



Narendra Modi Stadium: South Africa's Fortress in Ahmedabad

AHMEDABAD, FEB 24: Unbeaten and unflustered, South Africa have turned the Narendra Modi Stadium into a fortress. In a tournament defined by travel fatigue and shifting surfaces, the Proteas have enjoyed a rare luxury: familiarity. And they have made it count.

In the group stage, South Africa played Canada, Afghanistan and New Zealand in Ahmedabad. Only their fixture against the UAE took them away to Delhi. The Super 8s brought them back to their adopted base, where they outplayed title contenders India and now they prepare to face West Indies at the same venue before a brief trip to Delhi to meet Zimbabwe on March 1.

So apart from Pakistan (because of geo-political reasons) and Sri Lanka as co-host nation, no other country would have had the luxury of playing seven games across two venues (Ahmedabad and Delhi).

Playing at Motera has offered the Proteas a lot more than mere logistical comfort. It has provided strategic clarity.

It's not that South Africa have dictated the scheduling but the Proteas players are not complaining either as



they got a home away from home.

Playing five matches out of seven at one venue before the semifinals is something that you can only dream of. If the final is also scheduled at Ahmedabad and South Africa makes it to the title clash, no one will be as prepared as Shukri Conrad's men will be on the big day.

On Ahmedabad's surface, deliveries from spinners have occasionally gripped while late evening matches have offered some movement under lights. South Africa's quicks have adjusted lengths precisely, knowing when the pitch of-

fers steep bounce and when it holds up.

Spinners have identified which ends provide more purchase, and which areas to attack.

Multi-nation tourney like ODI and T20 World Cup is as much about recovery as it is about skill. Minimal travel reduces fatigue. Familiar hotel routines aid rest cycles. Players conserve mental bandwidth. Otherwise adapting to new practice facilities and travel schedules take a toll.

The result? A squad that appears tactically sharp and physically fresh deep into the competition.

There is also a psychological edge. Winning repeatedly at the same venue builds territorial confidence. Opposition teams walk into an environment where South Africa have already celebrated multiple victories. That matters.

Now, with West Indies next in Ahmedabad on Thursday, the Proteas carry not just form but ownership.

The brief detour to Delhi for Zimbabwe will test their adaptability again, a reminder that tournaments demand flexibility. But their Ahmedabad blueprint has already laid the foundation.

Andhra Veterans clinch 3rd Legend Masters T20 Championship; J&K veterans Finish Runners-Up

JAMMU, FEB 23: Andhra Veterans lifted the trophy of the 3rd edition of the Legend Masters T20 Cricket Championship. The host side put up a spirited performance but had to settle for the runners-up title.

The glittering trophy ceremony was graced by Chief Guest Manik Batra, Chairman ASSOCHAM J&K. The trophies were presented in the presence of distinguished guests including Rajat Randhawa, Spokesperson PDP; Vikrant Dogra, Chairman UAMMCL; Rajinder Jamwal, noted Sports Promoter; Aman Cheema, Senior Leader NC Youth; and Vivek Suri, General Secretary of the Veteran Cricket Association J&K.

The championship was organized by the Veteran Cricket Association J&K in collaboration with the Excise Department J&K and Shree Toyota.

Manik Batra lauded the Veteran Cricket Association J&K for successfully organizing a high-quality interstate championship. He ap-



preciated the spirit of veteran cricketers and emphasized that such tournaments strengthen sports culture and healthy networking in the region.

Rajat Randhawa, Spokesperson PDP, congratulated the organizers for providing a vibrant platform to veteran players and said that sports act as a bridge of unity and positivity in society.

Vikrant Dogra, Chairman UAMMCL, praised the pro-

fessionalism and smooth conduct of the tournament, stating that initiatives like Legend Masters enhance Jammu's reputation as a sporting hub.

Vivek Suri, General Secretary of the Veteran Cricket Association J&K, expressed gratitude to the chief guest, special invitees, sponsors, and participating teams. He reaffirmed the association's commitment to promoting veteran cricket and taking the championship to greater

heights in the coming years.

Adi Narayan from Telangana was declared Player of the Tournament, Atul from Delhi bagged the Best Batsman award, Ram Patil from Andhra was named Best Bowler, while Nag earned the title of Best Fielder.

The tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from veteran cricketers across states, reinforcing the message of fitness, fellowship, and lifelong love for the game.

137 CRPF Bn hosts 5-day Volleyball tournament at Udhampur

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, FEB 24

A five day Volleyball Tournament, organised by 137 Bn, CRPF under the Civic Action Programme commenced today here at the SRTC campus, Udhampur.

Six teams are participating in the event. CRPF personnel and local coaches conducted the first match between Veer Volleyball Club and C.V.C. Volleyball Club, featuring high-energy plays, skill demonstrations and team-building drills.

M.K. Sicon, Commandant; Kartar Singh, Second-in-command; R.L. Meena, Dy. Comdt; Suresh, Dy. Comdt; Dr. Manish Rundla, Medical Officer of 137 Bn, CRPF; Ashok Padha, President, Volleyball Association, Udhampur cum Executive Mem-



ber-J&K Volleyball Association; Naveen Kumar, PEM, Dy. SSO, Sanjay Sharma, PEM, Dy. SSO, Manik Nargotra, PEM, Dy. SSO; Amit Sharma, PET, Dy. SSO; Vinod Sharma, Dy. SSO & Kuldeep Sharma, J&K, Jt. Secretary-Volleyball Association

of Udhampur and media personnel along with players, CRPF Jawans and locals were present on this occasion.

Local coaches and officials provided guidance to local youth, especially on fitness, teamwork and sports discipline. They also

motivated participants to adopt healthy habits, build physical strength and overcome limiting mindsets for overall well-being.

Prizes and sports equipment were distributed among Volleyball Players to promote sports and fitness.

NHPC hosts 25th Inter CPSU Cricket Tournament under aegis of PSCB



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, FEB 24

Shri Bhupendra Gupta, CMD, NHPC inaugurated the 25th Inter CPSU T-20 Cricket Tournament at TERI Ground, Gurugram today. Shri Suprakash Adhikari, Director (Technical), NHPC and senior officials from NHPC and participating organizations were also present on the occasion. NHPC from February 24 to March 1, 2026 is hosting the 25th Inter CPSU T-20 Cricket Tournament under the aegis of Power Sports Control Board (PSCB).

In his inaugural address, CMD, NHPC underlined the crucial role of the power sector in nation building and reiterated the collective commitment of power sector organizations towards providing reliable, clean and sustainable energy to achieve the goal of Atmanirbhar Bharat. He said that the spirit of coordination, teamwork and dedica-

tion that energizes the nation also inspires excellence in the sports field. He described the event as not just a sporting competition but a celebration of fitness, discipline, leadership and camaraderie, adding that it is a medium to strengthen relationships beyond the workplace.

A total of 14 teams from CPSUs and other organizations under the Ministry of Power, Government of India - Ministry of Power, Central Electricity Authority, NTPC, REC, PFC, PGCIL, BEE, SJVNL, THDC, Grid India, DVC, BBMB and NEEPCO are participating in this tournament, which shows the importance of this event.

A total of 28 league matches will be played during the tournament. After this, the semi-finals will be held on 28 February 2026 and the final match will be held on 1 March 2026.

The tournament will promote sportsmanship, teamwork and mutual harmony

among the power sector organizations and also encourage a culture of health and fitness.

Shri Bhupender Gupta, CMD, NHPC inaugurated the 25th Inter CPSU T-20 Cricket Tournament today at Teri Ground, Gurugram. Shri Suprakash Adhikari, Director (Technical), NHPC along with senior officials of NHPC and participating organizations were also present on this occasion. NHPC is hosting the 25th Inter CPSU T-20 Cricket Tournament under the aegis of the Power Sports Control Board (PSCB) from 24th February to 1st March 2026.

In his inaugural address, CMD, NHPC highlighted the pivotal role of the power sector in nation-building and reaffirmed the collective commitment of power sector organizations to delivering reliable, clean, and sustainable energy in pursuit of an Atmanirbhar Bharat. He emphasized that the same spirit of coordination, teamwork and dedication that

powers the nation also drives excellence on the sports field.

Describing the event as more than just a sporting competition, he noted that the tournament celebrates fitness, discipline, leadership and camaraderie while strengthening bonds beyond the workplace.

A total of 14 teams from CPSUs and other organizations under the Ministry of Power, Government of India namely MOP, CEA, NTPC, REC, PFC, PGCIL, NHPC, BEE, SJVNL, THDC, GRID INDIA, DVC, BBMB & NEEPCO are participating in the tournament, reflecting the significance of the event. Overall, 28 league matches will be played, followed by the semi-finals on 28th February 2026 and the final match on 1st March 2026.

The tournament promises to foster sportsmanship, teamwork and mutual goodwill among power sector organizations while promoting a culture of health and fitness.

Youth Engagement Programme 2026 ignites football revolution at Kishtwar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, FEB 24

District Youth Services & Sports department on Tuesday conducted the Trial-cum-Selection process to constitute U/17 and U/19 Boys Football teams.

The event, held on Chowgan Grounds, formed part of the ambitious Youth Engagement Programme 2026 - League of Classics - an initiative to strengthen grassroots sports in the district.

The programme was organized under the directions of Director General Youth Services & Sports J&K Anuradha Gupta and under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma. DYSSO Jaffer Haider Sheikh coordinated the



event. A large number of enthusiastic young footballers hailing from Kishtwar and Municipal areas participated in the selection process. The atmosphere at the ground reflected high

energy, discipline and competitive spirit as players showcased their skills, teamwork and determination to represent the district at higher levels.

The League of Classics initiative aims to provide structured competition and meaningful exposure to young athletes, thereby strengthening the overall sports ecosystem in the District.

76 Bn CRPF hosts Volleyball tournament at Gangyal

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 24: The 76 Battalion, CRPF today organised a Volleyball tournament under Civic Action Programme-2026 here at Gangyal.

Five local teams participated in the tournament. Sai Tangali Volleyball club secured the first position (WINNER), while Saheed Bhagat Singh (Sports Club) secured the second position (Runner-up). Vezotto Tinyi, Commandant-76 Bn motivated the participants to stay healthy and imbibe a positive attitude to achieve excellence in life.

