



J&K experiencing spiritual, cultural & social renaissance, says LG Sinha

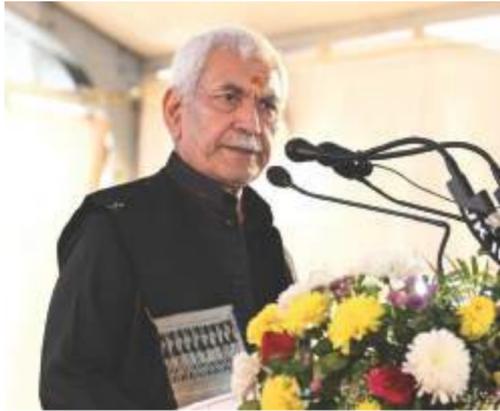
'After 5 years of effort, vision of spiritually vibrant region taking shape'

Yogesh

Reasi, Mar 07: Asserting that after centuries, Jammu and Kashmir is experiencing a genuine spiritual, cultural, and social renaissance, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said that the Union Territory is re-emerging as a center of knowledge, art, music, and philosophy.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating the infrastructure upgradation and beautification works at Shiv Khori Shrine here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) thanked Sajjan Jindal, CMD of JSW Group and his entire team for the historic endeavour. The works were completed by JSW Group under its Corporate Social Responsibility. "I see this as a profound act of kindness for humanity's shared heritage," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said since the 2023 MoU with JSW



Group, we awaited this day and today, anticipation ends.

"Shiv Khori's awakening begins. We have not only upgraded infrastructure but fortified faith itself. I have always held a firm conviction that the light of spirituality must be

readily accessible to every person in society," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He emphasised that the infrastructure upgradation of Shiv Khori is an announcement that the holy shrines of our ancient tradition are | [More on P6](#)

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

LG calls for equal opportunity, justice for J&K women

KT News Desk

Jammu, Mar 07: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has greeted the women of Jammu Kashmir on the occasion of the International Women's Day, which is being celebrated on 8th March.

In his message on this occasion, the Lieutenant Governor said, "On the occasion of International Women's Day, I extend my greetings and felicitations to all my sisters of Jammu Kashmir in their steadfast commitment and unwavering drive to forge the future of UT and our great nation. I trust this occasion will inspire them to step forward as vital partners in country's development | [More on P6](#)

CM Omar hails power linemen as 'true foot soldiers of PDD'

Felicitates ground heroes, pushes for zero casualty



Yogesh

Jammu, Mar 07: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Saturday said that linemen of Power Development Department (PDD) are the 'true foot soldiers and indispensable workforce'.

Addressing the gathering at 'Lineman Diwas' in Jammu, CM Omar as per the

news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) praised the efforts of Lineman and said that during the Operation Sindoor and the 2025 floods they brave adverse conditions like war and natural calamities.

"The Lineman put their lives on the line of duty, just like our brave defence forces," he said.

The CM on the occasion further said, "I have

witnessed such a function for the linemen for the first time of my seven and a half years of experience in heading the power sector including the six years of my previous government and one and a half years of the incumbent government."

Omar appreciated the Managing Director of Jammu Power | [More on P6](#)

Visually impaired candidate from Bandipora clears UPSC exam

'Lost eye in school accident during early childhood, continued studies, civil services prep over years'

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Mar 07: A visually impaired candidate from North Kashmir's Bandipora district has cleared the Union Public Service Commission Civil Services Examination 2025.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Irfan Ahmad Lone, of Manzpora in Naidkhai area secured an all-India rank of 957 in the examination, the results of which were declared recently.

Lone lost an eye in a school accident during his early childhood but continued his studies and civil services preparation over the years.

He completed his schooling

from the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities in Dehradun and later graduated from Hindu College under University of Delhi.

He went on to pursue political science at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. Family members and residents said Lone prepared for the examination for several years.

His cousin, Feroz Ahmad, said Lone's journey showed that sustained effort and focus can help achieve difficult goals.

Residents in the locality said people from nearby areas visited the family's residence to congratulate them after the results were announced.

A neighbour | [More on P6](#)

Cloudy weather, rain, snowfall likely in J&K: MeT

Day temps likely to fall by 4–6°C after March 9

Sajid Raina

Srinagar, Mar 07: The Meteorological Department has forecast generally cloudy weather with light rain and snowfall in higher reaches at several places in Jammu and Kashmir over the coming days.

According to the MeT office in Srinagar, the weather is expected to remain generally cloudy between March 7 and 9, with light rain and snowfall in higher reaches at isolated places.

From March 10 to 12, the region is likely to witness generally cloudy conditions with light rain and snowfall



in higher reaches at many places.

The department, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said some higher reaches of Kupwara, Bandipora, Ganderbal and

Anantnag districts may receive moderate snowfall during this period.

Between March 13 and 15, the weather is likely to remain generally cloudy with light rain | [More on P6](#)

LG hands over appointment letter to widow of SSF personnel



KT News Desk

Jammu, Mar 07: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday handed over the appointment letter, on

compassionate ground, to Sapna Bandhral, wife of SGTF Lokesh Singh, a Special Security Force (SSF) personnel who lost his life in an unfortunate road accident. | [More on P6](#)

DGP reviews security, CT ops, law & order in Awantipora

KNO

Srinagar, Mar 07: Director General of Police, J&K, Nalin Prabhat-IPS chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the overall security scenario, counter-terror (CT) operations—both kinetic and non-kinetic—and the law & order situation in Police District Awantipora.

According to a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), he was accompanied by Special DG Coordination, PHQ J&K, S.J.M. Gillani-IPS, Inspector General of Police Kashmir Zone, V.K. Birdi-IPS and DIG SKR Javid Iqbal Matoo-IPS.

The review meeting was



held at the District Police Office Awantipora and was attended by senior officers including SSP Awantipora, Addl. SP Awantipora, all SDPOs, DySP

SOGs. During the meeting, the DGP took a detailed review of the prevailing security situation with special | [More on P6](#)

Dir Info, DIPR employees condole demise of journalist Abdul Rashid Shah

KT News Desk

Jammu, Mar 07: Director Information and Public Relations, Nitish Rajora has expressed deep grief and sorrow on the demise of noted journalist and Chief Editor of Nida-e-Mashriq, Abdul Rashid Shah who passed away today after a brief illness.

In his condolence message, the Director described late Abdul Rashid as a respected figure in Kashmir's journalistic circles who served journalism for decades. He extended his deepest condolences with the bereaved family and prayed peace for

the departed soul and forbearance for the family to bear this loss.

Meanwhile, the Employees of Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) also expressed grief on the sad demise of noted journalist Abdul Rashid Shah.

The employees remembered his association with the Information Department and remembered him for his exemplary contribution to the field of journalism. The employees described his death as a significant loss to the media fraternity of Kashmir.

The employees also extended | [More on P6](#)

Film shoot brings first major production to remote Kupwara village

Locals hope for tourism push to LoC village

Waris Fayaz

Srinagar, Mar 07: A film production unit shooting a horror film titled "Pashaan" has brought unusual activity to the remote village of Nagranar in Handwara area of north Kashmir's Kupwara district, where locals say a movie is being filmed for the first time.

The project, produced by Dharma Productions Private Limited, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), drawn attention from residents as film crews set up equipment and

began shooting in the scenic village located close to the Line of Control (LoC), with locals describing the development as a rare moment for the district, which has largely remained outside the mainstream film shooting circuit in Kashmir.

Residents said the arrival of the production team has generated excitement across the village. Many gathered around the shooting locations to watch the filming process and interact with crew members.

Crew members present at the site said the natural surroundings and calm environment of Nagranar fit well with the theme of the horror film. They described | [More on P6](#)

Kashmiri students in Iran describe frightening conditions as evacuation demands grow

Families meet Div Com Kashmir, request immediate action | Gol willing to facilitate exit via Armenia but high airfare leaves many stranded

Jahangeer Ganaie

Srinagar, Mar 07: Anxiety and uncertainty continue to grip several families across Kashmir whose children are pursuing higher education in Iran, as the ongoing war-like situation in the country has heightened fears about the safety and mental well-being of hundreds of Indian students.

Concerned parents and stranded students have urged the Government of India (GoI) to immediately initiate evacuation measures, preferably

through the Armenia border, as the security situation in various Iranian cities continues to deteriorate.

On Saturday, a group of anxious parents met the Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir and apprised him of the growing concerns regarding the safety of their children studying in different universities across Iran.

During the meeting, the parents, as reported by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), requested the administration to take up



the matter urgently with the Ministry of External Affairs and ensure the safe return of the students.

The Div Com assured the parents that the administration is closely monitoring the situation and is in touch with

the concerned authorities. "Necessary efforts are being made to address the issue, although the evacuation process may take some time due to the prevailing circumstances," he said.

One of the parents said the situation in Iran has become extremely alarming, and families back home are under immense mental stress.

"Our children are living in constant fear. We keep hearing about explosions and attacks in different cities. As parents, we are unable to sleep or focus on anything. We request the

Government of India to evacuate them at the earliest," he said.

Another parent said several countries have already started evacuating their citizens from Iran and urged the Indian government to take swift action. "Countries like Azerbaijan have already evacuated their nationals. We urge the Government of India to take similar steps and arrange the safe evacuation of our children. Their safety must be the top priority," the parent added.

Some parents assembled at the Press Colony, Srinagar and

reiterated that the evacuation process should be fully coordinated and managed by the GoI to ensure a safe and organised return of the students.

Students studying in different Iranian cities described the situation as tense and frightening amid reports of explosions and security alerts.

A student studying in Shiraz said multiple blasts were heard near their hospital and even around the passport office, forcing them to remain in underground shelters.

"Yesterday, | [More on P6](#)

Govt committed to ensure equal opportunities, safety for women: Sakeena Itoo

Says women driving force behind progress of society

KT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, MARCH 07: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo Saturday remarked that women are playing a transformative role across all sectors and their contribution towards shaping our society is remarkable.

The Minister, as per an official statement, made these remarks while addressing grand International Women's Day celebrations at Abhinav Theatre here Saturday, organised by Mission Shakti in collaboration with J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) under the theme 'Give to Gain'.

Addressing a large gathering of women achievers, officers, students and social workers, the Minister highlighted that women today are playing a transformative role across all sectors including education, healthcare, administration, entrepreneurship, science, sports and social development and this day is observed to celebrate their achievements and recognitions in diverse fields.

"Women are not only backbone of their families but a driving force behind the progress of society. Their resilience, determination and leadership are shaping a stronger and more inclusive future for our country," Minister Sakeena said.

The Minister reaffirmed that the government is committed to ensure equal opportunities, dignity and safety for women and girls, noting that several initiatives are being implemented by Government to empower women and make them self sustainable.

She underlined that education remains the most powerful tool for empowering women and enabling them to realise their full potential. She urged young girls to pursue their ambitions with confidence and encouraged families to support the aspirations of their daughters.

"An educated and empowered woman uplifts not only her family but also the entire community.



When women progress, the nation progresses," she stated.

Citing example of Union Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister Sakeena said that her achievement of leading one of the critical and important Ministry in central government is proof that women can lead in every field. She called upon the young girl students to make women like Nirmala Sitharaman as role model and demonstrate that determination and hard work can overcome any barrier.

Congratulating the participants and women on International Women's Day, the Minister reiterated the government's resolve towards strengthening policies and programmes that ensure empowerment, safety and socio-economic advancement of women.

In his welcome address, Mission Director, Mission Vatsalya/Mission Shakti, Nazim Zai Khan said that this special day is commemorated to celebrate the existence, achievements, and resilience of women and girls all across Jammu & Kashmir and entire Globe.

He added that this day is not only a celebration of how far women have come in society, politics, and economics, but also a reminder of the work that remains to achieve true equality. "The theme for this year's Women's Day Celebration, 'Give to Gain' encourages us to embrace generosity and action, giving respect,

resources, justice and voice to empower women and girls", he said.

He added that these interventions bring visible change at the community level and reaffirm Government's collective commitment to building a Viksit Bharat @2047, where every girl and woman thrives in a discrimination-free environment.

He also spoke about various initiatives taken by the Social Welfare department for the empowerment and welfare of women and children in Jammu and Kashmir.

Secretary, JKAACL, Harvinder Kour while delivering vote of thanks, spoke about the importance of the day for the women folk.

Later, in recognition of meritorious public service, the Minister felicitated Commissioner Secretary, Forests Ecology and Environment, Sheetal Nanda.

On the occasion, students of Cluster University, Jammu presented a thought-provoking skit on the theme "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao", which effectively conveyed the importance of girl child education and empowerment.

During the event, the Minister also felicitated women achievers from various fields like sports, para-sports, entrepreneurship, administration and meritorious public service, Art and Culture, child welfare and other areas for their outstanding contribution to society and exemplary achievements.

DIC Shopian conducts MSME awareness programme

KT NEWS DESK

SHOPIAN, MARCH 07: An awareness programme on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) schemes was organized at Gagren, Shopian Saturday to educate local youth, artisans and aspiring entrepreneurs about various government initiatives aimed at promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship by District Industries Centre Shopian.

During the programme, General Manager, District Industries Centre, Shopian, Shurjil Naik, as per an official statement, emphasized coordinated efforts among departments to strengthen the industrial sector and create sustainable livelihoods opportunities in the district. Stressing the importance of industrial growth for economic development, General Manager directed the concerned officials to ensure effective implementation of government schemes and extend necessary support to aspiring entrepreneurs.

The participants were sensitized about different MSME schemes, financial assistance, skill development opportunities and support available for setting up new enterprises.

The speakers highlighted the importance of MSMEs in strengthening the local economy and generating employment opportunities.

The resource persons encouraged youth to take advantage of various government programmes and start their own ventures. They also informed the participants about the registration process, benefits under MSME schemes and the role of financial institutions in supporting entrepreneurs.

DC Anantnag holds interactive meet with media fraternity



KT NEWS DESK

ANANTNAG, MARCH 07: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, Saturday held an interactive meeting with members of the local media fraternity at Dak Bungalow, Khanabal.

ADCs, DIO, and the media persons of the district attended the meeting. The session aimed to enhance coordination between the district administration and the press so the objectives of public-centric governance and effective grievance redressal are realized.

Addressing the meeting, the DC, as per an official statement, described the media as a vital link between the public and the administration, which helps to provide feedback from people and identify areas requiring urgent attention. He emphasized the role of ethical journalism in development and public welfare and urged the media persons to adhere to its principles and standards.

Dr. Bhat called upon the media

to highlight the benefits of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and government initiatives and to constructively point out lacunae or gaps in implementation so the administration can take corrective measures. He also sought the media's cooperation in promoting tourism and eco-protection and noted that environmental preservation and sustainable development of the district are our collective goals.

On the occasion, the media persons shared their insights and put forth issues and concerns regarding their work in the district.

Assuring them of full cooperation from administration, the DC said their genuine concerns will be addressed for responsible journalism to thrive in the district.

The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to work toward the holistic development with positive contributions from the administration, media, and other stakeholders of the district.



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GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE CHIEF HORTICULTURE OFFICER ANANTNAG

DC OFFICE COMPLEX ANANTNAG, PIN: 192101 01932-467596

Re-Auction Notice (Through Tenders)

In view of poor response by bidders/participants for auction of 268 walnut, 50 apple, 23 cherry, 4 Pear and 15 Elm trees existing in Lehenwan Hazelnut Farm, it has been decided by auction committee that bidding process for auction of said trees will be held afresh. The detailed re-auction notice and prescribed tender form, will be made available from this office to the interested persons upto 10/03/2026 on all working days (upto 4:30pm) against proper application with photocopy of the identity card of the applicant and on payment of Rs 20/= each which is non refundable. No proxy application will be entertained.

Tenders, sealed properly in envelopes after fixing gum and tape on all sides along with CDR of Rs. 20000 (Pledged to Chief Horticulture Officer Anantnag) are to be deposited in the tender box available in this office by or before 13/03/2026 (up to 4:30pm). The quotations will be opened by the auction committee on 16/03/2026 at 11:30 A.M at CHO Office Anantnag in presence of Committee members, In case of Holiday or due to unavoidable circumstances on the fixed date or due to unavoidable official engagements of the Chairman, the tenders will be opened on next working day on same time and venue.

Terms and conditions will be same as issued in prior Abbreviated Tender Notice No. CHO/Ang/Nry/7307-24 dated 19-08-2025.

Sd/-
Chief Horticulture Officer,
Anantnag.

DIPK-11641/25
DATED: 07-03-2026

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SEWERAGE & DRAINAGE DIVISION

No. IIND SRINAGAR.

Phone/ Fax No. 0194-2950058

GIST OF TENDER NOTICE No.- 40 /E-Tendering OF 2025-26

For and on behalf of the Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis from the Registered PWD Civil Contractors whose registration cards are valid in terms of standing rules, for the below mentioned works strictly as per the terms and conditions given hereunder:-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estt. Cost of work incld. Depttl. materials (Amount in lacs)	Earnest Money	Class of Contractor	Time of completion.	Cost of Tender Document in the shape of Treasury Challan (Rs.)	Head of Account
1.	Construction of stormwater pipe drain from Masjid e Mustafa onwards at Mustafa Abad sector II Old HMT Phase II	Rs.9.50	Rs.19000/-	CEE/DEE	25 Days	Rs.300/-	NGT AFA 2025-26

In terms of Government order Circular No.01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated:- 08.07.2025 that "Every participating supplier/contractor to mandatory disclose the bank account number which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No payment shall be released by the Government Department /Agency to any other bank account except the one linked with the GST registered number of the successful bidder"

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities(B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other

details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the schedule of dates given hereunder:-

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	05.03.2026
02.	Period of down loading of bidding documents	05.03.2026 from 04.00 P.M to 14.03.2026 up to 4.00 PM
03.	Bid Submission Start Date	05.03.2026 from 04.30 AM
04.	Bid Submission end Date	14.03.2026 up to 4.00 PM
05.	Date & time of opening of Bids on line	16.03.2026 at 11.30 PM in the office of Executive Engineer, Sewerage & Drainage Division No. II, SMC, Daresh Kadal Srinagar or any subsequent date convenient date to the tender Opening Authority
06.	List of soft copies to be uploaded	Scanned copy of Treasury challan (cost of tender document) with Sl. No. of NIT/ Name of the work (without overwriting). Scanned copy of CDR/ FDR/BG (Earnest Money) (without Over writing). Scanned copy of GST Registration with latest clearance and PAN Card. Scanned copy of JKPWDOMS Registration card with latest renewal on JKPWDOMS PORTAL, Cell No./ e-mail ID and correspondence address. NIT (Terms and conditions) duly signed by the bidder. BOQ.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- In case the bids are found unbalanced / abnormally low bid price, the Successful bidder has to produce/ deposit additional performance security in shape of FDR/CDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer Sewerage & Drainage Division 2nd. SMC Srinagar within three days after opening the bids, as per the circular instructions of the Finance Department Circular No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated:- 08.08.2025. The additional performance security shall be released after the successful completion of work till Defective Liability (DLP) period is over and the defective liability period for each work shall be reflected in the allotment order when issued.
- Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the Advertised cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee / security percentage shall be incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of Bid Price Below 10% of advertised cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this Additional Performance Guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid Price.
- Where the Bid Price is 20% or more below the advertised cost put to bid the Additional Performance Grantee percentage shall be incremented by 0.28% for every percentage of Bid Price Below 20% of project cost put to bid in addition to 0.1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
- Additional Performance Security shall be treated as part of Performance Security.
- In addition to above the successful bidder has to produce/ deposit Performance security i.e. 05% (Five Percent) of the value of contract in shape of FDR/ CDR pledged to Executive Engineer Sewerage & Drainage Division 2nd. SMC Srinagar within three days after opening the bids. The performance security shall be released after the Defective Liability (DLP) period of the work
- In case of tie bids the department shall identify the tied bidder and shall select the L1 based on the draw lots, in presence of tied bidders, if they chose to be present
- The Successful Bidder has to produce Hard Copies within three days after opening of Bids.
- Bidders are advised to read the NIT carefully before participate in the Bidding process.
- Treasury Challan (Tender Document Fee) should be a fresh i.e. between the date of issue of tender notice & bid submission end date.
- The Contract shall be awarded only after obtaining Administrative Approval from Competent Authority and release of funds on BEAMS portal by the Finance Department.
- The payment of work on account of work done shall be made under rules subject to availability of funds under the prescribed head of account.
- The tender receiving authority reserves the right to accept or reject or cancel any bid / tender / NIT or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Camp Clerk HD HA TO

NO.S&D-II/5571
Dated:- 05.03.2026

DIPK-11628/25
DATED: 07-03-2026

Executive Engineer,
S&D Division IInd, Sgr.

Nearly 6 lakh tourists visit Manasbal in 3 years

Wullar-Manasbal Development Authority plans water sports, zipline: Ahsan-Ul-Haq Chisti

Raja Syed RATHER

Ganderbal, Mar 07: Tourist footfall at Manasbal Lake in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district has witnessed a steady rise over the past three years, with authorities planning several adventure, infrastructure and conservation projects to transform the scenic lake into a major eco-tourism destination.

Chief Executive Officer of Wullar-Manasbal Development Authority (WMDA), Ahsan-ul-Haq Chisti said Manasbal holds immense potential for adventure tourism and efforts are underway to enhance visitor facilities while safeguarding the lake's fragile ecosystem.

"Manasbal is a unique tourist destination in Kashmir with huge adventure potential. Tourist flow has been steadily increasing over the past three years," Chisti said.

He said, over 1.6 lakh tourists visited Manasbal in 2023, while the number increased to around 2.2 lakh in 2024. In 2025, the tourist footfall reached about 2.12 lakh, reflecting growing interest among visitors.

He said a significant number of foreign tourists also visit the lake due to its natural beauty and adventure possibilities.

To further boost tourism, the WMDA is procuring water sports equipment worth



Rs 3 crore, which is expected to become operational in the coming months.

"Once the equipment arrives, tourists will be able to enjoy various water-based recreational activities," Chisti said, adding that the authority is also planning to introduce a zipline facility to enhance adventure tourism in the area.

He said the authority has also established a homestay cluster in collaboration with the Tourism Department to encourage community participation and increase the stay duration of tourists.

"In the last two to three months, several cultural programmes and events were

organised which received a very positive response from both locals and visitors. We plan to organise more such events in collaboration with cultural organisations," he said.

Besides cultural tourism, the authority is promoting eco-friendly activities such as mountaineering, cycling, nature walks and water-based recreation to enrich the overall tourist experience.

Chisti said that under the Smart City project, WMDA is constructing jogging and cycling tracks along the boundary of the lake, with around 80 percent of the work already taken up.

"The jogger and cycling tracks will not only provide recreational space for visitors but will also help protect the lake from future encroachments by clearly demarcating its boundary," he said.

To address traffic congestion during peak tourist season, authorities have also operationalised a bypass road near Manasbal, allowing routine traffic between Ganderbal and Bandipora to avoid the tourist zone.

He said the development authority is also improving public facilities, including washrooms, passenger sheds, selfie points and welcome gates, while ensuring that the structures remain environment-friendly and blend with the natural landscape. Further plans include the creation of theme parks and a rural museum around the lake in coordination with departments such as Forest and Soil Conservation.

Highlighting conservation efforts, Chisti said that dredging operations have been restarted after many years, resulting in the clearance of over one lakh square metres of lake area and reopening of several water channels. He added that authorities are also undertaking manual de-weeding and are removing around 7,000 cubic metres of aquatic weeds by the end of March, which will significantly

improve water quality and lake ecology.

The lake has also witnessed a large presence of migratory birds this winter, many arriving from Siberia, prompting authorities to organise bird and wetland festivals to highlight the ecological importance of the area.

"To tackle pollution, WMDA has adopted a six-lakh square metre catchment area for solid waste management and is coordinating with the district administration to establish an integrated solid waste management plant," he said.

Meanwhile, he said the capacity of the proposed Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) has been enhanced and the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is currently with the UEED, with planning aimed at meeting requirements up to 2047.

Chisti added that Manasbal also holds heritage importance due to the presence of an ancient 10th-century temple, which has been stabilised and restored in phases by the development authority.

"It is one of the major historical attractions of Manasbal and has been preserved carefully for visitors," he said, adding that the focus remains on promoting tourism in a sustainable and eco-friendly manner while protecting the natural and cultural heritage of Manasbal Lake—(KNO)

Traffic police chalk out plan to manage school rush

KNO

Srinagar, Mar 07: The Traffic Police have put in place necessary arrangements to manage vehicular movement in Srinagar as schools set to reopen after the winter break, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic City Srinagar Ajaz Ahmad Bhat said here, on Saturday.

Speaking to reporters, SSP Bhat said the department is fully aware of the traffic congestion that usually occurs during morning hours due to the movement of school buses and private vehicles dropping students.

"We are aware of the timings of school buses and the pressure on roads during school hours. Traffic personnel have been deployed accordingly to ensure smooth movement," he said.

He said the department is also exploring the possibility of staggered school timings to reduce traffic congestion during peak hours.

"Efforts are being made to work out staggered timings so



that the rush during morning hours can be minimised," Bhat said.

The SSP added that traffic police teams are already on the ground to regulate traffic at key junctions and ensure that school-related movement does not lead to major bottlenecks.

Appealing to the public for

cooperation, he urged parents and drivers to follow traffic rules and park their vehicles properly while dropping off or picking up students.

"Improper parking often leads to congestion. People should park their vehicles in designated places so that traffic movement remains smooth," he said—(KNO)

Mudgal reviews Registrar Cooperative Societies functioning

KT News Desk

Jammu, Mar 07: Commissioner Secretary, Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal on Saturday chaired a review meeting at the Civil Secretariat to evaluate the overall functioning and performance of Registrar Cooperative Societies.

She assessed progress on various key initiatives of the Cooperative Department being implemented across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Registrar Cooperative Societies, presented a detailed overview followed by threadbare discussion on implementation and outcome of multiple schemes and programmes aimed at strengthening and modernizing the cooperative sector.

It was informed that a total of 1,921 Cooperative Societies are registered under the J&K Cooperative Societies Act, 1989 while 4,305 Cooperatives fall under the J&K Self-Reliant Act, 1989. Over 80 percent of these institutions are currently functional, underscoring the department's ongoing efforts to improve the operational efficiency and sustainability.

The Commissioner Secretary was briefed on transforming Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) into multipurpose entities to broaden their service offerings and bolster grassroots cooperatives. This includes adoption of uniform Common Bye-Laws and Centrally Sponsored computerisation of PACS for enhanced transparency and service delivery. In the first phase, 537 PACS have been computerized with 171 additional PACS slated for the second phase.

She was apprised of the integration of Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS) with flagship national schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhhi Kendra (PMKSK), Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMJAK) and Common

Service Centres (CSC).

Yasha Mudgal emphasized that these initiatives must deliver tangible benefits to the grassroots level and the general public through cooperative institutions.

She assessed progress achieved under the Cooperative Infrastructure Development Fund (CIDF) and Cash Credit Limit (CCL) schemes with directions to the officers to ensure wide publicity of these programmes. She specifically called for targeted outreach to unemployed youth to raise awareness on available opportunities, encouraging their participation.

In the micro food processing domain, it was informed that 35 units were established and made functional during the financial year 2024-25, contributing to local value addition and employment generation. An additional 45 units have been proposed for the current financial year to further promote rural entrepreneurship and agro-based activities.

Yasha Mudgal underscored the critical need for regular monitoring of the financial health of cooperative societies and timely audits to uphold transparency, accountability and fiscal discipline. She directed the Deputy Registrars to compile comprehensive data on all registered cooperatives including financial performance, profit margins and annual turnover to support evidence-based policymaking and effective oversight.

Highlighting emerging opportunities, she instructed the Deputy Registrars to develop district-wise roadmaps for promoting fisheries related cooperative activities to enhance livelihoods and rural economies. She also emphasized expanding honey production across the districts, given its strong economic potential for cooperative enterprises.

Continued on
www.kashmirthunder.in

JDI Kashmir condoles demise of noted journalist Abdul Rashid Shah



KT News Desk

Srinagar, Mar 07: Employees of the Joint Directorate of Information (JDI) Kashmir on Saturday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the demise of noted journalist and Chief Editor of Nida-e-Mashriq, Abdul Rashid Shah, who passed away today after a brief illness.

In this regard, a condolence meeting was held at the Joint Directorate of Information Office which was attended by Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shah Nawaz Bukhari; Deputy Director Information, Mohammad Rafiq Zulla; Cultural Officer Kashmir and other officers and officials of the department.

In his condolence message, the Joint Director Information described the death of Abdul Rashid Shah as a significant loss to the media fraternity of Kashmir.

He extended his deepest condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and patience for the family to bear this irreparable loss.

The employees of JDI Kashmir also expressed grief over the sad demise of the noted journalist. They recalled his long association with the Information Department and remembered him for his dedication and exemplary contribution to the field of journalism.

Railways rolls out 'RailOne' mega app

KNO

Jammu, Mar 07: The Indian Railways has launched its official "super app" RailOne to make passenger travel more convenient and comfortable by integrating multiple railway services on a single digital platform. The app allows passengers to access a wide range of services, including ticket booking, train status tracking and e-catering, without the need to use multiple applications. Under the e-catering facility, passengers can order their favourite meals from well-known restaurants through food aggregator platforms Zomato and Swiggy directly through the RailOne app.

With this facility, as per the statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), passengers travelling through key stations of the Northern Railway Jammu Division, including Jammu, Katra and Pathankot, can enjoy their preferred meals from the comfort of their seats



during the journey. Through the RailOne app, passengers can select food from Zomato or Swiggy using their PNR number, and the meal will be delivered directly to their seat or berth. The system of both food delivery platforms is integrated with train schedules to ensure timely delivery at designated stations.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal said the initiative aims to make rail travel more enjoyable and hassle-free for passengers. "Our primary goal is to

provide a single platform where passengers can access ticket booking, live train tracking and now premium food delivery services. This technological collaboration with Zomato and Swiggy ensures that passengers receive hygienic and quality food of their choice directly at their berths," he said. The Jammu Division has urged passengers to make maximum use of the RailOne app and encourage fellow travellers to adopt this all-in-one solution for a smoother and more comfortable journey—(KNO)

The house is still, the hearth is cold,
Since the day your story here was told.
But in the quiet of my heart,
I know we'll never truly part.

A month has passed, a month of tears,
Revisiting all our golden years,
You were the hand that held our own,
The purest love we've ever known.

No more pain and no more care,
I find your spirit everywhere—
In the morning prayer and the evening sky,
In the love you gave that will never die.



Smt. Santosh Koul

A month has passed since the afternoon of February 6, when the light of our home, Smt. Santosh Koul, bid us farewell. While her physical presence is deeply missed, her teachings of resilience, love, and faith remain our guiding stars.

She was a progressive woman who led from front.

As we observe her Masvaar, and prayers on March 7/8, we pray that her noble soul finds eternal Shanti at the lotus feet of the Almighty.

You lived with grace, and you leave behind a fragrance of memories that will never fade.

Deeply mourned by Kaul's (originally Bagh Jogilanker), Raina's (Shair from Kani Kadal), Kitroo's, Ganjoo's, Khullar's, Durrani's, relatives and friends

India's Holistic Approach To Empower Women And Children For Inclusive Growth

From nutrition and education to safety and security, government initiatives foster a healthier, safer, and more equitable future, laying the foundation for sustainable national progress

Press Information Bureau

A nation's economic strength is closely tied to the well-being and participation of its women and children. When girls grow up healthy, educated, and safe, they are better able to learn, work, and contribute meaningfully to society. Conversely, gaps in nutrition, healthcare, safety, and access to education limit opportunities not only for individuals but also for communities and the economy at large. Recognising this, the Government of India has prioritised a life-cycle approach to empowerment—one that begins in early childhood and continues through adolescence and adulthood.

At the centre of this approach is the Ministry of Women and Child Development, which implements a range of targeted interventions to strengthen foundational services in nutrition, care, protection, and support. Key umbrella initiatives include Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 to improve nutritional outcomes and early childhood care, Mission Shakti to enhance women's safety, security, and empowerment, and Mission Vatsalya to strengthen child protection systems. In addition to these are the programmes run by Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to provide for the educational and health needs of women and children. Together, these programmes aim to build enabling environments where women and children can lead healthy, informed, and secure lives—laying the groundwork for inclusive social and economic development.

Nutrition and Health as the Core Foundation Good nutrition and strong healthcare are central to building a healthy and prosperous nation. The Government of India has prioritised maternal and child health, recognising that well-nourished citizens drive sustainable growth and social progress.

Through mission-mode, data-driven interventions, the government is tackling malnutrition among children, adolescent girls, and mothers, focusing on reducing stunting, underweight, anaemia, and low birth weight. Integrated community-based services, strengthened frontline systems, and real-time monitoring are delivering measurable improvements and building a healthier, more resilient generation.

Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 is an integrated nutrition support program to combat malnutrition among children (0-6 years), adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. The program delivers supplementary nutrition, early childhood care and education (ECCE), regular health check-ups, and awareness on hygiene, breastfeeding, and complementary feeding practices in an integrated manner.

The Anganwadi Centres deliver essential nutrition, besides also serving as joyful early learning spaces. They provide play-based pre-school education for children aged 3-6 to build foundational skills, social habits, and school readiness, ensuring a smoother transition to primary school and helping reduce future dropouts. Saksham Anganwadis are upgraded Anganwadis with improved infrastructure.

The Mission Poshan 2.0 component of the programme works towards malnutrition reduction and improved health, wellness and immunity. Services under this are provided through three components:

Anganwadi Services Provides an integrated package of services to eligible beneficiaries, including Supplementary Nutrition; Pre-school non-formal education; Nutrition and Health Education; Immunisation; Health check-ups and Referral services. Of these, immunisation, health check-ups and referral services are health-related and delivered through the National Health Mission (NHM) and public health infrastructure. Poshan Vatikas or Nutri-gardens are also being developed at Anganwadi Centres across the country to provide easy and affordable access to fruits, vegetables, medicinal plants and herbs and encourage diet-diversity and consumption of wholesome local produce.

Poshan Abhiyaan Launched on March 8, 2018, Poshan Abhiyaan is the Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and lactating mothers. It aims to tackle malnutrition through a convergent, multi-sectoral approach that strengthens service delivery, promotes healthy practices, and builds an ecosystem supporting health, wellness and immunity.

Real-time monitoring is enabled through the Poshan Tracker app, which tracks beneficiary data, efficient service delivery, and Anganwadi performance.

Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG) Targets girls aged 14-18 years in all districts of the Northeast and in Aspirational Districts across other states. The scheme addresses intergenerational malnutrition by improving

girls' health and nutrition. This includes both nutrition support and non-nutrition support like Iron-Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation, health check-ups, referral services, nutrition and health education, and skilling initiatives.

Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi is a flagship campaign of the WCD Ministry that aims to transform Anganwadi Centres into joyful early learning hubs, blending play-based education with nutrition for children aged 0-6. This is aligned with NEP 2020 recommendations on Early Childhood Care and Education. By December 2025, over 8.55 lakh Anganwadi workers and 41,645 master trainers were trained, with Aadharshila (0-3 years) and Navchetana (3-6 years) curricula rolled out nationwide in 12 regional languages—empowering little ones to grow strong, curious, and ready for school.

PM POSHAN Nutritious school meals under PM POSHAN (formerly Mid-Day Meal Scheme) play a vital role in helping children—especially girls—stay hungry-free, attend classes regularly, concentrate better, and thrive in class. This is a centrally-sponsored scheme run by the Ministry of Education, for providing one hot cooked nutritious meal for children studying in Classes I-VIII in Government and Government-aided schools.

By easing the burden on low-income families and reducing dropout risks, this initiative fosters sustained enrolment, better learning, and healthier futures for millions of young students.

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), is a flagship maternity benefit scheme under Mission Shakti's Samartha sub-scheme. It offers cash incentives to eligible pregnant women and lactating mothers for the first living child, helping cover wage loss and promote better care. Under PMMVY 2.0, effective from April 1, 2022 under the guidelines of Mission Shakti, eligible beneficiaries receive 5,000 in two instalments for their first living child.

Additionally, to promote positive attitude towards the girl child, improve sex ratio at birth, and discourage female foeticide, the scheme provides 6,000 in a single instalment after the birth of the second living child if it is a girl.

Benefits are disbursed directly via Aadhaar-linked accounts through DBT, with provisions for fresh eligibility in cases of miscarriage/stillbirth. The scheme continues to be implemented nationwide for efficient enrolment and monitoring.

Other Health-Linked Efforts Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health are an important component of India's National Health Mission of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. It provides comprehensive care to women and children through five pillars of reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, and adolescent health. Flagship schemes like Janani Suraksha Yojana and Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram promote safe institutional deliveries by providing cash assistance and free drugs, diagnostics, blood and diet to pregnant women and new born babies especially in low-performing states, to reduce maternal and neonatal risks. Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN) launched in 2019 brings together all the existing schemes for maternal and neonatal health under one umbrella to create a comprehensive and cohesive initiative that provides a service assurance.

Mission Indradhanush: A flagship immunisation drive to achieve full vaccination coverage for children and pregnant women, targeting underserved areas and boosting child survival through routine and catch-up vaccinations.

These schemes collectively contribute to significant national progress in health outcomes. Key achievements include:

According to the Special Bulletin on Maternal Mortality in India (2019-21), published by the Sample Registration System (SRS), the country's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has dropped by 37 points, from 130 per 100,000 live births in 2014-16 to 93 per 100,000 live births in 2019-21.

According to the UN Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (IGME) report released on 25th March 2025, India's under-five mortality rate fell from 48 to 28 per 1,000 live births and neonatal mortality rate from 28 to 17 per 1,000 live births between 2015 and 2023.

These gains reflect improved access to nutrition, safe deliveries, immunisation, and community monitoring—laying a strong foundation for healthier generations.

Education and Skill for Long-Term Empowerment

Education is a powerful tool that opens doors to better opportunities, confidence, and independence, especially for girls and young women. Education plays an important role in

building self-confidence among women. It also enables in building confidence to take decisions in a better way.

The government runs various schemes, programmes and initiatives for encouraging education for girls at all levels. The efforts include sustained drives aimed at encouraging gender equality, supporting health, nutrition and early childhood and adolescent learning and development for the girl child, incentivising girls' education, providing scholarships and hostels, improving infrastructure, providing support for skilling, STEM and higher education. These interventions are helping build strong foundations for lifelong growth and empowerment.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)

The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 22, 2015, has evolved into a national movement for girl child empowerment, focusing on mindset change, gender equality, and multi-sectoral interventions. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and the Ministry of Education. It has exhibited steady progress over the years:

Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB): Improved nationally from 918 (girls per 1,000 boys) in 2014-15 to 929 in 2024-25, according to the latest Health Management Information System (HMIS) report from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Girls' Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at the secondary level increased significantly as per the Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) data from the Ministry of Education. This shows higher school participation and retention for girls.

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) offer safe, residential schooling to girls aged 10-18 from Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs)—such as SC, ST, OBC and others—especially in educationally backward blocks. Covering classes VI to XII, these residential schools provide a nurturing space where girls can learn, grow, and transition smoothly from elementary to higher secondary education.

The Ministry of Education under Samagra Shiksha Scheme provides Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Labs and Smart Classrooms in all KGBVs and hostels to empower girls, make them digitally savvy, and enhance their learning outcomes. Department of School Education and Literacy announced on 03.07.2024 to saturate all functional KGBVs with ICT Labs and Smart Classrooms, as per Samagra Shiksha norms. Accordingly, Rs. 28,841.96 lakhs have been allocated/UTs for establishing 3,564 ICT labs and 3,655 smart classrooms across 29 States/UTs in the FY 2024-25.

For the first time since inception 2024-25, a training program for KGBV Wardens has been designed and being delivered by DSEL in collaboration with the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA). A KGBV Warden Training Handbook in English and Hindi version has been developed by NIEPA for conducting these training workshops in all official languages by the States/UTs for wardens and is also being translated.

Women in Higher Education

There has been a significant increase in the female Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education in India, reflecting improved gender parity. Recent statistics stand testament to the significant government interventions undertaken to improve access for women and girls to quality higher education.

Enrolment of Women in Ph.D. Degree Female Ph.D. enrolment has more than doubled, with a remarkable 135.6% increase (from 2014-2015 to 2022-2023), adding 64,724 more women researchers. This highlights strong progress of women in advanced academic participation.

Scholarship Schemes for Girl Students Scholarships and other incentives are given for education of girl students both by the central and the state governments. Some of the important central government scholarships include:

Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students

These scholarships are awarded by Ministry of Education, Government of India on the basis of results of Higher Secondary / Class XII Board Examination. The objective is to provide financial assistance to meritorious students from poor families for pursuing higher studies. 50% of the scholarships are earmarked for girls.

National Scholarship for Post Graduate Studies

Launched in 2023-24, this Central Sector Scheme merges four earlier PG scholarships and offers 10,000 annual slots (30% reserved for women—3,000 selected), equally split between STEM and Humanities. Selected scholars receive 1,50,000 per year. Supporting this push, female postgraduate enrolment grew 61.3% from 19.86 lakh in 2014-15 to 32.03 lakh in 2022-23 (AISHE data), adding over 12

lakh more women in higher education.

AICTE PRAGATI Scholarship Scheme Since 2014-15, the AICTE PRAGATI Scholarship has empowered meritorious girl students in technical education, awarding 10,000 scholarships yearly (5,000 each for Diploma and Degree courses) across 23 States/UTs and extending to the Northeast and J&K. In 2024-25, it reached 35,998 female students—providing crucial financial support so talented girls can focus on their studies and build rewarding careers without worry.

Supporting Women for STEM Education Vigyan Jyoti Scheme

Run by the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Vigyan Jyoti inspires bright girls from classes IX-XII—particularly in rural areas—to chase dreams in STEM fields. It aims to address the underrepresentation of women in different fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in the country. Through personalised counselling, lab visits, hands-on workshops, interactions with women role models, science camps, and extra academic support, the scheme builds confidence and opens pathways to STEM careers. Since its launch, it has touched the lives of more than 80,000 meritorious girls across 300 districts in 35 States and Union Territories, helping narrow the gender gap and show girls they belong in STEM.

Supernumerary seats for women

To encourage more women in STEM, supernumerary seats were introduced for girls in IITs and NITs, boosting female participation from under 10% to over 20%. This approach has inspired greater gender diversity in engineering and technical education across institutions nationwide. Programs like IIT Madras's Vidya Shakti Scheme help rural and female students thrive in STEM. These efforts reflect steady strides toward inclusive, equitable higher education for girls and women.

Nurturing Aspirations through Vocational Training for Young Adolescent Girls (NAVYA)

Launched on June 24, 2025, NAVYA is a collaborative initiative by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). It seeks to impart skill training to adolescent girls aged 16-18 years with at least a Class 10 qualification under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0 (PMKVY 4.0). The programme equips these girls with practical vocational skills in emerging, non-traditional fields like digital marketing, cybersecurity, AI-enabled services, and green jobs—along with life skills, financial literacy, and digital competence. It was launched in 27 Aspirational and North-Eastern districts across 19 states, and aims to train 3,850 girls. The pilot phase will cover 9 states and 9 districts. As of December 2025, the scheme has enrolled 1,295 girls, with 671 of them already trained.

Safety and Security: Protecting Lives and Dignity

Safety and security form the bedrock of true empowerment. When women and children can live, work, and grow without fear of violence or harm, they are free to pursue their education, careers, and personal goals. The Government of India addresses this through targeted schemes that provide immediate support, emergency help, long-term protection, and community-level change. These efforts focus on prevention, response, and rehabilitation to reduce gender-based violence and ensure dignity for all.

Mission Shakti: The Umbrella Framework for Women's Safety and Empowerment

Mission Shakti is the central umbrella scheme led by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. It integrates safety, security, and empowerment for women and girls under two clear sub-schemes:

Sambal – focused on safety and security

Samartha – focused on economic and social empowerment

Sambal The Sambal sub-scheme delivers practical, on-ground protection mechanisms to help women escape and recover from violence.

Some of the key components under Sambal include:

One Stop Centres (OSCs)

Also known as Sakhi Centres (Friend Centres), these provide integrated, immediate support under one roof for women and girls affected by any form of violence (domestic, sexual, acid attacks, trafficking, etc.). Services include emergency medical aid, legal counselling, police assistance, psycho-social support, and temporary shelter referrals.

Women Helpline (181)

A 24x7 toll-free emergency response service that offers counselling, information, and immediate referral to police, medical, or legal help. It acts as the first point of contact in crisis situations. The helpline handles thousands of calls monthly, providing quick support and linking women to nearby services like OSCs, shelters and legal support.

Nari Adalat Nari Adalats are community-based informal

courts that resolve disputes related to domestic violence and harassment through mediation and awareness.

Samartha The Samartha sub-scheme focuses on strengthening women's long-term independence, resilience and participation in public life through support services, skilling and institutional care.

Key components under Samartha include: Shakti Sadan: An integrated support scheme providing shelter, care, counselling, legal aid and rehabilitation for women and girls rescued from trafficking or in difficult circumstances.

Sakhi Niwas: Safe and affordable hostel accommodation for working women, with secure living facilities to support their employment and mobility.

National Creche Scheme (Palna): Provides daycare facilities for children (6 months to 6 years) of working mothers, enabling women's participation in the workforce.

SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW): Acts as a coordination and facilitation mechanism at national and state levels to improve access to government schemes, skilling, capacity-building and livelihood opportunities for women.

She-Box Portal: Ensuring A Safe Workplace for Women

The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) launched the Sexual Harassment electronic Box (She-Box) on 29th August 2024 as a single-window, centralised digital platform that creates a national repository for tracking workplace sexual harassment complaints. This, in turn, makes it convenient to monitor the implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (SH Act), that was enacted on 9th December 2013.

This user-friendly portal enables women from public, private, organised, or unorganised sectors to file complaints securely, with automatic forwarding to the relevant Internal Committee (IC) or Local Committee (LC).

Featuring real-time status tracking, multi-lingual support, strong confidentiality safeguards, and a resource hub with training materials and guidance, She-Box promotes faster redressal, greater accountability, safer workplaces, and meaningful progress toward women's empowerment.

Mission Vatsalya: Dedicated Protection for Children

Mission Vatsalya is the umbrella scheme focused exclusively on child welfare and safety. It supports vulnerable children—including those affected by abuse, neglect, trafficking, or loss of parental care—through institutional and non-institutional care, sponsorship, foster care, adoption, and aftercare.

The scheme emphasises family-based care wherever possible, rehabilitation, and reintegration.

It operates through Child Care Institutions, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards, and specialised adoption agencies.

Outcomes include thousands of children placed in safe environments annually, with strong focus on preventing child marriage, trafficking, and exploitation.

Mission Vatsalya Portal is operational as a unified workspace for all child welfare systems. CARINGS adoption platform is integrated with MV Portal to enhance adoption processes.

Child Helpline operational across all 36 States/UTs, integrated with ERSS-112 for emergency response. As on January 1, 2026, installation has been completed in 728 districts, enabling a unified national child response mechanism.

These initiatives—Mission Shakti (Sambal) and Mission Vatsalya—work together to create safer homes, workplaces, and communities for women and girls. They reduce gender-based violence, provide timely help in crises, and promote dignity and equality. By combining emergency response, legal support, community engagement, and child-focused protection, they build a stronger foundation for women and children to live fearlessly and participate fully in society.

Conclusion: Building a Resilient Future

India has adopted an integrated approach to advancing the health, education, safety, and security of women and girls. Flagship umbrella programmes such as Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, and Mission Shakti, and others ensure strong convergence across Ministries, maximising reach and impact at the grassroots level. Digital platforms like the Poshan Tracker enhance transparency, accountability, and efficient service delivery.

By investing in the well-being, education, and protection of women and girls, these initiatives strengthen families, uplift communities, and build human capital. They contribute directly to inclusive growth, gender equality, and long-term national development. As India surges ahead, sustained focus on empowering women and girls remains central to achieving transformative and lasting change.

The views expressed by contributors on this page are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the newspaper

Sports, education vital to keep youth away from substance abuse: Satish Sharma

Flags off "Nasha Mukht" motorcycle rally

KT News Desk

JAMMU, MARCH 7: In a significant initiative aimed at spreading awareness against drug abuse and promoting a healthy society, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), IT, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, Saturday flagged off a "Nasha Mukht" motorcycle rally from Jaurian to Khour.

The rally, as per an official statement, was organized by the Society for Scheduled and Backward, an NGO actively engaged in social welfare and awareness programmes.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of youth, social activists, volunteers and members of civil society who joined the rally carrying banners and placards with strong messages advocating a drug-free society.

Flagging off the rally, the Minister said that such initiatives play a crucial role in mobilizing society against the growing menace of drug abuse. He stressed that the drug problem not only affects the individuals and families but also poses a serious threat to the social and



economic fabric of society.

Satish Sharma maintained that the government has undertaken a massive campaign to eradicate the drug menace from Jammu and Kashmir, focusing on awareness, prevention, enforcement and rehabilitation. He said that coordinated efforts of government agencies, civil society organizations and the public are essential to effectively tackle the challenge.

The Minister underscored the importance of youth engagement in constructive and positive activities, particularly in sports, education and skill

development, which serve as powerful tools in steering the young people away from substance abuse. He added that the Youth Services & Sports Department has been actively promoting sporting activities across the region to channelize the energy of youth in a productive direction.

Calling upon the parents, teachers, community leaders and social organizations to remain vigilant and proactive, Satish Sharma said that a united societal response is necessary to eliminate the scourge of drugs. He emphasized that awareness

campaigns like the "Nasha Mukht" rally help in sensitizing the people and strengthening the resolve to build a drug-free and healthy Jammu and Kashmir.

The participants of the rally pledged their commitment towards spreading awareness about the harmful effects of drugs and actively contribute towards the mission of making the region "Nasha Mukht."

Prominent members of the Society for Scheduled and Backward, local representatives, youth volunteers and residents of the area were present on the occasion.

RKS, Kayakalp: MLA Zadibal reviews utilization of funds

KT News Desk



KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, MARCH 07: A meeting was convened at JLN Hospital, Rainawari Srinagar Saturday by MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq to review and discuss the proposed agenda for utilization of funds under the RKS and Kayakalp programs for the year 2025-26.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by the Medical Superintendent, Deputy Medical Superintendent, Chief Medical Officer Srinagar, Deputy Director Information, various Executive Engineers, Tehsildar Khanyar, Ward Officer SMC, Project Officer ICDS, and several Heads of Departments of JLN Hospital.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held regarding the proposed works and procurement of items aimed at improving hospital infrastructure,



sanitation facilities, patient amenities, and medical equipment at the hospital. The agenda items were thoroughly deliberated upon and were positively received by the MLA.

On the occasion, Tanvir Sadiq appreciated the initiatives taken by the hospital administration for strengthening healthcare facilities and improving patient services. He assured full support for the proposed works and emphasized the need for timely implementation of the planned initiatives.

The MLA also promised to facilitate the provision of electric wheelchairs and an ambulance for the hospital to further enhance patient care and accessibility.

The meeting concluded with a commitment from all concerned departments to work in coordination for the effective execution of the proposed plans and overall improvement of healthcare services at the hospital.

Awareness Workshop under RAMP held in Bandipora

KT News Desk

BANDIPORA, MARCH 7: District Industries Centre (DIC) Bandipora on Saturday organised the first awareness workshop of 2026 under the RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) programme at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The workshop, as per an official statement, was attended by officials from various departments including Agriculture, Horticulture, Sheep Husbandry, KVIB, banking institutions and aspiring entrepreneurs.

During the programme, resource persons from the District Industries Centre highlighted that with the advancement of technologies like artificial intelligence, traditional job opportunities are decreasing, making self-employment an important avenue for youth. They stressed that the government is providing guidance and financial assistance to promote entrepreneurship in both service and manufacturing sectors. Participants were also informed about schemes like PMEGP, incentives including turnover incentives, and facilitation for land allotment for setting up industrial units.

Resource persons from the Agriculture, Sheep Husbandry and Horticulture departments briefed the participants about various schemes under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), including establishment of polyhouses, Custom Hiring Centres and promotion of high-density horticulture.

MVD Rajouri conducts traffic enforcement drive

KT News Desk

RAJOURI, MARCH 07: A traffic enforcement drive was conducted by the Motor Vehicle Department under the supervision of ARTO Rajouri Rajesh Gupta at different locations across the district including Rajouri town, Manjakote, Dhangri and along NH-144A to ensure compliance with traffic rules and enhance road safety.

During the drive, a total of 260 vehicles were checked by the enforcement team. 52 vehicles were challaned for various violations of the Motor Vehicles Act and a penalty amounting to 1.14 lakh was imposed.

The team, as per an official statement, further seized 11 vehicles, including three two-wheelers, one tempo and seven e-autos for serious violations. Additionally, two driving licences were recommended for suspension for grave traffic offences.

The ARTO reiterated that such drives will continue in the district to curb violations and maintain traffic discipline

Agriculture Department rebuts claims on unchecked sale of substandard pesticides

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, MARCH 07: Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, has taken note of the article published in Ziraat Times on March 5, 2026, titled "Orchardists in Kashmir flag counterfeit pesticides as fruit season begins."

While the concerns of farmers are important, the department has strongly refuted the claim that the distribution of substandard pesticides remains unchecked in the markets. The department remains fully committed to safeguarding the interests of farmers and orchardists, and the report appears to present a generalized view that does not fully reflect the regulatory framework and enforcement mechanisms already in place.

The department, as per an official statement, operates strictly under the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 and the rules framed thereunder, which regulate the manufacture, sale, distribution, and use of pesticides to ensure that only approved and quality products reach farmers and orchardists. Under this legal framework, pesticides can be sold only through licensed dealers and are subject to regular



monitoring and inspection.

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has maintained strict vigilance to curb the menace of counterfeit or substandard pesticides. The Agriculture Department has a dedicated enforcement wing that routinely conducts inspections of pesticide outlets, collects samples for quality testing, and takes action against any dealer found violating the prescribed norms.

During the current year 2025-26, the enforcement wing carried out 3,456 inspections of pesticide outlets and 2,741 samples were drawn for quality analysis. Based on violations detected, 39 prosecutions were launched against erring dealers in addition to other legal actions as provided under law.

The department has also implemented a clearly defined

roadmap for the monitoring and distribution of insecticides. In addition, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by the Agriculture Production Department (APD) for the monitoring and regulation of fertilizers are being strictly followed to ensure transparency, accountability, and quality control in the supply chain of agricultural inputs.

The department also issues timely advisories to farmers regarding recommended pesticides, proper dosages, and safe pest management practices. Farmers are instructed to procure Agro-Chemicals only from authorized dealers, insist on proper bills and properly labelled products, and report any suspected counterfeit or substandard products to the department so that immediate action can be taken.

The Government remains fully committed to ensuring the availability of genuine agricultural inputs and protecting the horticulture sector, which is a vital component of the economy of Jammu and Kashmir. Continuous monitoring, enforcement drives, and farmer awareness programmes are being carried out to address such concerns effectively.

Chairman DLSA Srinagar reviews preparations for forthcoming National Lok Adalat

KT News Desk



KT News Desk

Srinagar, MARCH 07: A meeting regarding the preparations for the forthcoming National Lok Adalat scheduled to be held on 14th March 2026 was convened Saturday at the Conference Hall of District Court Complex Srinagar under the chairmanship of Haq Nawaz Zargar, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA)/ Principal District & Sessions Judge, Srinagar.

During the meeting, the Chairman, as per an official statement, reviewed the arrangements and preparations for the National Lok Adalat and stressed upon the Judicial Officers to ensure identification and listing of maximum number of eligible pending cases for

their amicable settlement during the upcoming Lok Adalat. He emphasized that National Lok Adalat provides an effective platform for expeditious disposal of cases and helps in reducing pendency in courts while promoting amicable settlement of disputes.

The Judicial Officers were directed to make sincere efforts for identifying suitable cases and to encourage litigants to resolve their disputes through settlement before the Lok Adalat.

The meeting was attended by Judicial Officers posted at District Court Complex Srinagar including officials of District Legal Services Authority Srinagar.

The meeting concluded with a resolve to make the forthcoming National Lok Adalat a success through coordinated efforts

Div Com Kashmir reviews progress of transit accommodation for migrant employees

KT News Desk

SRINAGAR, MARCH 07: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, Saturday chaired a meeting to review the progress of construction of transit accommodation for migrant employees across Kashmir division.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Deputy Commissioners, Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrant), Chief Engineers of KPDC, Jal Shakti, PWD and other concerned officers.

At the outset, the Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner gave a detailed presentation on the physical progress of the transit accommodation and the status of allied works. It was informed that out of a total of 6000 flats being constructed at 20 locations across the Valley, 4112 flats have been completed so far, of which 3257 have already been allotted to migrant employees.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner reviewed the status of completion of transit accommodation flats



in each district. He also took a detailed review of the availability of essential services including water supply, electricity, drainage facilities and Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), besides the physical status of other allied works in the accommodation towers.

While reviewing the physical progress of the under-construction towers, the Relief &

Rehabilitation Commissioner informed that around 680 additional flats are expected to be completed by the end of April 2026.

The Divisional Commissioner stressed that priority should be given to completing the remaining flats along with all allied infrastructure within the already fixed timelines.

He also asked the concerned

Deputy Commissioners to personally visit the project sites along with officials of executing agencies to resolve minor issues that are hindering the completion of works.

The Divisional Commissioner further directed the concerned departments to float tenders for the pending works at the earliest to ensure timely completion of the projects.

Div Com directs strict enforcement of single use plastic ban across Kashmir

KT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, MARCH 07: Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg Saturday chaired a meeting of the Divisional Level Plastic Waste Management Cell (PWMC) in his office chamber, to discuss measures for elimination of Single Use Plastic (SUP) and to address the issue of plastic pollution in the Union Territory.

The meeting, as per an official statement, was attended by Commissioner SMC, Director General Rural Sanitation, Director Urban Local Bodies (ULB) Kashmir, Director Rural Development Department Kashmir and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, Director ULB Kashmir briefed the Divisional Commissioner about the implementation of Plastic Waste Management



Rules, formation of Special Task Force, establishment of Plastic Management Cell, besides action taken in terms of seizure of Single Use Plastic and imposition of fines on violators.

The Divisional Commissioner directed all stakeholder departments to ensure strict enforcement of the ban on Single Use Plastic across the division. He also stressed that extensive awareness campaigns should

be carried out to sensitize the public about the harmful effects of SUP on the environment.

Meanwhile, Director General Rural Sanitation informed the meeting that Collection and Segregation Centres have been established under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban to strengthen plastic waste management and ensure proper disposal and segregation of waste.

Judiciary must act as sentinel in environmental matters, not impede development: CJI

PTI

Chandigarh, Mar 07: Judiciary must continue to serve as a constitutional sentinel in matters concerning the environment, and not impede legitimate development aspirations, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said on Saturday.

He made the remark while addressing the Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association here.

"We are no longer in an era of choosing between environment and development. We are in an era where the only defensible development is the one which is environmentally responsible," the CJI said.

The jurist was here for the inauguration of a refurbished library in memory of Justice Kuldeep Singh, often hailed as the 'Green Judge' of the Supreme Court.

The CJI stated that the courts cannot afford a tunnel vision that treats every project as

suspect, nor can they afford a complacent vision that treats environmental safeguards as negotiable.

"Our task is to move from a purely reactive model to a more mature environmental governance model that integrates environmental safeguards into the very design of development," he said.

On the contribution of Justice Kuldeep Singh, CJI Kant said he gave messages to all judges that as judges we use our constitutional machinery to ensure that our economic goals are achieved, but not at the "irreversible" cost of our environmental capital.

"To appreciate the significance of this body of work, we must remember the economic context in which it was delivered. That was the late 90s and 80s, when India was entering an aggressive phase of industrialisation and liberalisation. The judiciary had a very genuine apprehension,

namely that growth and infrastructure may not come at the cost of our rivers, forests, and air.

"At that time, environmental regulations were still relatively new. Like Impact assessments, public hearings, and scientific baselines were not as robust as they are today.

"In that setting, a strong rights-based environmental jurisprudence was not only natural but necessary. It served as a counterweight to unregulated exploitation," Kant said.

The CJI said that though India's population has increased sharply and its aspirations have multiplied, the quantum of natural resources remains broadly the same.

He said the task before the courts is one of careful constitutional balance, ensuring that environmental laws are enforced with seriousness.

Kant rued that the focus is gradually shifting from merely addressing environmental harm

after it has occurred.

"The judiciary in that sense has gone beyond mere saying 'if you pollute you will pay', rather now it asks 'have you done everything reasonably possible to avoid polluting in the first place itself,'" he said.

The CJI pointed out that the burden is increasing on the project proponent to demonstrate strict compliance with environmental standards.

"So, how to strike a balance, the present needs, future rights and national aspirations," he said.

Justice Kuldeep Singh's environmental jurisprudence opens a template in that regard, and reminds us that the Constitution is not indifferent to rivers, forest and air, he said.

"Our task today is to carry forward that template, in the context of new technologies and new economic models, to ensure that law does not lag too far behind scientific realities," the CJI added.

India's decision to let Iranian ship to dock in Kochi guided by humanitarian principles: Jaishankar

PTI

New Delhi, Mar 07: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar confirmed on Saturday that India permitted an Iranian ship to dock in Kochi on humanitarian grounds following a request from the Iranian side on February 28 as the vessel faced some problems.

Permission was given for the vessel to dock on March 1 and the warship, IRIS Lavan, docked in Kochi on March 4. The vessel remains in Kochi, with its 183 crew members currently accommodated at Indian naval facilities.

Speaking at an interactive session at the Raisina Dialogue, Jaishankar also made an indirect reference to the sinking of Iranian warship IRIS Dena off the coast of Sri Lanka on March 4.

"For us, when this ship wanted to come in and that too in difficulties, it was the humane thing to do. We were guided by that principle," he said.

"Of the other ships, one had

a similar situation in Sri Lanka and they took the decision which they did. And one unfortunately didn't make it," he said, referring to the sinking of IRIS Dena.

IRIS Dena was returning home after participating in the Milan multilateral naval exercise hosted by India. At least 87 Iranian sailors were killed in the attack on Wednesday.

In his remarks, Jaishankar emphasised that India continues to be net security provider in the Indian Ocean region.

The external affairs minister was joined at the interaction by his counterparts from Sri Lanka, Mauritius and Seychelles.

The ministers underscored the necessity of adhering to international law, specifically the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), when addressing maritime incidents.

Jaishankar also underlined India's priority of ensuring the safety of Indian seafarers and

the 10 million Indian nationals living in West Asian countries in view of the crisis in the region.

"Indians are a very large segment of the people who man merchant ships. Every time there is an attack on a tanker or vessels carrying goods, it is very likely that all or part of that vessel is manned by Indians," he said.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath, responding to a question on the sinking of IRIS Dena, emphasised the importance of following UNCLOS and international laws.

"Sri Lanka faces so many challenges. We need to strengthen (the) implementation of international laws," he said.

"In this incident we are also following the international laws and we have taken all steps according to the international laws. I think we need not support any party. We took all steps in a humanitarian way," Herath said.

West Asia crisis: 52,000 Indians returned following partial opening of airspace

PTI

New Delhi, Mar 07: India on Saturday said it is continuously monitoring the evolving situation in West Asia, especially in the context of the safety of its citizens stranded in the region.

In a late night statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said more than 52,000

Indians have returned to the country following the partial opening of the airspace across the region.

It also urged all Indian nationals in the region to follow the guidelines of the local authorities and the advisories issued by the Indian missions.

The safety and welfare of Indian nationals abroad is of utmost priority to the government

and it remains engaged with the governments across the region to work towards facilitating all those in need of assistance, the MEA said.

The security situation in West Asia remains precarious as the US and Israel continue their bombardment of Iranian targets while Tehran retaliates with strikes against Israeli positions and US military bases across the

region.

"The government of India is continuously monitoring the evolving situation in West Asia and the Gulf region, especially with regard to the welfare of Indian nationals who have been stranded there during transit or on short duration visits," the MEA said.

"All Indian nationals in the region are advised to follow the

guidelines of the local authorities as well as the advisories being issued by the Indian embassy or consulate in their location," it said.

The MEA said Indian missions in the region have issued detailed advisories and set up 24x7 helplines to assist Indians.

"Following the partial opening of airspace across the region in the last few days, Indian and

foreign airlines are operating commercial flights, including non-scheduled flights, to enable the return of Indian passengers who were in transit or on short-term visits in these countries," the MEA said.

"By now, more than 52,000 Indians have availed of these flights and travelled safely from the Gulf region to India between March 1-7, 32,107 of whom have

travelled on Indian carriers. More flights are planned in the coming days," it said.

"In those countries where commercial flight operations are unavailable, Indian nationals are advised to contact the concerned embassy/consulate for information and advice regarding the nearest available commercial flight options," the MEA said.

100 flights cancelled at Delhi, Mumbai airports

PTI

New Delhi, Mar 07: At least 100 international flights were cancelled at the Delhi and Mumbai airports on Saturday as the Middle East crisis continued to impact operations.

As many as 35 departures and 36

arrivals were cancelled at the Mumbai airport while 22 departures and 17 arrivals were cancelled at the Delhi airport, according to officials.

Delhi airport operator DIAL said in a post on X that due to the current situation in the Middle East, some west-bound international flights

may experience delays or schedule changes.

Meanwhile, Air India and Air India Express said they would continue to operate scheduled flights to and from Jeddah and Muscat which are assessed safe for operations.

"Additional non-scheduled flights

are planned to operate to and from Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Muscat, Ras Al-Khaimah and Sharjah on 8 March, to bring stranded passengers back to India," Air India said in a post on X.

IndiGo said in a post on X that it would continue to operate flights to eight destinations in the Middle East as well as to

Europe on March 8.

The conflict involving the US, Israel and Iran, which started on February 28, has significantly impacted flight operations with several countries in the Middle East closing their airspaces. Many airlines are only operating a limited number of services.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K experiencing spiritual

being reawakened and restored to life.

He said that, today, devotees' perseverance bears fruit and we fulfilled the vibrant dreams of our ancestors who yearned for it.

"Our strong belief in spirituality has guided every effort - from the historic upgradation for Baba Amarnath Yatra, to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board's vision of transforming the entire region into a living spiritual corridor, to placing Shiv Khori firmly on the map of India's great centers of devotion," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated that it is his prime objective to make Jammu Kashmir a vibrant, breathing spiritual heart of the nation.

"After five years of sustained efforts, I can say with quiet satisfaction-that dream is no longer distant," he added.

He said that the flame of tapas and dharma for which this land was once renowned across the world - we are relighting it with full conviction.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the youth to create balance in inner and outer life.

"This renaissance is for you. Come to the sacred shrines of this land and allow yourself to feel what centuries of unbroken devotion feel like when it meets you in silence. That energy does not belong to the past. It flows still-and it is yours to draw from," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted a series of upcoming facilities designed to enhance the safety and convenience of pilgrims at visiting the holy Shri Shiv Khori shrine.

"The new helipad is slated for completion this month. Heli-services for the devotees of Shri Shiv Khori is also expected to start from the month of April. To protect pilgrims from unpredictable weather and shooting stones, a protective track shed will also be completed soon.

A future development roadmap has also been prepared. Recognizing the heavy footfall during festive seasons, an alternative track between Ram Mandir and Shiv Khori will be constructed for decongestion.

Comprehensive repair and renovation work of the Ransoo Shrine building and existing tracks will be taken up, while adequate sanitation facilities will be provided along the track. A serai and langar facility will also come up for pilgrims in Ransoo," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the time has come for the Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board to introduce a 'Sound and Light Show' to enrich the experience of the devotees. With the collective interest and consensus, the feasibility of a Ropeway project may be explored, he said.

"We are fully committed to creating a thriving ecosystem where local traders, artisans, youth, and women can access new opportunities, ensuring prosperity for every family," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also flagged off garbage collection vehicle donated by J&K Bank to Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board.

The works inaugurated today includes renovation of Shivam Dwar (Darshani Deodi); repair and renovation of Mahadev Bhawan including Yatra Registration Counter; existing Ghat refurbishment (near Shivam Dwar); Gazebos near bathing Ghat and near Shani Mandir; Toilet

Complexes; renovation of Medical Kiosk near Ram Mandir; construction of Pony Shed at Ransoo near Darshani Deodi and installation of Lights at various locations.

Kuldeep Raj Dubey, Member of Legislative Assembly from Reasi; Sajjan Jindal, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), JSW Group; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Chairman Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board; Sarah Rizvi, DIG Udhampur and Reasi Range; Kumar Abhishek, Deputy Commissioner Reasi; senior officials; prominent citizens from different walks of life and devotees in large number attended the inaugural ceremony. (KNO)

LG calls for equal

journey."

He added, "Women's empowerment stands as the strongest catalyst for development and poverty eradication. Today, our women tirelessly work to reshape society into a fairer, more equitable order. Countless talented women from the Union Territory are excelling in their fields, each poised to help build a peaceful and prosperous Jammu Kashmir. International Women's Day offers us a vital moment to reaffirm our dedication to upholding women's rights, ensuring justice, safeguarding their security, and advancing their well-being. Let us unite in building a society where women enjoy equal chances, advancing and thriving through their true potential. I extend my best wishes to everyone for a truly successful observance of this special day."

CM Omar hails

Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) and its colleagues for organizing such event for the lineman.

He said that it is the result of the hard work of the linemen that the children are able to study in schools and home and the farmers get water in their fields.

On the occasion, CM Omar recognised the linemen as the frontline technical workforce in maintaining the electricity supply in Jammu and Kashmir.

The event was attended by Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta, Financial Commissioner (ACS) Power Development Department, Ashwani Kumar, Managing Director JKPDCCL, Rahul Yadav and Managing Director JPDCL, Gurpal Singh.

Omar in his key address spoke of the foundational role that electricity plays in governance and public life.

"Power makes virtually all other aspects of our lives function. Government services like healthcare, education and irrigation do not work without electricity," he said.

He said that the linemen are 'actual foot soldiers and indispensable workforce of the power department,' and singled out their service during Operation Sindoor and the 2025 floods for special praise.

"You brave adverse conditions like war and natural calamities. You put your lives on the line of duty just like our brave defence forces," he said.

About the safety of the frontline workers, Omar said, "We aim to achieve the goal of zero

casualty of linemen during work. The government and the power department will ensure the safety of each individual lineman."

The CM urged the procurement of safety equipment. "The department must ensure the equipment reaches field linemen and that they receive proper training to use it."

In the meantime, MD of JPDCL Gurpal Singh said that the corporation serves over 12 lakh consumers across the Jammu region.

He appreciated the technical workforce for this achievement and highlighted the daily role of linemen working at heights, in extreme weather and across challenging terrains.

JPDCL MD on the occasion announced the centralised procurement of safety equipment worth Rs 1.5 crore, including safety shoes, belts, helmets and discharge rods, for systematic distribution to field linemen. (KNO)

LG hands over

The Lieutenant Governor assured all possible assistance and support from the Administration to the family of the deceased SSF Personnel.

Cloudy weather,

and snowfall in higher reaches at isolated places. Similar conditions are expected to continue between March 16 and 17.

The MeT office has advised farmers to suspend farm operations between March 10 and 12 in view of the forecast.

It also said day temperatures are likely to fall by 4 to 6 degrees Celsius at many places after March 9 and may remain lower till March 12.

According to the MeT data, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 24.5 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 10.5 degrees Celsius.

Gulmarg recorded a maximum of 16.6 degrees Celsius and a minimum of minus 2.0 degrees Celsius. Jammu recorded a maximum temperature of 31.8 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 19.1 degrees Celsius. (KNO)

Visually impaired

said that Lone's father, who worked as a casual labourer, continued supporting his son's education despite financial constraints.

Lone's younger sister Shabia said the family had confidence in his efforts and remained supportive during his preparation.

The Union Public Service Commission conducted the written main examination in August last year, followed by personality tests between December 2025 and February 2026, after which the final results were announced. (KNO)

DGP reviews

focus on ongoing CT operations, both kinetic and non-kinetic. He also reviewed measures being taken to curb drug abuse and other criminal activities across Police District Awantipora.

The DGP emphasized the need to further intensify the drive against anti-national elements, drugs and crime. He directed officers to take strict and effective action against those involved in such unlawful activities and urged them to remain vigilant, disciplined and proactive in their respective areas of responsibility.

He stressed strong coordination, intelligence-based operations, and proactive policing

to maintain peace and stability. The DGP appreciated the efforts of officers and jawans and urged all ranks to remain alert, disciplined, and mission-oriented. (KNO)

Dir Info, DIPR

their deepest condolences to the family members of Late Abdul Rashid and prayed peace for the departed soul and patience for family to bear this irreparable loss.

Film shoot brings

said the natural surroundings and calm environment of Nagranar fit well with the theme of the horror film. They described the location as peaceful and visually striking, making it suitable for the scenes planned for the film.

Villagers believe Nagranar's growing presence on social media may have played a role. Over the past few years, images and videos of the village highlighting its natural beauty have circulated online and attracted attention beyond the region.

Kaiser Ahmed, a resident of the village, said the film shoot has created a sense of optimism among young people in the area. He said such projects could open opportunities for locals in tourism and services linked to film production.

"People here are happy to see a film crew working in the village. If more filmmakers come, it can help local youth find work in guiding, transport and other activities," he said.

The crew was scheduled to shoot at the location for three days, followed by other scenic locations across the Kashmir valley to film the remaining portions.

Officials said the administration has extended full support to facilitate the shooting. Local authorities and police coordinated with the production team to ensure that the work proceeded smoothly without disruption. (KNO)

Kashmiri students in Iran

we heard several blasts near our hospital and even close to the passport office. Authorities asked us to stay underground for safety. The situation is extremely frightening, and we are worried about what might happen next," the student said.

Students from Tehran University of Medical Sciences also reported that the city of Qom has been placed on red alert following reports of explosions in the region. "We have been told that Qom is on red alert after explosions were reported there. Many of us are extremely anxious and want to return home safely," another student said.

Earlier, students in cities such as Urmia and Qom were asked to prepare a list of those willing to travel through the Armenia border route. However, the response remained limited as many students requested that the evacuation process be directly arranged by the Embassy of India in Iran.

Dr Mohammad Momin Khan, National Representative of the All India Medical Students Association (AIMSA) and its J&K President, met Iran's Ambassador to India, Mohammad Fathali, and raised serious concerns regarding the safety of Indian students studying in Iranian universities.

During the meeting, Dr Khan urged the

ambassador to facilitate the safe return of Indian citizens and ensure coordination with authorities to support evacuation efforts.

According to the AIMSA representative, the Indian Embassy in Iran has offered logistical support to help Indian students relocate to neighbouring Armenia, which is considered relatively safer under the current circumstances. However, students have been asked to arrange their own onward travel from Armenia to India.

Dr Momin, who remains in constant contact with nearly 1,000 students studying across various Iranian universities, said many students are currently stranded at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, and Urmia University of Medical Sciences, while some have reportedly been shifted to an undisclosed location in Qom due to security concerns.

He said the embassy has informed students that they may leave the country through the Armenian border, but only after fulfilling certain conditions.

As per the communication, the students, those willing to leave Iran through Armenia, must first book their flight tickets from Armenia to New Delhi. A copy of the confirmed ticket must then be submitted to the Indian Embassy, after which the embassy will inform them about the time and arrangements for travelling from cities such as Shiraz to the Armenian border. Students without confirmed tickets will not be allowed to cross the border.

Students will also be required to pay a visa fee of 10 US dollars at the Armenian border.

Officials have further informed that if students reach Armenia earlier than their scheduled flight date, they will have to arrange their own accommodation and hotel stay until they depart for India.

However, if more than 40 to 50 students opt for this route together, the embassy may arrange a bus for their travel and possibly provide accommodation in Urmia before their onward journey.

At the same time, the embassy has clarified that if students decide to leave Iran through this route, the responsibility of the journey will rest with the students themselves, and the embassy will not take responsibility for their travel.

The advisory issued by the embassy currently asks students to remain where they are and avoid unnecessary movement. Officials have also indicated that there is no official evacuation plan in place for now.

Dr Momin said confusion continues to prevail among students regarding travel arrangements and the high cost involved.

"Many students cannot afford the airfare from Armenia to New Delhi, which currently costs nearly Rs 1 lakh per ticket. Some students who can afford the fare have already booked their flights from Armenia," he said.

Most of the students are from Jammu and Kashmir and would be able to travel easily to their hometowns from New Delhi once they reach India.

"Many students believe that the Government of India should arrange repatriation flights and bear the cost of their return," he added. (KNO)

India got best trade deal with US among competing nations: Goyal

'Both countries share powerful relationship'

PTI

New Delhi, Mar 07: India has secured the best trade deal with the US compared to its competing nations, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Saturday, noting that the two countries share a "very powerful" relationship.

He said that the US is the world's largest economy - USD 30 trillion - and nobody can wish it away.

"It has been a fantastic journey. We have the best of relations. You would have observed that through the last year, President Donald Trump has always had the best things to say about India as a country, and about Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi. We have fantastic relations with our counterparts there.

"Even within your family, sometimes you can have one or two misunderstandings. It's a part of the course. I think it's a very, very powerful relationship that the US and India share. And we got the best deal amongst all the nations with whom we compete," Goyal said when asked about the trade relations with the US.

He was speaking at Raisina Dialogue 2026 here.

The minister added that India and the US are strategic partners, and the two are the largest democracies in the world.

"We have a large responsibility cast on both our nations. They are the world's largest economy, USD 30 trillion economy, nobody can wish them away," he said.

He said that ultimately a trade deal is about preference



over competitors. "What's a trade deal? You are trying to get a preference or a preferential access for yourself, your goods, your services, compared to your competitor. And we got the best deal amongst all the competing nations. I mean whether it's in our neighbourhood Pakistan or Bangladesh. If we look at the Asian region, we got the best deal amongst all of the competitors..." Goyal said.

He added that the India-US relationship is strong, multi-dimensional, and not only about trade as there is a huge technology overlay on it.

"There's a huge critical minerals partnership, there's a defense partnership, there's a huge amount of investments that flow into India from the US. So it's a partnership of two countries which is going to define the future," he said.

These remarks are important as the two countries have finalised the framework for the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement.

Under the deal, the US had announced to reduce reciprocal tariffs on India to 18 per cent.

However, following the US Supreme Court striking down the tariffs, Trump imposed 10 per cent tariffs on all countries from February 24 for 150 days.

A meeting between chief negotiators of the two countries to finalise the legal text for the agreement has been postponed.

Under the deal, India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on all US industrial goods and a wide range of American food and agricultural products, including dried distillers' grains (DDGs), red sorghum for animal feed, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, soybean oil, wine and spirits, and additional products.

India has also stated that it intends to purchase USD 500 billion of US energy products, aircraft and aircraft parts, precious metals, technology products, and coking coal over the next five years.

Talking about the nine free trade

agreements (FTAs) that the Modi government has finalised, Goyal said the government has protected national interests, and has opened doors for Indian businesses.

"These nine free trade agreements, I can say on record with all the courage that I have on my command with all the responsibility that in not a single trade deal, has India compromised on any sensitivity of any of our stakeholders," he said.

Opposition parties have alleged that the government has compromised the interests of farmers in the India-US trade pact.

He added that opening of the auto sector in some FTAs will provide choices to consumers in the country and create jobs. India has agreed to provide duty concessions in the sector under its trade pacts with the UK and European Union.

"Demand for this industry is growing at an average of 8 per cent. So you can imagine how much more scope we have to create jobs," he said.

Goyal added that auto firms in the FTA partners may initially export cars to India to test the domestic market here, but once they "find the sweet spot of what sells in India, ultimately, they will have to manufacture in India".

It will be difficult for expensive European cars to compete with Indian companies here.

"Initially they can sell, say, 5,000 cars or 10,000 cars, to test the market, find the distraction -- and then come and manufacture here," he said.

He said the approach has been to create the worldwide web of trade partnerships through these FTAs.

PM to inaugurate, lay foundation stones of projects worth Rs 33,500 cr in Delhi today

PTI

New Delhi, Mar 07: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Sunday inaugurate and lay the foundation stones of development projects worth around Rs 33,500 crore, including two new Delhi Metro corridors, giving a major boost to the national capital's infrastructure.

The prime minister will also address a gathering on the occasion.

Prior to the programme, Modi will visit the General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA) Type-5 quarters in Sarojini Nagar and hand over keys to female allottees, according to an official statement.

He will inaugurate the 12.3-km Majlis Park-Maujpur-Babarpur corridor of the Pink Line and the 9.9-km Deepali Chowk-Majlis Park corridor of the Magenta Line.

The Majlis Park-Maujpur-Babarpur stretch will benefit areas such as Burari, Jagatpur-Wazirabad, Khajuri Khas, Bhajanpura and Yamuna Vihar, strengthening connectivity in north and east Delhi, it stated. The



Deepali Chowk-Majlis Park section is an elevated extension of the Magenta Line and will connect areas including Madhuban Chowk, Uttar Pitampura-Prashant Vihar, Haiderpur Badli Mor and Bhalaswa.

With the addition of these stretches, the Pink Line and Magenta Line networks will expand further, improving last-mile connectivity and easing travel for daily commuters across the capital, according to the statement.

PM Modi will also lay the foundation stone for three new Delhi Metro corridors under Phase V-A of the expansion plan, covering a

total route length of around 16.1 km.

These include the Ramakrishna Ashram Marg-Indraprastha corridor, the Aerocity-Indira Gandhi International Airport Terminal-1 corridor and the Tughlakabad-Kalindi Kunj corridor, which are expected to improve connectivity between central Delhi, south Delhi, Noida and the airport, it read.

In a statement, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that it will mark a significant step towards a faster, smoother and environmentally friendly public transport system in Delhi.

Domestic LPG price hiked by Rs 60 per cylinder to Rs 913

PTI

New Delhi, Mar 07: Domestic cooking gas LPG price on Saturday was hiked by a steep Rs 60 per cylinder, the second increase in rate in less than a year, as oil companies pass on a part of the spike in global energy rates that followed the West Asia crisis.

Non-subsidised LPG - the one that common households use in kitchens - will now cost Rs 913 per 14.2-kg cylinder in Delhi as against Rs 853 previously, according to the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) website.

Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries



- the over 10 crore poor who have got free LPG connection since 2016 - will also have to bear the same amount of price increase. They will now pay Rs 613 per 14.2 kg cylinder after accounting for a subsidy of Rs 300 per bottle they get for up

to 12 refills in a year.

The price increase, the website showed, is effective from March 7.

This is the second increase in rate in 11 months. The price was last hiked by Rs 50 in April last year. Alongside, the

price of commercial LPG - the one used by establishments such as hotels and restaurants - was increased by Rs 114.5 per 19-kg cylinder. It now costs Rs 1,883 in Delhi. This increase comes on top of Rs 28 per 19-kg cylinder raise effected on March 1.

Commercial LPG rate has risen by Rs 302.50 this year.

Industry officials said the increase follows a steep rise in global energy prices since the US and Israel attack on Iran last weekend triggered a wider military conflict in the oil and gas-rich Middle East.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Directorate of School Education Kashmir

Samanderbagh - S.P. College Road Srinagar-190001

Email: dsekik@gmail.com dsek-jkagov.in

(Teaching Section)

Subject: O.A No.1745/2021 titled Safoora Bano VS UT of J8sK 8s Ors.

Notification

Pursuant to the directions issued by the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal Srinagar dated: 15/09/2025 passed in O.A. No. 1745/2021 titled Safoora Banoo vs UT of J&K86 Ors in favour Shri. Altaf Hussain Lone S/o: Samad Lone R/o: Gujran, Gurez, District Bandipora, for his appointment as Teacher in pursuant to Notification No. 06 of 2017 dated: 28-12-2017 under ST Category, Shri. Altaf Hussain Lone S/o: Samad Lone R/o: Gujran, Gurez, District Bandipora is hereby informed through the medium of this Notification to submit all the Qualification Certificates/Testimonials (in Original) and verification of Character 86 Antecedents Form (V-Roll) prescribed by the Government under Order No.528-JK(GAD) of 2021 dated: 21/06/2021 in the office of Directorate of School Education Kashmir, within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of this Notification.

After expiry of the stipulated time period, if the selectee fails to produce the desired documents before this Directorate his claim for appointment as Teacher shall be treated as foregone and no further notice shall be issued in this behalf.

Director School Education Kashmir

NO. DESK/Estt/B-Trs/Ls/390/767-71

Dated: 07/03/2026

DIPK-11681/25

DATED: 07.03.2026

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE, SRINAGAR

(ACADEMIC SECTION)

Corrigendum to the Advertisement Notice No. 04 of 2026

Dated. 06.03.2026

It is hereby notified that the Advertisement Notice referred to above in which Senior Resident post in the Department of Pathology figured at Serial No. 04. has been withdrawn in abi-nitio which has incorporated due to typographical error.

However, all other terms and conditions as envisaged in the earlier advertisement shall remain unchanged.

(Mohammad Ashraf Hakak JKAS

Administrator, Associated

Hospital, GMC, Srinagar

Member/Secretary Selection

Committee

No. GMCS/SR/Adv/12918-30/ML

Dated. 07.03.2026.

DIPK-11667/25

DATED: 07.03.2026

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3D HINDI - 12:00 PM

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Rookie Balendra Shah defeats four-time PM Oli, RSP set to form next govt in Nepal

PTI
Kathmandu, Mar 07: RSP's Balendra Shah on Saturday defeated four-time PM K P Sharma Oli by a huge margin and set to form the next government in Nepal, decimating traditional political parties in the first general elections since last year's violent Gen Z protests demanding generational change and corruption-free regime.

Rapper-turned-politician Balendra Shah 'Balen,' the prime ministerial candidate of the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) defeated Oli, the chair of Nepal's legacy party, the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) -- CPN-UML -- by a huge margin of about 50,000 votes in Jhapa-5 constituency.

Balen, 35, secured 68,348 votes against 74-year-old Oli's 18,734, the Election Commission (EC) said.

The RSP, which was formed in 2022 by Ravi Lamichhane, has won 62 seats out of the 78 seats for which results have been declared by 6:30 pm, according to the Election Commission (EC).

RSP's seats include a clean sweep in all 10 constituencies of Kathmandu district even as it is leading in 60 seats across the country, the EC data showed.

Legacy parties were far behind in convincing voters for whom the major issues included fighting corruption and an end to nepotism apart from a generational change in political leadership of



the Himalayan nation.

The Nepali Congress (NC) won nine and was leading in nine seats; the CPN-(UML) won just three seats and is leading in nine; the Nepali Communist Party (NCP) won two seats and is leading in five, the Shrama Shakti Party (SSP) was leading in three seats, and the Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) won one seat, the EC data showed. Among the winners is one independent.

Nepal witnessed about 60 per cent voter turnout during the March 5 elections to the House of Representatives. The counting of votes started late Thursday night and as of 5 pm Saturday, counting was in progress in 162 constituencies, the Election Commission said.

The election was being closely watched by India, which is

hoping for a stable government in the politically fragile Himalayan nation to take forward the developmental partnership between the two sides.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday congratulated the people and government of Nepal for the successful conduct of elections. "It is heartening to see my Nepali sisters and brothers exercise their democratic rights so vibrantly. This historic milestone is a proud moment in Nepal's democratic journey," Modi said in a post on X.

Modi also said that as a close friend and neighbour, India remains steadfast in its commitment to working closely with the people of Nepal and its new government to scale new heights of shared peace, progress and prosperity. The RSP,

which projected Balendra Shah 'Balen' as its prime ministerial candidate and had organised its first election campaign in Janakpur in Madhesh, is heading towards a clean sweep of the province.

'Balen,' as he is popularly known, projected himself as the "son of Madhesh" during the campaign, with the party launching the campaign with 'Ab ki bar Balendra Sarkar' (This time there will be Balendra's government) tagline.

Of the total 32 seats in eight districts of Madhesh province, the RSP has won seven and is leading in 23 other constituencies, the EC said.

The party is also making a clean sweep in the Kathmandu Valley winning all 10 seats of Kathmandu district and two in Bhaktapur and one in Lalitpur district.

The party is also leading in the remaining two seats of the Kathmandu Valley with a huge margin, possibly as a result of a massive road show led by Balen in all 15 constituencies on the last day of the election campaign.

Balen, who was the Kathmandu mayor till recently, secured 52,069 votes in Jhapa-5 constituency against four-time prime minister and CPN-UML chair K P Sharma Oli in the latter's stronghold. Oli has received just 14,031 votes so far, the EC data showed.

The 35-year-old engineer-turned-rapper-turned-politician is expected to be the next prime minister of Nepal, reflecting a public mood of rejection of established parties. Nepal has had 14

governments in the last 18 years.

RSP chairman Lamichhane won with a huge margin from Chitwan-2 constituency, marking his third consecutive victory with 54,402 votes against his nearest rival NC's Mina Kumari Kharel, who received 14,564 votes.

According to the Election Commission, former prime minister and NCP leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda won from Rukum Purba district by securing 10,240 votes against his rival Lilamani Gautam of CPN-(UML), who got 3,462 votes.

RPP's Gyanendra Shahi won from the Jumla constituency of Karnali province by defeating his closest rival Naresh Bhandari of the NCP and became the only candidate of the pro-monarchist RPP to have secured a seat in the House of Representatives.

Meanwhile, the RSP is also leading in proportional voting system with the party bagging 1,26,503 votes followed by Nepali Congress with 38,343. The CPN (UML) has received 28,721, the RPP 10,962, Nepali Communist Party 10,794 and Shrama Shakti Party 6,474 votes till now.

Out of a total of 275 members of the Parliament, 165 are being elected through direct voting, while the remaining 110 through a proportionate method.

Around 3,400 candidates were vying for 165 seats under direct voting, and 3,135 candidates for 110 seats through proportionate voting.

Trump's Iran war violates international law, experts say



AFP
Washington, Mar 07: The United States insists it attacked Iran to curb "direct threats" from the Islamic republic, but legal experts say the dangers cited by Washington do not justify war under international law.

US and Israeli forces launched a massive air campaign against Iran on February 28, with Washington saying it aimed to curb nuclear and missile threats from Tehran. Yet the war has also decapitated the country's government, and President Donald Trump is now demanding "unconditional surrender."

The White House laid out Washington's justification for the war during a news conference this week.

"This decision to launch this operation was based on a cumulative effect of various direct threats that Iran posed to the United States of America, and the president's feeling, based on fact, that Iran does pose (an) imminent and direct threat," Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said Wednesday. She went on to cite Iranian sponsorship of "terrorism," its ballistic missile program and its alleged efforts to "create nuclear weapons and nuclear bombs."

But Mary Ellen O'Connell, a professor at the University of Notre Dame, said the attack on Iran "had no justification under international law."

Surya's leadership Mantra: 'No point being father figure, just allow freedom of expression'

PTI
Ahmedabad, Mar 07: It took Suryakumar Yadav roughly six months into his India captaincy to understand that trying to be a "father figure" or "elder brother" to younger members of the team won't work.

The Mumbai man realised that the only thing which would work is allowing a free-flowing exchange of ideas, freedom of expression and letting every flower bloom in its own way.

With liberal help from coach Gautam Gambhir, who believes that 7-ball-21s should be celebrated as much as a hundred, Surya decided that while he would "follow the footsteps of Rohit Sharma", the "shoes will be his own".

Asked about the atmosphere of the change-room and what kind of advice does he give the youngsters, Surya replied: "They don't let me talk much in the dressing room. They dictate their own terms. So, I have seen that when they get freedom, they become a different character on the ground."

"I started to relate to this team after 5-6 months (of captaincy). After that, I understood that there is no point in being a big brother or a father. You have to leave them."

"There is no point in holding on to them. You have to leave them open. Only then you can get the best from them," Surya



crisply outlined his leadership philosophy.

He understood that team is like a bouquet where every beautiful flower has its own pride of place.

"Every player has different skills and strengths. It's not that I haven't said anything to anyone. I have spoken to the players. But those who feel that I have left them, that percentage has increased from the start till now. So, I haven't said much to anyone," he said in jest.

While March 8 will be the biggest day in Surya's career, the best part of him was that he didn't lose out on his humorous side.

When asked if he found his predecessor Rohit Sharma's boots too big to fill, he cheekily replied: "Sir, shoes are mine, I only follow his footsteps."

On a serious note, he spoke about the nuggets that he picked from Rohit's leadership.

"The way, where he left, I got to learn a lot of things from him when I was playing under him. So, I also followed the same strategy, same fundamentals."

"I played a lot of cricket with Rohit. I know how he worked. So, I tried to implement the same things with a few thoughts of mine as well. And it's worked really well," he said.

Surya knows that there will be butterflies in the stomach but then focusing on the controllables will be paramount on the big day.

"Yes, obviously, as a leader, there will definitely be pressure on me. I am not saying that there will be no pressure. But at the same time, there is a lot of excitement because you don't always get a chance to play in the World Cup final. And that too in India," he Sunday's final for Surya is a culmination of a journey that started two years back.

"We've been preparing for this stage really well. Started two years back in its journey and the circle has come to the same stadium again where we left in 2023.

"Hopefully, we play some good cricket, be courageous in tough situations," he concluded.

Hotel tariffs soar up to 400 pc in Ahmedabad ahead of T20 WC final

PTI
Ahmedabad, Mar 07: Hotel room tariffs in Ahmedabad have jumped ahead of the India-New Zealand T20 World Cup final, with rates rising by as much as 300 to 400 per cent, an industry representative said on Sunday. The high-profile match is scheduled to be held at the Narendra Modi Stadium in the city on Sunday.

Narendra Somani, hotelier and president of the Hotels and Restaurants Association of Gujarat, said room tariffs that were earlier around Rs 15,000 have jumped as cricket fans from across India and abroad arrive in the city for the match.

"There is a 300 per cent to 400 per cent increase in the room tariffs due to the high demand in view of the T20 WC final. Rooms which were available for Rs 5,000 to Rs 20,000 now have rates between Rs 15,000 and Rs 50,000," he said.

Online listings also show a sharp spike in tariffs at several prominent hotels in the city ahead of the final.

A 'Deluxe Room' for two at Taj Skyline on Sindhu Bhavan Road has already gone up to Rs 2.01 lakh, plus Rs 36,000 GST, for Sunday night, as per a leading travel portal. On normal days, the room rent typically ranges between Rs 9,000 and Rs 15,000, marking a nearly 20-fold increase.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

رمضان المبارك

1447 H / 2026 CE

وقت افطار	اعتنام 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	اعتنام 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
وَيَصُومُ عِدَّةَ نَوَيْتٍ مِنْ شَهْرِ رَمَضَانَ
I intend to keep the fast for tomorrow in the month of Ramadan

DUA FOR IFTAR
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

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