLP) document prepared by NABARD for the financial year 2026-27.

NABARD has envisaged a credit potential of ₹1800 crore for Kulgam district for the year 2026-27 to be achieved by banks, financial institutions and development departments operating in the district. This was revealed during a District Level Consultative Committee meeting held under the chairmanship of the DDC.

The meeting was attended by the Joint Director

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

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

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

DC Rajouri finalises ASMITA League preparations

KT NEWS DESK

Rajouri, Mar 03: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review preparations for the celebration of International Women's Day 2026 in the district. The meeting discussed arrangements for organising sports and fitness activities as part of the ASMITA League (Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action). The initiative aims at promoting and encouraging greater participation of women and girls in sports.

The meeting was informed that competitions including badminton, tug of war and Fun Activities shall be held in Sports Stadium, 100 metre and 200 metre race at DPL Rajouri, while a 400 metre race will be conducted at ALG.

The events under ASMITA League are being organised in 250 locations across the Nation. In J&K, the events shall be organised

at 3 locations including Rajouri. Women participants will compete in three separate age categories — below 13 years, 13 to 18 years and above 18 years — to ensure wider participation.

The Deputy Commissioner was informed that the event will be organised with the collaborative effort of Sports Authority of India, MY Bharat, Khelo India Centres, the SAI ecosystem and the State Government. The initiative aims to create a meaningful nationwide celebration of women's empowerment through sports and fitness in continuation with the ASMITA initiative.

The DC directed the Principal of Government Medical College Rajouri to establish health, nutrition and dietician counters at the venue to facilitate participants and spread awareness about healthy lifestyles among women. He further directed the concerned departments to set up stalls displaying IEC material related to various

women-centric welfare schemes to create awareness among participants and the general public.

Meanwhile District Social Welfare Officer Rajouri was directed to ensure organising of the Inaugural Ceremony of Gojri Caps. To facilitate participation from remote areas, the DC also instructed the concerned officers to ensure adequate transport facilities for women participants from peripheral areas to and from the venue.

ADC Chander Prakash, PO ICDS Harpal Singh, Nitin Hangloo Deputy Director MY Bharat Rajouri, Principal GMC Rajouri A. S. Bhatia, CMO Manohar Lal Rana, Principal Government Degree College Rajouri Anwer Shah, Executive Engineer PWD Rajouri Aftab Anwar, CEO Mohd Hafeez, DYSS Ali Mohd, EO Municipality Yousuf-ul-Umar and other district and sectoral officers attended the meeting.

EDITORIAL

AI For All? Not If You Live In Jammu And Kashmir

The Ministry of Education's plan to introduce Artificial Intelligence into the school curriculum from Class 3 onwards shows India's commitment to preparing its young people for a future shaped by technology. However, for Jammu and Kashmir, this goal clashes with a harsh reality: more than 60 per cent of schools do not have basic computers, and barely 49 per cent have internet access. This is a deep inequality that threatens to leave an entire generation behind before the race has even begun. The contrast is painful

to see. While policymakers in Delhi discuss AI frameworks and advanced teaching methods, students in large parts of J&K still lack the basic tools needed to learn even simple digital skills. The 39 per cent computer access rate is not just a number. It means millions of children will never see, touch, or learn from the very machines that are becoming essential to education and jobs around the world. How can we teach AI to students who have never used a computer? This digital divide is made worse by other gaps in basic facilities. While progress

has been made in providing toilets, electricity, and libraries, the lack of digital infrastructure creates a new kind of exclusion that will affect students for the rest of their lives. The transition rate from secondary to higher secondary school is already only 72.9 per cent, showing that many students drop out along the way. Without digital skills, these young people will enter a job market increasingly run by automation and AI at a crippling disadvantage. The solution requires a two-part, urgent approach. First, basic infrastructure must be made the

top priority. The government should launch a mission-mode program to equip every school with working computers and reliable internet within a fixed time frame. This is not a luxury. It is essential for any meaningful education in the 21st century. Budgets must reflect this urgency, and partnerships with private companies can help speed up the process. Second, teacher training must happen at the same time as infrastructure is built. Computers without trained teachers are just furniture. Comprehensive and ongoing training in

digital teaching methods is essential to ensure that when the computers arrive, they actually transform classrooms instead of gathering dust. The Ministry of Education's vision for AI is admirable, but it must not become yet another layer of inequality. For the students of Jammu and Kashmir, the road to an AI-enabled future must begin with the most basic step: access to a computer, a connection to the internet, and a teacher who can guide them. Without these, the promise of AI will remain a distant dream—visible, but always out of reach.

AI In Education

Building India's Talent Pipeline For Global Leadership

Press Information Bureau

India is positioning itself as a global AI powerhouse, with rapid growth across the sector. In 2024, 89% of new startups were AI-powered, and 87% of the enterprises are actively employing AI. This is just the beginning – the Indian AI market is expected to grow at a rate of 25%-35% through 2027. To support this growth, India, which had an AI talent pool of 600,000-650,000 in 2024, needs over 1.25 million AI professionals by 2027, at a 15% CAGR, according to NASSCOM.

Various initiatives and policies of the government are addressing the monumental shift in the labour market disrupted by AI. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recognises AI's potential for economic growth, solving educational challenges, enhancing teacher capabilities, and personalising learning – and emphasises the importance of AI-learning across all educational levels. The IndiaAI Mission (launched in March 2024) aims to make India a global AI leader by fostering innovation across government, institutions, startups, private sector, and academia.

Central to this strategy is democratising technology—ensuring AI tools and digital platforms reach remote villages, tribal areas, and underserved communities, bridging the digital divide. This comprehensive approach aligns with the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision, positioning India as an inclusive global AI leader.

National Education Policy 2020 on AI
The NEP acknowledges that AI, big data and machine learning will transform labour markets and drive innovation. To ensure that the youth can cope with these monumental shifts, the NEP emphasises the importance of learning about AI, computer science/data science, along with other subjects for multidisciplinary education. The policy aims to equip students in these subjects for economic success and greater opportunities.
As education is in the Concurrent List, NEP 2020's recommendations influence both Union and State/Union Territory education policies and support the government's push to position India as a global AI leader.

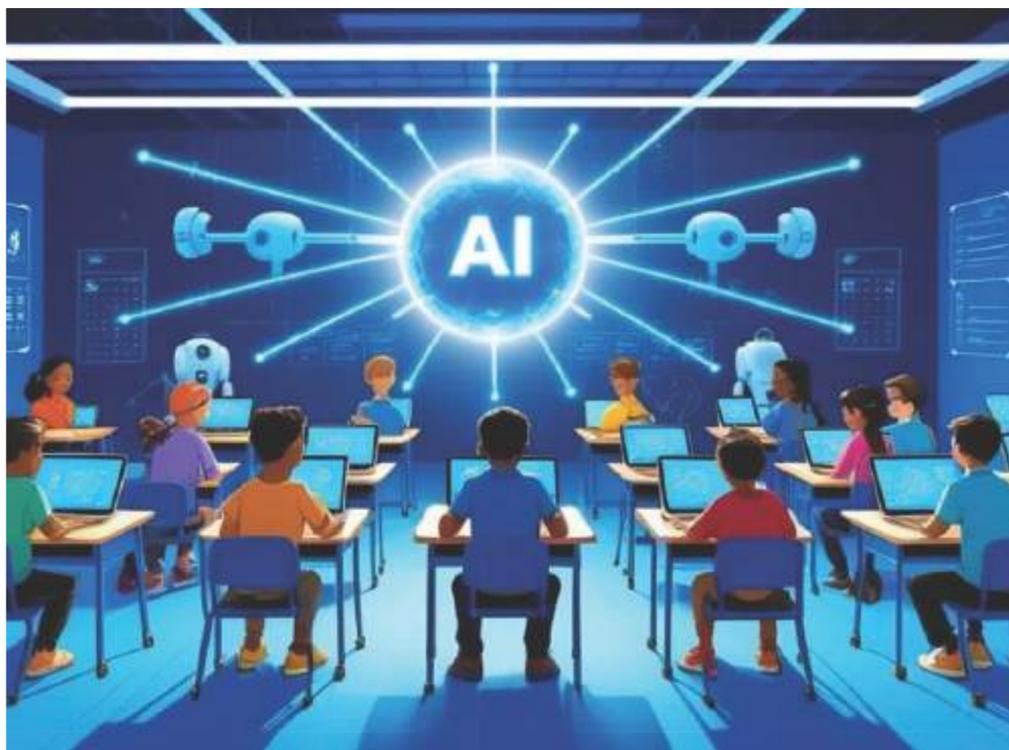
AI Initiatives in School Education
The Ministry of Education has integrated AI into school curricula across India through CBSE and NCERT, starting with grades 9, under National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2023.

Currently, CBSE offers a 15-hour AI skill module from Class VI onwards and AI as an optional subject in Classes IX-XII. NCERT has incorporated AI content in Class XI Computer Science and Informatics Practices textbooks and used AI/ML to translate Grade 1-2 textbooks into 22 Indian languages.

AI-Courses for Students and Educators
DIKSHA Platform
DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing), a Ministry of Education initiative, uses AI for inclusivity: AI-based keyword search in videos and read-aloud feature for visually impaired students. The DIKSHA mobile app is available for teachers and also for students and parents. The app is loaded with engaging learning material that fits the needs of the prescribed school curriculum.

SOAR Initiative
The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched SOAR (Skill for AI Readiness) to build AI awareness and skills for classes 6-12 students and educators. Program includes three 15-hour student modules and one 45-hour "AI for Educators" teacher module.

"AI for Educators" Module:
The module trains teachers to understand AI curriculum and pedagogy, use AI tools effectively in classrooms, promote



inclusivity for diverse learners, create educational AI projects, and teach responsible AI ethics.

SWAYAM Platform
The Ministry of Education's SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) platform offers 110+ free AI courses from IITs and IISc, with 41.2 lakh+ students enrolled.

AI in Higher Education
University Grants Commission (UGC): The 2022 undergraduate curriculum includes AI, 3D machining, big data analysis, machine learning, drone technologies, and deep learning with applications in health, environment, and sustainable living.

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE):

Incorporated AI components in all IT-related courses

Conducts hackathons to promote AI awareness

Offers women engineering scholarships (PRAGATI, Saraswati)

Conducts faculty development programs

Perplexity Partners with AICTE

Perplexity, an AI-powered search engine has partnered with AICTE to provide support to 40 million students of 14,000 institutions through digital distribution via AICTE's various communication channels, faculty training session and pilot launches in Centres of Excellence. There is also student access to the Perplexity website/app through institutional onboarding. The purpose of the project is for students to explore how AI tools can support research, innovation and real-world applications. This project aligns with the NEP's emphasis on experiential learning.

IIT Madras Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave 2026

Ministry of Education, Government of India, is inviting participants who have developed credible and research-backed AI solutions with demonstrated measurable outcomes to part in the IIT Madras Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave 2026 which will take place on February 12-13 in New Delhi. The call is open to solution providers, academic and research institutions, government bodies and other stakeholders from across India and abroad.

Submissions are invited across four

priority verticals:

1. AI for School Education,
2. AI for Higher Education,
3. AI for Skilling and Workforce Readiness, and
4. AI Research and Deep Technology. Research and Development

The government is supporting research and development in AI through various initiatives or schemes.

IndiaAI and Meta established the Center for Generative AI, Srijaan () at IIT Jodhpur and launched the YuvAI Initiative (with MeitY and AICTE) to advance open-source AI in India. The program targets 100,000 students and developers (aged 18-30) over three years to develop AI solutions for healthcare, education, agriculture, smart cities, and financial inclusion.

Key Components:

1. Gen AI Resource Hub (courses, case studies, open datasets)
2. LLM for Young Developers Course (designed by Meta)
3. Master Training Activation Workshops (foundational AI concepts)
4. Unleash LLM Hackathons (mentoring, seed grants, market support for top ideas)
5. AI Innovation Accelerator (supporting 10 student-led startups with incubation and visibility).

IndiaAI Mission's Educational Goals

IndiaAI Mission (launched in March 2024) is laying the foundation for India's AI sector development. The initiative has been allocated a budget of 10,371.92 crore over five years. It provides computing infrastructure for developing AI models, creates datasets for training, and develops practical applications across sectors including education.

IndiaAI's initiatives supporting AI-centric education and AI-research are:

AI is helping children with learning disabilities bridge their learning gaps through various applications:

Existing Solutions:

Readabled (Online Dyslexia Training): Web-based application helping children with dyslexia improve phonetic awareness through interactive exercises

ScreenPlay: Digital, game-based screening tool identifying children aged 3-6 at risk for autism or related developmental

conditions

Prototype Stage:

Voice Fusion AI: Application providing assistive support to individuals with Specific Learning Disabilities (SLDs) in multiple Indian languages

Adaptive Learning and Detection for SLDs: Advanced AI techniques detecting specific learning disorders (SLDs) such as dyslexia, dysgraphia, and dyscalculia

Idea Stage:

Jiveesha: AI-powered diagnostic platform for early detection of SLDs

Special Educator AI: AI-driven system addressing India's shortage of special educators and supporting children with SLDs

The Government is funding R&D projects at premier institutions like IITs to build AI tools.

Indian educational institutions are also working on IndiaAI Application Development Initiative. Selected projects are:

DeepFlood: Rapid Flood Inundation Mapping

Team: Indian Institute of Technology Delhi

Stage: Prototype

Description: Advanced flood inundation mapping tool using SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar) data and deep learning models for real-time, automated flood detection with Vision Transformers and satellite data

The details of the selected projects developed by teams from Indian educational institutes under "Safe & Trusted AI" Pillar are:

Responsible AI Projects

Machine Unlearning

IIT Jodhpur: Machine Unlearning in Generative Foundation Models

Synthetic Data Generation

IIT Roorkee: Design and Development of Method for Generating Synthetic Data for Mitigating Bias in Datasets; and Framework for Mitigating Bias in Machine Learning Pipeline for Responsible AI

AI Bias Mitigation Strategy

National Institute of Technology Raipur: Development of Responsible Artificial Intelligence for Bias Mitigation in Health Care Systems

Explainable AI Framework

DIAT Pune and Mindgraph Technology Pvt. Ltd.: Enabling Explainable and Privacy Preserving AI for Security

Privacy Enhancing Strategy

IIT Delhi, IIIT Delhi, IIT Dharwad, and Telecommunication Engineering Center (TEC): Robust Privacy-Preserving Machine Learning Models

AI Ethical Certification Framework

IIT Delhi and Telecommunication Engineering Center (TEC): Tools for assessing fairness of AI model

AI Algorithm Auditing Tool

Civic Data Labs Pvt. Ltd.: ParakhAI - An open-source framework and toolkit for Participatory Algorithmic Auditing

AI Governance Testing Framework

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham and Telecommunication Engineering Center (TEC): Track-LLM, Transparency, Risk Assessment, Context & Knowledge for Large Language Models

Skilling in AI

To equip India's workforce with AI and digital capabilities, the government has launched comprehensive skilling initiatives spanning students, industrial trainees, professionals, and government officials. These programs combine foundational AI literacy with advanced technical training.

The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 4.0 is implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). As of June 30, 2025, it has trained 36,584 individuals in artificial intelligence (AI), with women making up 45% of the trainees. The program offers Short-Term Training (STT) and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), and in April 2025, it launched the AI Career for Women Initiative, which aims to train 8,000 girls over two years.

The SkillSaksham Program is a collaboration between MSDE and Microsoft, formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding in August 2024. It targets 200 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), with a goal of training over 10,000 candidates, of whom more than 8,500 have already been trained. The program provides 1,200 hours of AI training along with 400 hours of Advanced AI training at approximately 15 National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) under the Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS).

The iGOT Karmayogi Bharat Platform is part of the Mission Karmayogi initiative and is a digital learning platform designed for government officials. It offers courses in AI, data analytics, and digital transformation to enhance their skills.

FutureSkills PRIME is a collaboration between the government and NASSCOM, with over 16.29 lakh individuals enrolled or trained. The platform offers more than 500 courses and over 2,000 digital fluency pathways in areas such as AI, Big Data, and Cloud Computing, all aligned with National Occupational Standards (NOS) and the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF).

Finally, the YUVA AI For All initiative under the IndiaAI Mission aims to reach one crore citizens. It provides a free, self-paced foundational AI course lasting four to four and a half hours, targeting students, youth, professionals, parents, and senior citizens.

Conclusion

India's comprehensive AI education strategy—aligned with NEP 2020 and the IndiaAI Mission—spans curriculum integration from primary to higher education, teacher capacity building, infrastructure development, skilling initiatives, and research Centres of Excellence. The approach extends beyond urban centres to tribal and aspirational districts, democratising technology access across all communities. These initiatives position India as a global AI leader while ensuring inclusive socio-economic development, embodying Welfare for All, Happiness for All (Sarvajanam Hitaya, Sarvajanam Sukhaya).

Rana reviews PHE, I&FC schemes in Kashmir division

KT News Desk

JAMMU, MARCH 03: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, Tuesday reviewed the progress of ongoing Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) schemes being executed across Kashmir division.

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

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

Expressing concern over reports of water supply disruptions in certain areas, the Minister instructed the officials to immediately address the grievances related to potable water availability. He



emphasized the need for prompt complaint redressal, strengthening of distribution networks and close monitoring of supply systems to guarantee uninterrupted access to safe drinking water for all the households.

With the upcoming cropping season approaching, the Minister called for proactive measures to ensure that irrigation infrastructure is fully operational. He directed the officers to expedite desiltation of canals, repair and replacement of worn-out plant and machinery besides removal of bottlenecks that could hamper

water flow. Special emphasis was laid on restoration and maintenance of traditional irrigation channels, including kuls, to support the farmers and safeguard agricultural productivity.

Reviewing flood control preparedness, the Minister stressed the urgency of completing protective works at the identified vulnerable and flood-prone locations within the stipulated timelines. He called for coordinated planning and swift execution of mitigation measures to protect the lives, property and farmland from potential flood

threats, particularly in view of the changing weather patterns.

Senior officials including the Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti Kashmir, Chief Engineer, I&FC Kashmir and other departmental officers briefed the Minister on the current status of various projects and outlined the steps being taken to accelerate their completion and resolve existing challenges.

The Minister directed the officers to maintain rigorous field-level monitoring and ensure that the intended benefits of these schemes reach the people efficiently and without delay.

Director Agriculture, Kashmir reviews preparations for upcoming season

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, MARCH 03: Director Agriculture Kashmir (DAK), Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Tuesday conducted a detailed inspection of several flagship schemes at the Lalmandi complex in Srinagar.

The visit focused on assessing progress under the Floriculture Development Scheme, Kitchen Garden Scheme, and Integrated Mushroom Development Centre (IMDC), while also reviewing overall preparations for the upcoming agricultural season.

During the inspection, the Director visited various sections of the Floriculture Development Scheme to evaluate infrastructure, nursery operations, and ongoing initiatives aimed at promoting commercial floriculture and allied activities in the region. He emphasized the importance of enhancing flower production, quality standards, and market linkages to boost farmers' income under government-supported programs.

At the Kitchen Garden Scheme facility, the Director reviewed seedling production, distribution mechanisms, and promotional efforts to encourage household and



community-level vegetable cultivation. The scheme continues to play a vital role in promoting self-sufficiency in fresh vegetables, nutritional security, and sustainable home gardening practices among rural and urban households.

The inspection also included the Integrated Mushroom Development Centre (IMDC), where the Director assessed spawn production, compost facilities, training programs, and technical support extended to mushroom growers. He directed officials to strengthen extension services and ensure timely availability of quality inputs to farmers interested in mushroom cultivation as a high-value enterprise.

While interacting with officers and field staff, the Director

reviewed the overall readiness for the forthcoming agricultural season, including input availability (seeds, fertilizers, and planting material), pest and disease management strategies, weather-adaptive practices, and farmer outreach programs. He stressed the need for coordinated efforts to maximize productivity, minimize post-harvest losses, and align departmental activities with the objectives of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and other schemes.

The Director commended the dedication of the staff at Lalmandi and called for sustained focus on innovation, quality, and farmer-centric service delivery to achieve the goals of sustainable agriculture in Kashmir division.

DC Budgam reviews Youth Engagement, Empowerment Plan

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, MARCH 03: A meeting regarding the "Youth Engagement and Empowerment Plan" was Tuesday convened at the DC Office Complex Budgam under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan to deliberate upon structured initiatives aimed at channelizing the energy of youth towards constructive and nation-building activities.

The meeting was attended by the joint director Planning Budgam, ACD Budgam, Chief Education Officer Budgam, District Youth Services & Sports Officer Budgam, Assistant Labour Commissioner Budgam, and District Information Officer Budgam, among other concerned officials.

At the outset, the DC emphasized the need for a coordinated and result-oriented approach among all departments to ensure holistic youth empowerment. Highlighting the importance of sports activities, the DC articulated a visionary concept of "One Sport for One Child." He underscored that every student in the district should be associated with at least one sport, so as to promote physical fitness, discipline, team spirit, and mental well-being among young learners.

He stated that sports are not merely extracurricular activities but essential components of overall education and youth development.

The DC directed Chief Education Officer Budgam to initiate the preparation of a separate and dedicated "Sports Card" for each student enrolled in government and private educational institutions across the district. He said, the Sports Card shall record the specific sport chosen by the student, level of participation, achievements, performance tracking, and progress over time.

The DC further said, this database will enable systematic monitoring and identification of talent at an early stage, facilitating targeted coaching and advanced training opportunities.

He directed that schools should encourage students to voluntarily select a sport based on their interest and aptitude.

The District Youth Services & Sports Officer was instructed to ensure availability of basic sports infrastructure and trained coaches, wherever feasible, and to organize regular inter-school and zone-level competitions to nurture competitive spirit among students.

The DC emphasized that youth empowerment must extend beyond sports and academics to include employability, entrepreneurship, and vocational skills.

The DC called for transforming Budgam into a model district in youth engagement, where every child is actively involved in at least one sport and is provided with the necessary support to excel in life.

DDC Kulgam chairs DLRC Meeting

KT News Desk

KULGAM, MARCH 03: District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting for the quarter ended December 2025 of FY 2025-26 was held Tuesday under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner (DDC), Kulgam, Shahzad Alam Tuesday chaired the DLRC meeting to review the performance of banks under the Annual Credit Plan (ACP) and the progress achieved under various Government-sponsored schemes for the quarter ended December 2025 of FY 2025-26.

At the outset, Iftikhar Ahmad Padder, Lead District Manager, Lead Bank Kulgam, informed the house that different banks operating in District Kulgam have achieved a total business of Rs 4491.54 crore, out of which, Deposits in the district have risen from Rs 2219.58 crore as on 31 December 2024 to Rs 2361.77 crore as on 31 December 2025, registering a YoY growth of 7.23 percent.

Advances have increased from Rs 1830.76 crore as on 31 December 2024 to Rs 2129.77 crore as on 31 December 2025, reflecting a YoY growth of 13.86 percent.

The CD ratio of the district stands at 87.89 percent as on 31.12.2025.

Regarding credit disbursement under the Annual Credit Plan for FY 2025-26 up to 31.12.2025, banks operating in the district have made total credit disbursement of Rs

1598.94 crore against an annual target of Rs 2330.93 crore, thereby achieving 69 percent of the target.

Out of the total disbursement, Rs 1116.95 crore was disbursed under the Priority Sector against a target of Rs 1674.29 crore, achieving 67 percent of the target, while Rs 481.99 crore was disbursed under the Non-Priority Sector against a target of Rs 656.64 crore, achieving 73 percent of the target.

The Chairman directed all stakeholders to improve priority sector lending under various Government-sponsored schemes like Mission YUVA so that unemployed youth can attain self-sufficiency through self-employment initiatives of the Central and UT Governments.

He also instructed all sponsoring agencies and lending institutions to enhance performance under the priority sector.

The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana was also discussed, and the Chair directed banks to increase lending under the scheme to boost rooftop solar power generation and achieve the objective of providing free electricity benefits.

Further, social security schemes including PM Suraksha Bima Yojana, PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana were reviewed, with directions to ensure wider coverage of eligible beneficiaries across the district.

The chair directed all banks to improve the CD ratio and

financial literacy in the district, accelerate priority sector lending, and ensure timely achievement of ACP targets by March 2026.

The District Development Commissioner also instructed all concerned departments and banking institutions to undertake intensified awareness programmes across the district to ensure that eligible beneficiaries are fully informed about various government-sponsored and social security schemes. He further emphasized the need to initiate regular capacity-building sessions for field functionaries and stakeholders to enhance their understanding, improve coordination, and ensure effective implementation of schemes on the ground.

Joint Director Planning, Malik Suhail; ACD, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Kulgam, District Sheep Husbandry Officer Kulgam, Chief Agriculture Officer Kulgam; Executive Engineer DUDA Kulgam; Fisheries Development Officer Kulgam; DPM NRLM Kulgam; District Officer KVIB Kulgam; district officer Handicrafts and Handloom Department Kulgam; Lead District Officer, RBI Jammu, DDM NABARD, Cluster Head J&K Bank Kulgam, District Coordinators of all banks and other, Regional Manager, Grameen Bank; Director RSETI J&K Bank Kulgam and other officers attended the meeting.

Mission Yuva: DC Ganderbal chairs DLIC meeting, approves 224 cases

KT News Desk



GANDERBAL, MARCH 03: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, Tuesday chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) to review and approve cases under Mission Yuva in the district.

During the meeting, the committee deliberated in detail on the applications received. After thorough scrutiny, a total of 224 cases including 223 Nano cases and 01 MSME case were approved to enable aspiring entrepreneurs to establish and expand their ventures across diverse sectors.

Addressing the meeting, the DC stressed the importance of timely processing and disposal of cases to ensure that eligible youth receive financial assistance without delay.

He directed the concerned officers and banking institutions

to expedite sanction and disbursement of cases so that the beneficiaries can commence their activities at the earliest.

The DC further instructed the Lead District Manager and other officers to maintain close coordination and ensure that all formalities are completed in a time-bound manner.

Reiterating the administration's commitment to youth empowerment, the DC urged officers to provide handholding support to beneficiaries, including guidance on project formulation, market linkage and follow-up support to ensure the sustainability of the units established under Mission Yuva.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Lead District Manager, Functional Manager DC, officials from Employment Department and other concerned officers and officials.

PMMSY 2025-26: DC Budgam chairs meeting on selection of beneficiaries

KT News Desk

BUDGAM, MARCH 03: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan Tuesday chaired a meeting at the District Headquarters to review and finalize the selection of beneficiaries under various components of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) for the year 2025-26.

The meeting was convened by the office of the Assistant Director Fisheries, Budgam, to deliberate upon the applications received for establishment of fisheries-related units in the private sector under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

The department of Fisheries is providing financial assistance under PMMSY to promote entrepreneurship, enhance fish production, generate employment, and strengthen the fisheries sector in the district.

It was informed in the meeting that wide publicity was ensured through advertisement notices published in leading local dailies and uploaded on the district website to invite applications from eligible and



interested unemployed youth and individuals intending to avail incentives under the scheme. 220 Applications were received in the office of Assistant Director Fisheries Budgam within the stipulated timeline, out of which 106 are feasible. All the feasible 106 applications were approved in the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the tentative targets allocated by the Directorate for various components and examined the applications received under different activities. Detailed discussions were held regarding

feasibility, eligibility criteria, and government share admissible under the scheme guidelines.

The DC emphasized transparency, merit-based selection, and timely processing of cases to ensure that genuine beneficiaries receive support. He directed the concerned officers to strictly adhere to scheme norms and ensure that the benefits reach deserving applicants, particularly unemployed youth, to boost self-employment and livelihood generation in the district.

The DC further reiterated the

administration's commitment to strengthening the fisheries sector as a viable source of income and directed the department to provide necessary handholding and technical guidance to selected beneficiaries for successful implementation of their projects.

The meeting was attended by ADC Budgam, PO ICDS, JD planning, SE Hydraulics Circle Budgam, ACD Budgam, CAO Budgam, AD fisheries, representative from KVK, concerned district officers and officials of the Fisheries department.

Market checking drive conducted in Handwara

KT News Desk

KUPWARA, MARCH 3: In a concerted efforts to regulate market prices and prevent hoarding during the holy month of Ramadan, the Tehsil Administration Handwara, under the directives of Deputy Commissioner, (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse and in supervision of the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, conducted an extensive market checking drive in Handwara Town Tuesday.

The drive was led by Tehsildar Handwara, Zeeshan Khan in collaboration with the SDPO Handwara and officials from Revenue department.

The inspection covered various markets in Handwara town to ensure that essential commodities were being sold at fair prices and in adequate supply.

During the inspection, officials assessed the pricing of staple food items, vegetables, dairy products to government regulations. The team also checked for any instances of hoarding, overpricing, and the sale of substandard goods.

Speaking on the occasion, Tehsildar Handwara



emphasized the importance of the drive stating the primary objective of this initiative is to regulate the availability of fresh and hygienic products for the people during Ramadan. The Administration has urged local shopkeepers and vendors to strictly adhere to the prescribed price lists and maintain transparency in their trade practices.

The officials have assured that similar inspections will continue in the coming days to safeguard consumer interests and prevent any unfair trade

practices. President of Traders Federation Handwara appreciated the administration's proactive approach in ensuring that essential commodities remain affordable and available throughout the month of fasting.

Authorities have also issued a warning that strict action will be taken against violators found indulging in profiteering or black marketing, as ensuring fair trade practices remains a top priority for the district administration.



Rajesh Kumar, Additional Director General (ADG) CRPF J&K called on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday

Police lodge case against MP Mehdi, ex-mayor for 'circulating false content' on digital platforms

PTI
Srinagar, Mar 03: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday registered cases against Lok Sabha MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi and another person for allegedly spreading distorted narratives using digital platforms to cause public unrest and societal disharmony, according to an official statement.

The police statement said that acting on credible inputs about the circulation of "false, fabricated and misleading content" on digital and social media platforms, allegedly with an intent to create fear, disturb public order, and incite unlawful activities, cases were registered against Mehdi and former Srinagar mayor Junaid Azim Mattu.

"The content in question, prima facie, reflects the dissemination of distorted narratives and unverified information capable of causing public unrest and societal disharmony. Such deliberate attempts to spread misinformation pose a serious threat to peace, security, and overall stability," the statement said.

The cases have been registered under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and investigations have been initiated.

The statement reiterated the Srinagar police's firm commitment to maintaining public peace and law and order, and advised citizens to verify information through official and credible sources before sharing content online. It asked people to refrain from circulating unverified material that may disturb communal harmony or public order.

"Further legal action shall follow as warranted under law," the statement added.

Judges should follow judicial 'dharma' irrespective of effect on career: Justice Nagarathna

PTI
Kochi, Mar 03: Supreme Court judge, Justice B V Nagarathna, on Tuesday said that even if unpopular decisions may cost judges their elevation or extension, they should follow their oath of office or 'judicial dharma'.

Justice Nagarathna made the remark while speaking on the importance of judicial review in the interplay between transformative constitutionalism and the doctrine of basic structure, and how independence of judges was an integral part of it.

The topic of her speech was "Transformative Constitutionalism and Basic Structure Doctrine: A Dialogue" at the Justice T S Krishnamoorthy Iyer memorial lecture held at the Kerala High Court here.

Justice Nagarathna, in her speech, also said that thinning out of personal liberty, often in the name of collective or public interest, "must be guarded against".

She said that a transformative Constitution, to achieve its goal of reform, must understand that it is best realised through

constitutional discipline that treats personal liberty as foundational rather than dispensable for the sake of collective interest.

"Transformation, in this sense, presupposes restraint. This insight directs attention to the constitutional mechanisms that exist precisely to enforce such restraint. Among these, the basic structure doctrine occupies a distinctive place.

"The basic structure doctrine identifies the constitutional minimum. Its role is essentially negative: it tells us what constitutional change must not destroy. Transformative constitutionalism supplies the constitutional trajectory. Its role is dynamic rather than prohibitory," the judge said.

The Supreme Court judge clarified that transformative constitutionalism cannot be invoked to justify erosion of negative liberty, dilution of habeas corpus, or normalisation of coercive power, because these strike at the very restraints the basic structure exists to protect.

"Equally, the basic structure cannot be invoked to freeze constitutional

meaning at the moment of enactment, because a Constitution committed to justice cannot be indifferent to the conditions of its own application," she said.

She further said that if transformative constitutionalism was to operate within the outer limits supplied by the basic structure doctrine, "there must exist a constitutional actor capable of policing those limits".

"That actor is the judiciary exercising the power of judicial review. Without judicial review, the basic structure doctrine would be a mere constitutional slogan," Justice Nagarathna said.

She said that judicial review frequently requires courts to invalidate legislation, restrain executive action, or set aside constitutional amendments enacted by political majorities, and these are not easy tasks as they often carry political consequences.

"Even if judges know that unpopular decisions may cost them elevation, extension, or bring them into the bad books of the powers that be, that should not come in the way of their decisions. Ultimately, it is the conviction, courage

and independence of each judge that really matters.

"We, as Judges, should always follow our oath of office, which is our judicial dharma and live up to it irrespective of its consequences on our career," she said.

The apex court judge said that judicial independence can be ensured through security of tenure as well as transparent and structured appointment processes.

"Institutional autonomy -- administrative and financial -- prevents indirect nudges of pressure. These safeguards do not make judges infallible, but they make principled adjudication possible.

"Ultimately, the true content of judicial independence is realised not in institutional design alone, but in the manner in which judges discharge their office," she said.

She also said that while independence from external influence, political pressure, institutional intimidation or popular demand was necessary, judges should also be free to form and express their considered view of the law even when it diverges from their colleagues.

Govt terminates PMGSY road contracts worth Rs 2,543.05 lakh over delay, blacklists contractor

Dy CM reiterates zero tolerance for lapses, quality compromise



KT News Desk

Jammu, 03: The government has terminated two major road construction contracts in Kathua, blacklisting the contractor for delays in work completion.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary said the contracts, awarded to M/s Puran Chand and Sons, Jammu, have been terminated due to the contractor's failure to meet the deadlines despite repeated notices and extended opportunities.

He said that the terminated projects included construction of road from Malhar to Marhoon (Package No. JK07-136, Phase X, Stage-I) and construction and maintenance of road from L031 Mahan to Banjar (Package No. JK07-219, Phase XII). Both the works had been allotted to M/s Puran Chand and Sons, Jammu.

He said that besides imposition of penalty the contractor has been blacklisted and debarred from participating in future PMGSY works for a period of one year.

An official order from the Office of the Chief Engineer PMGSY states that the contractor failed to mobilize adequate machinery, manpower and resources, leading to prolonged delays. Despite multiple notices, review meetings and assurances, progress

remained unsatisfactory, impacting connectivity and public convenience in the affected areas.

In both the cases, the contracts have been terminated under relevant clauses of the Standard Bidding Document (SBD). Liquidated damages and penalties amounting Rs. 146.63 lakh in one project and Rs. 217.54 lakh in the other have been imposed.

The concerned Executive Engineer has been directed to recover the penalty amount from the pending dues, security deposits, performance securities and bank guarantees.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that fresh tendering for the balance works has been ordered to ensure early completion. He stated that timely and quality execution of developmental works is non-negotiable for the government. He emphasized that public infrastructure must be completed within stipulated deadlines and in accordance with the prescribed standards.

The Deputy Chief Minister further cautioned that the erring contractors may face strict action, including blacklisting, if they fail to complete projects within the defined timeframe. He reiterated the government's commitment towards ensuring accountability, transparency and accelerated development across J&K.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

LG Sinha chairs

Preserving peace and sustaining the progress of society is a shared responsibility that rests equally upon each one of us."

It may be recalled that the MHA in its advisory had stated that intelligence inputs suggest that extremist groups may seek to exploit the prevailing tensions to foment unrest or carry out disruptive activities.

The MHA in its advisory had instructed the Directors General of Police to ensure that quick response teams remain operational and ready to respond swiftly to any untoward incident.

The Home Ministry had also placed special emphasis on monitoring social media platforms to curb the spread of inflammatory messages, misinformation and rumours that could disturb communal harmony. (KNO)

Precautionary restrictions

under control; however, minor protests were reported from parts of Sopore, Baramulla, Budgam and Bandipora districts.

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

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

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

Northern Army Commander

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

Pertinently, armed forces are on high alert in the wake of recent US and Israeli attacks on Iran, which led to the killing of Iran's Supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Saturday. The attack led to Iran hitting Israel and the US bases in Middle East countries, including UAE and Saudi Arabia. The situation is tense as US and Israel continue to pound Iran. The Ministry of Home Affairs has also issued a nationwide security alert to all states and Union Territories, warning of possible violence and sporadic protests in the wake of recent geo-political scenario. (KNO)

Don't take law

government. Any change in Iran must come from within. If the people are unhappy, only they have the right to decide how they want to change their government," he said.

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

On regional tensions, the Chief Minister said war benefits no one. He described the attack on Iran as wrong and said retaliatory strikes in the region were also unacceptable. "War is not the solution; instead of ending, it is spreading," he said. (KNO)

LG, CM greet

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

Viksit Bharat will

reality if all of India develops. A developed India will not become a reality if that development is confined only to select pockets," the Chief Minister said, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Omar said that unless every region, from Jammu and Kashmir in the north to Assam in the east, Gujarat in the west and Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala in the south experiences tangible development, the idea of Viksit Bharat would remain "a dream and merely a slogan."

"Unless all of us see that development and that progress, Viksit Bharat will remain unfulfilled," he said.

Abdullah stressed that development must be anchored in balanced growth and strengthened district-level governance.

Advocating a ground-up approach, the Chief Minister said India's transformation depends on empowered districts rather than a purely top-down model of governance.

"India develops through conferences like this and by taking a bottom-up approach. If our districts perform, our states and Union Territories perform. If our states perform, our country performs. And if our country performs, the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047 may perhaps be realised even before the timeline we have set for ourselves," he said.

He said that district-level reforms are central to achieving national goals and called for strengthening administrative efficiency at the grassroots.

Omar said such conferences play a crucial role in promoting collaboration and preventing duplication of efforts. "For far too long, governance functioned in silos where sharing information was discouraged. Today, we are moving towards a more collaborative and holistic model," he said.

He added that successful models from one

district or state should be adapted and replicated elsewhere, though solutions must be tailored to local realities.

"There is no quick-fix solution. What works in one state may not work in another. What works in J&K may not work in Gujarat or Maharashtra. But we can adapt and modify successful practices to suit our local conditions," the CM said.

Highlighting administrative reforms in Jammu and Kashmir, Abdullah described the transition to the e-office system as a major milestone.

"One reform that has made a huge difference is the e-office system. Paper files have virtually disappeared. I now rarely see a paper file," he said.

He noted that digitisation has enhanced efficiency, transparency and accountability, with time-stamped file movements ensuring prompt decision-making. In a lighter vein, he remarked that officers sometimes compete to clear files at odd hours to demonstrate efficiency.

The Chief Minister also spoke about the growing use of virtual platforms for official meetings, which has enabled frequent interaction with district administrations without requiring officers to travel to Jammu or Srinagar.

"Earlier, district collectors had to travel once or twice a year for meetings. Now interactions happen at the drop of a hat," he said, while cautioning against overuse of virtual meetings and stressing disciplined utilisation to avoid disrupting fieldwork.

Stressing practical governance reforms, the CM called for an effective implementation of citizen-centric initiatives. "If we have a single window, it should actually function as a single window," he said, noting that in some cases, such systems end up adding layers instead of simplifying processes.

He stressed that governance reforms must translate into real ease of access and service delivery for citizens.

The Chief Minister said that elected representatives and administrators share a common objective, ensuring that citizens receive quality services in education, health, infrastructure and other key sectors.

"Whether it is myself, Dr Jitendra Singh Sahab or the Hon'ble MP, we have the same goal as you to ensure that people receive what they expect from us in development, governance and services," he said.

He added that national-level interactions serve both as knowledge-sharing platforms and as opportunities to strengthen professional relationships, which ultimately help improve coordination and service delivery.

Expressing gratitude to the Union Minister for choosing Jammu as the venue for the conference, the Chief Minister extended an invitation to hold similar events in Srinagar in the future to sustain the momentum of collaborative

governance.

The CM further welcomed the delegates and expressed confidence that the deliberations would meaningfully contribute to strengthening governance frameworks across the country and advancing the vision of "minimum government and maximum governance."

Pertinently, the conference was organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) Jugal Kishore Sharma, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Secretary DARPG Rachna Shah, Additional Secretary DARPG Puneet Yadav, Joint Secretary DARPG Sarita Chauhan, Commissioner Secretary GAD M Raju, senior IAS and JKAS officers, retired civil servants and participants from across the country were present on the occasion. (KNO)

World Hearing Day: Experts

issues like earwax buildup, fluid accumulation, infections, perforation of the eardrum, or abnormalities in the ear bones," Dr Neelofar said, adding that many such cases are treatable.

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

Dr Tabassum, another ENT specialist, said the World Hearing Day aims to promote ear and hearing care, early detection, and access to treatment, noting that many cases of hearing impairment can be prevented or effectively managed if diagnosed early.

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

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

Doctors also pointed out that symptoms of hearing loss often go unnoticed initially and may include muffled speech, difficulty understanding conversations in noisy environments, frequently asking others to repeat themselves, increasing volume levels of devices, and social withdrawal.

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

Experts stressed that while some forms of hearing loss—especially conductive types—can be medically or surgically treated, others may require assistive devices such as hearing aids. In severe cases, cochlear implants can offer significant improvement.

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

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

Dry conditions to prevail

on March 4. From March 7 to 9, the weather department, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), has forecast generally cloudy conditions with light rain and snow over higher reaches at isolated scattered places.

Similar conditions are likely on March 10 and 11. The weather is expected to remain generally dry from March 12 to 14, while March 15 and 16 may see generally cloudy skies.

The Met office advised farmers to continue farm operations. It said day temperatures are likely to rise by 1-2 degrees Celsius at most places over the next four days, followed by a fall of 2-4 degrees Celsius at many places.

During the past 24 hours, maximum temperatures remained above normal in several parts of the Union Territory. Srinagar recorded a maximum of 21.4 degrees Celsius, against a normal of 13.0 degrees, while the minimum settled at 2.1 degrees.

Qazigund recorded a high of 21.2 degrees and a low of 0.4 degrees. Pahalgam registered 17.5 degrees as the maximum and minus 2.1 degrees as the minimum. Kupwara recorded a high of 21.1 degrees and a low of minus 0.2 degrees, while Kokernag settled at 19.0 and 4.0 degrees, respectively. Gulmarg recorded a maximum of 11.6 degrees and a minimum of minus 0.2 degrees.

In the Jammu division, Jammu city recorded a maximum of 28.6 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 11.7 degrees. Banihal registered 21.1 and 10.4 degrees, Batote 21.7 and 10.6 degrees, Katra 26.6 and 14.6 degrees, Bhaderwah 22.7 and 3.4 degrees, and Kathua 27.8 and 12.8 degrees. (KNO)

PM urges industry to ramp up investment, prioritise research to scale up manufacturing

PTI

New Delhi, Mar 03: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday urged industry leaders to step up investments, embrace emerging technologies and prioritise research to help India Inc fully leverage the vast opportunities offered by free trade agreements with various nations.

"The days of cutting corners in research are over. We must now make substantial investments in research and development and ensure that our products meet global quality standards. Now we have got opportunities to move forward, so we should have only one mantra - Quality, Quality, Quality," he said while addressing a second webinar on Budget 2026-27.

Stressing that India has entered into free trade agreements with numerous countries, he said, these agreements have opened up a wide range of opportunities for the country.

"In such a situation, he said, "our responsibility is that we should never compromise on quality."

Today, the world is seeking reliable and resilient manufacturing partners, he said, adding that India has a strong opportunity to fulfil this role.

"Our direction is clear. Our resolve is



clear. Build more, produce more, connect more, and now the need is to export more," he said.

Pointing out that a significant transformation is currently underway in the global economy, he said that markets are no longer focused solely on cost; sustainability has become an equally important consideration.

"The Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage Mission is a key initiative driving this shift. Incorporating sustainability into core business strategies is now essential. Industries that invest early in clean technologies will gain better access to

emerging markets in the years ahead," he said. Highlighting the importance of infrastructure and logistics, he said, they serve as fundamental pillars of our growth strategy.

This year's budget proposes a record level of capital expenditure to support these priorities, he said.

As India emerges as a beacon of hope for the world thanks to its robust economy, and as global supply chains undergo transformation, the prime minister said, rapid economic development has become the cornerstone for realising the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Vice President unveils drone to tranquilise elephants

PTI

Thiruvananthapuram, Mar 03: A drone designed to tranquilise violent elephants without close human contact, recently unveiled by Vice President C P Radhakrishnan, marks a significant milestone in the use of indigenous UAV technology for human-wildlife conflict mitigation, the manufacturing company said.

The unveiling of the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) took place on Sunday in the presence of Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and Union Minister of State for Petroleum, Natural Gas and Tourism Suresh Gopi, underscoring the national importance of integrating advanced aerial systems into wildlife protection efforts, the company said in a release.

"The customised drone is engineered to support safe and precise elephant darting operations by enabling aerial-assisted tranquilisation with enhanced accuracy.

"The system significantly reduces on-ground risk to forest personnel, minimises disturbance to wildlife, and improves operational efficiency during critical interventions involving distressed or conflict-prone elephants," it said.

It further said that nearly a decade ago, the platform marked the first drone designed by Garuda Aerospace for the Tamil Nadu Forest Department.

"The latest customised solution represents the culmination of years of field learning, technological upgrades, and mission-focused research and development," it said.

It also said that in the past, Garuda Aerospace has supplied multiple drones to leading conservation bodies, including the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), along with several forest departments across India.

"These deployments have supported wildlife



monitoring, anti-poaching operations, habitat mapping, and rapid-response missions in ecologically sensitive regions," the release said.

Speaking on the occasion, Agnishwar Jayaprakash, Founder and Director of Garuda Aerospace, said that witnessing the Vice President unveil an evolved, customised solution for drone-aided elephant darting was "deeply fulfilling".

"Our journey has been built on incremental innovation—continuously enhancing our technology to responsibly serve wildlife conservation. We remain committed to creating indigenous solutions that protect both animals and communities," he was quoted as saying.

As India continues to address the growing challenges of human-elephant conflict, drone-assisted darting offers a safer, more efficient, and humane alternative to traditional ground-based approaches, Garuda Aerospace, a drone tech start-up, has said.

BJP names nine candidates for Rajya Sabha polls

PTI

New Delhi, Mar 03: BJP national president Nitin Nabin was on Tuesday nominated as the party's candidate from Bihar for the upcoming Rajya Sabha polls.

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has released a list of nine candidates for the Rajya Sabha polls, fielding its former West Bengal unit chief Rahul Sinha and Chhattisgarh unit vice-president Laxmi Verma from the respective states.

Assam PWD Minister Jogen Mohan and MLA Terash Gowalla will be the saffron party's candidates for the elections to the Upper House of Parliament from the state.

The BJP has also nominated its Odisha unit president, Manmohan Samal, and leader Sujit Kumar, an incumbent Rajya Sabha MP, as candidates from the state for the upcoming polls.

BJP leader Shivesh Kumar will join the fray from Bihar and Sanjay Bhatia, a former Lok Sabha MP of the party, will be its candidate from Haryana. Kumar is Bihar BJP's general secretary.

The names of the candidates have been approved by the party's central election committee, BJP national general secretary Arun Singh said.

India has enough oil stock to weather West Asia crisis

PTI

New Delhi, Mar 03: India holds sufficient crude and fuel inventories to meet domestic demand for petrol, diesel, and other fuels for six to eight weeks, top government sources said, cushioning the country against any short-term supply disruption amid escalating military conflict in West Asia.

About half of India's crude and LPG imports transit the Strait of Hormuz - the key energy chokepoint that has seen disruptions following US and Israeli attacks on Iranian government, military and nuclear facilities. Iran warned shipping away from the strait, and insurers withdrew coverage, effectively halting tanker movements.

A top oil ministry official, who wished not to be named, said the government is monitoring the situation "on a daily and hourly basis" and is confident of navigating through the crisis that by some estimates may last a week or ten days.

While the country has crude



oil stocks to last 25 days and fuel to last a similar duration, contingency plans - including using stockpile in strategic petroleum reserves, commercial stocks, and diversified sourcing from the US, Russia, West Africa, and Latin America - will ensure continuity even if the crisis lasts longer.

While immediate shortages are unlikely, rising crude prices and higher freight and insurance costs could impact India's import bill and inflation.

Separately, the ministry in a statement said Oil

Minister Hardeep Singh Puri "briefed the media on the country's preparedness in the current circumstances" and it was informed that "the country is well stocked with crude oil and inventories of key petroleum products including petrol, diesel and ATF to deal with short-term disruptions arising from the Middle East."

It, however, did not give details of the stocks.

"The Ministry has established a 24x7 control room to continuously monitor the supply and

stock position of petroleum products across the country," it said.

"At present, the government is reasonably comfortable in terms of stocks. Safeguarding the interests of Indian consumers remains the highest priority. Based on continuous monitoring, the government is cautiously optimistic that phased measures can be taken, if required, to further mitigate the situation."

India is the third largest importer, fourth largest refiner, and fifth largest exporter of petroleum products globally.

"It was further apprised that in the last few years, India has ensured both availability and affordability of energy for its population by diversifying its sources. Indian energy companies now have access to energy supplies that are not routed through the Strait of Hormuz. "Such cargoes will remain available and help mitigate supplies that may be temporarily affected enroute through the Strait of Hormuz," the statement said.

Murmu greets citizens on eve of Holi



PTI

New Delhi, Mar 03: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday greeted citizens on the eve of Holi and said the festival strengthens the spirit of social cohesion.

Holi is a festival of joy and celebration that conveys the message of social harmony, she said in a message.

"The festival spreads love and hope in the society and strengthens the

spirit of social cohesion. Holi is also a symbol of unity in diversity," Murmu said.

May the colours of Holi bring happiness into everyone's life, and together we contribute to building a developed nation, the president said.

Murmu extended heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all Indians living in India and abroad on the occasion, according to the message.

Anxiety, fear grip parents of Indian students stuck in war-torn Iran

PTI

New Delhi, Mar 03: Another day brought with it yet more anxiety and fear as parents and family members eagerly waited for updates about the safety of their children stuck in Iran.

As the situation escalates, parents continue to appeal to the Indian government to evacuate their children at the earliest.

For 30-year-old Altaf Khan, currently residing in Srinagar, Tuesday started with checking his phone and waiting for updates on his sister's safety.

"My sister, Sobia, is a first-year medical student in Tehran. We were able to connect with her yesterday for a couple of minutes and the fear was evident in her voice. She told us that sirens have been going off frequently and that they could hear loud explosions near their campus," Khan said.

He added that his parents have neither been eating nor sleeping. The constant anxiety has been very taxing for his family, he added.

"My sister is only 19. I cannot imagine what she must be feeling, how scared she must be," Khan added, his voice choked with emotion.

Another parent, 44-year-old Aafroza (goes by first name),



based out of Srinagar, said, "It is our urgent request that the Indian government get all our children out safely and immediately. I was able to connect with my daughter for a little bit on Monday and she said that they were running out of food and other necessities as well. Movement outside the campus has become very risky, with the escalated security concerns."

Aafroza's daughter is a third-year medical student in Tehran. "All other countries had already evacuated their

respective students. The situation has escalated so much and we are just living every second in fear that we will receive bad news. We are constantly glued to our phones, in the hope of getting some updates or reassurances," Aafroza told PTI.

Aafroza confirmed that she had not been able to connect with her daughter till Tuesday afternoon.

The national representative of All India Medical Students Association (AIMSA) Mohammad Momin Khan, said, "Indian students

who were relocated from Tehran have safely reached Qom as part of precautionary arrangements. The movement was carried out in coordination with the Embassy of India in Tehran to ensure the safety and well-being of all students."

Meanwhile, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) on Tuesday postponed the Class 10 and 12 board exams scheduled for March 5 and 6 in the Middle East region amid the Iran-Israel conflict, officials said.

'Nearly 500% increase in breast cancer cases in India since 1990'



PTI

New Delhi, Mar 03: A new study has found breast cancer to be a leading cause of mortality and morbidity in women worldwide, with India registering a staggering 477 per cent increase in breast cancer cases and 352 per cent increase in deaths caused by the disease between 1990 and 2023.

The study published in the Lancet Oncology estimated the number of breast cancer cases globally to rise to 3.5 million by 2050 -- rising by a third from 2.3 million in 2023 -- and deaths to increase by 44 per cent to about 1.37 million yearly.

According to the study, led by Kayleigh Bhangdia from the

Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), University of Washington, US, India registered about 2.03 lakh cancer cases in 2023, nearly 477 per cent increase from 2023, and over one lakh deaths, a 352.3 per cent increase, since 1990.

The impact of the disease was not standard across the globe, with low- and middle-income nations being more affected than the high-income group.

The study noted that the age-standardised incidence rate (ASIR) increased by 147.2 per cent in the low-income group compared with only 1.2 per cent change in the high-income group.

The age-standardised

mortality rate (ASMR) decreased in the high-income group, changing by a negative 29.9 per cent, but increased by 99.3 per cent in the low-income group.

"Breast cancer continues to take a profound toll on women's lives and communities... While those in high-income countries typically benefit from screening and more timely diagnosis and comprehensive treatment strategies, the mounting burden of breast cancer is shifting to low- and lower middle-income countries where individuals often face later-stage diagnosis, more limited access to quality care, and higher death rates that are threatening to eclipse progress in women's health," Bhangdia said.

The study credits stable incidence and declining mortality rates in high-income nations to success in screening, diagnosis and treatment, while the concurrent rise in cases and mortality in other regions signals health system deficits.

While the disease disproportionately impacts countries with limited resources, the findings suggested maintaining a healthy lifestyle "including not smoking, getting sufficient physical activity, lowering red meat consumption and having a healthy weight may help prevent over a quarter of healthy years lost to illness and premature death".

West Asia conflict: PM Modi speaks to Sultan of Oman, Crown Prince of Kuwait



PTI
New Delhi, Mar 03: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday spoke to Sultan Haitham bin Tariq of Oman and Crown Prince of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, and expressed concern over attacks on their countries during the ongoing conflict in West Asia, officials said.

In his telephonic conversations, Modi also discussed with the two leaders the welfare and security of the Indian community residing there.

"The prime minister spoke to two important leaders from the Gulf region on Tuesday afternoon. He had a phone call with the Sultan of Oman,

Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, and also had a conversation with the Crown Prince of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah," an official said.

During his talks with the two leaders, Modi expressed concern over the attacks in their respective countries and discussed the welfare and security of the Indian community residing there.

The phone calls took place in the wake of a coordinated offensive launched against Iran by the United States and Israel, in which the Islamic country's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was killed. In retaliation, Iran has fired drones and missiles at Israel and US military installations around the Gulf, as also

at the global business and aviation hubs of Dubai and Doha.

Over the last two days, Modi has spoken to the King of Bahrain and the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, and condemned recent attacks on the two countries in violation of their sovereignty and territorial integrity, asserting that India stands in solidarity with their people in this difficult hour.

The prime minister has also spoken to King Abdullah II of Jordan and conveyed deep concern over the evolving situation in the region.

Modi has also spoken to United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

We attacked because Iran's nuclear programme would have been 'immune within months': Netanyahu

PTI
Jerusalem, Mar 03: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday said that Israel and the US struck Iran because Tehran had restarted its nuclear programme and it would have gone "immune within months."



Netanyahu told Fox News early Tuesday that an attack against Iran was urgently needed because Tehran was building new underground sites to shield its missile and nuclear programmes from attacks.

"They started building new sites, new places, underground bunkers that would make their ballistic missile programme and their atomic bomb programme immune within months. If no action was taken now, no action could be taken in the future," he said.

"The reason that we had to act now is that after we hit their nuclear sites and their ballistic missile programme (in the 12-day war last year in June)... they started building new sites... underground bunkers that would make their ballistic missile programme and their atomic bomb programme immune within months," the Israeli Premier told the TV channel.

"If no action was taken now, no action could be taken in the future," he stressed.

This is contrary to the claims

made last year by Netanyahu and US President Donald Trump.

The Israeli leader had said that Israel had "achieved a historic victory" over Iran that would "abide for generations" and Trump claimed that the Iranian nuclear programme had been totally "obliterated".

Critics, however, had started expressing doubts over the claims, saying that Iran may have moved and secured the enriched uranium in some other location prior to the bombings.

Netanyahu, in the interview, denied that the US and Israel were engaging in an "endless war" against Iran, insisting that the operation would end quickly.

"I hear people are telling you that you're going to have an endless war here - You're not going to have an endless war because... this terror regime in Iran is at its weakest point" since its founding, the Israeli Premier said.

Trump officials say Israel's plans helped lead the US into Iran war

AP
Washington, Mar 03: The Trump administration and its allies in Congress presented a shifting new justification Monday for the US attack on Iran, with House Speaker Mike Johnson suggesting that the White House believed Israel was determined to act on its own, leaving the president with a "very difficult decision."



The Republican was speaking late Monday after a classified briefing at the Capitol, the first for congressional leaders since the start of the war, a joint US-Israel military campaign that killed Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and has quickly spiraled into a widening Middle East conflict. Hundreds have died, including at least six US military service personnel.

Johnson said the attack on Iran was a "defensive operation" because Israel was ready to act against Iran, "with or without American support." He said President Donald Trump and his team determined that Iran would immediately retaliate against US personnel and assets.

"The commander in chief has said this is going to be an operation that is short in duration," Johnson said. "We certainly hope that's true."

The remarkable shift in the Trump administration's stated rationale comes as the hostilities deepen and widen across the region. The president himself estimated the war could drag on for weeks. The administration plans to seek supplemental funds from Congress to support the military effort, lawmakers said, in

stark contrast to the president's America First campaign not to entangle the US in actions abroad.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the "hardest hits are yet to come" as the US is determined to continue attacking Iran for as long as it takes with an "even more punishing" next phase in the war.

"We knew that there was going to be an Israeli action," he said. "And we knew that if we didn't preemptively go after them before they launched those attacks, we would suffer higher casualties."

Rubio said that while the US would like to see the Iranian people rise up and be rid of the regime, "that's not the objective," he said. "The objective of this mission is to make sure they don't have these weapons that can threaten us and our allies in the region."

Trump's shifting rationale sparks detractors

World Cup-winning Indian women's cricket team nominated for Laureus Team of the Year Award



PTI
Madrid, Mar 03: In a first, the Indian women's cricket squad has been nominated for the prestigious 2026 Laureus World Team of the Year Award following their maiden World Cup title triumph.

The nomination was confirmed by Laureus Sport on Tuesday.

They are the first women's cricket team to receive this nomination, a recognition for their exceptional performance in the mega event, including the highest successful run chase in women's ODI history in a semi-final win against Australia.

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side is nominated alongside major teams like the England Women's football team, European Ryder Cup squad, French football league's Paris Saint-Germain, and McLaren Formula 1.

Laureus Sport said in a press release: "In their Cricket World Cup semi-final against Australia, the India Women's Cricket Team pulled off the highest successful run chase in women's ODI history (339) - before winning their first title against South Africa and are the first women's cricket team to be nominated for this Award."

The landmark triumph was

celebrated nationwide, with the BCCI announcing a significant cash prize of Rs 51 crore for the squad.

The team joins a select group of Indian athletes nominated for main Laureus categories, including Vinesh Phogat (2019), Neeraj Chopra (2022), and Rishabh Pant (2025).

The award winners will be decided by the sporting jury - the members of the Laureus World Sports Academy - and announced at a gala event to be held at the Cibeles Palace in Madrid on April 20.

This is the third consecutive time Madrid will be hosting the awards ceremony.

Smriti Mandhana climbs to top of Women's ODI batters' rankings



PTI
Dubai, Mar 03: India opener Smriti Mandhana on Tuesday climbed to the top of the ICC Women's ODI Batting Rankings following her fine performances in the just-concluded three-match series against Australia.

Mandhana (790 points) made notable scores of 58 and 31 in the series, doing enough to move past South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt (782), who will have the opportunity to reclaim the spot when the Proteas take on New Zealand across March and April.

Making a century in her final ODI, Alyssa Healy signed off in fourth place on the rankings

(744), wedged between Beth Mooney (749) and Ashleigh Gardner (724).

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur is the other Indian in top 10 at ninth position, while Jemimah Rodrigues is on 12th.

Despite losing all three matches of the ODI series, there was joy for Harmanpreet (652), who moved four spots back into the top 10 for batters, thanks to scores of 53, 54 and 25.

Deepthi Sharma is the lone Indian in top 10 among bowlers at the 10th spot.

Alana King (775) jumped to the top of Women's ODI bowling rankings, ending Sophie Ecclestone's near four-year reign at the top of the rankings. Gardner is placed third.

Across the week King led both the teams with seven wickets at an average of 16.71, claiming 4/33 form 10 overs in the third ODI, helping the hosts to a 185-run victory. It propelled her to her first No.1 rating, with her rating of 775 also a career high.

King is joined by four Australian bowlers in the top eight - Gardner (third), Annabel Sutherland (fifth), Megan Schutt (seventh) and Kim Garth (eighth).

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

رَمَضَانَ الْمُبَارَكِ

1447 H / 2026 CE

وقت افطار	اعتقاص سحری	رمضان المبارک	تاریخ
06:34 PM	05:31 AM	16	06
06:34 PM	05:30 AM	17	07
06:35 PM	05:28 AM	18	08
06:36 PM	05:27 AM	19	09
06:37 PM	05:26 AM	20	10
06:38 PM	05:25 AM	21	11
06:38 PM	05:24 AM	22	12
06:39 PM	05:23 AM	23	13
06:40 PM	05:20 AM	24	14
06:41 PM	05:19 AM	25	15
06:42 PM	05:18 AM	26	16
06:42 PM	05:16 AM	27	17
06:43 PM	05:15 AM	28	18
06:44 PM	05:14 AM	29	19
06:45 PM	05:12 AM	30	20

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

DUA FOR SEHRI

وَبِصَوْمِ غَدٍ نُوَيْتُ 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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