

Mansoor Ali's 87 powers SKCC to a 25 runs victory over Vintage 11

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Sher-e-Kashmir Cricket Club scripted a convincing 25-run victory over Vintage 11 Cricket Club in a high-scoring T20 fixture played at Wonderland Ground here on Saturday, with batter Mansoor Ali producing a match-winning innings under the campaign theme "Say Yes to Future, No to Drugs."

Batting first after Vintage 11 CC elected to field, Sher-e-Kashmir CC amassed an imposing 196 runs in the allotted 20 overs through an aggressive display led by skipper Surpreet Singh's side.

The innings revolved around a fluent knock from Mansoor Ali, who struck 87 off 54 deliveries and anchored the innings with calculated stroke play and composure at the crease. Anesh Khajuria added momentum in the middle overs with a brisk 20 off 12 balls, helping SKCC maintain a strong scoring rate.

For Vintage 11 CC, Pankaj Ghoni emerged as the most effective bowler, claiming three wickets at crucial intervals to prevent further damage.

Facing a stiff chase, Vintage 11 CC responded with determination and remained in contention for large parts



of the innings before finishing at 171 runs. Vansh Solan spearheaded the reply with a counter-attacking 60 off 37 balls, while Pankaj Ghoni contributed 25 runs to keep the pursuit alive. However, Sher-e-Kashmir CC's disciplined bowling unit tightened control during the latter stages of the innings. Akshit Sharma led the attack with two wickets, while Surpreet Singh, Bawa and Rahul claimed one wicket each to restrict the opposition and complete a well-earned triumph.

Mansoor Ali was adjudged Player of the Match for his decisive contribution with the bat.

Speaking after the match, SKCC President Aman S. Cheema appreciated the sporting spirit displayed by both teams and underlined the importance of sporting events in steering youth away from drug abuse. He said such initiatives encourage young people to adopt a healthier and more constructive path through sports and community participation.

RCB's Jacob Bethell returns to England after injury, to miss remainder of IPL

BENGALURU: Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Saturday announced that England international Jacob Bethell will return to England after getting injured in a match against Punjab Kings and is expected to play no further part in the Indian Premier League (IPL). Bethell will be assessed by the England medical team ahead of their Test series against New Zealand, set to start on June 4. This means that the England international will not be available for RCB when they play Gujarat Titans in Qualifier 1 on Tuesday.



"Jacob Bethell sustained an injury to his left ring finger during our game against PBKS. He will return to England to be assessed ahead of their Test series," the IPL franchise posted on X. "The England and Wales Cricket Board has agreed with Royal Challengers Bangalore that top-order batter Jacob Bethell will return to the UK after sustaining a left ring finger injury while playing in the Indian Pre-

mier League. He will be fully assessed and monitored by the England Men's medical team on his return to determine his availability for selection for the Rothesay first Test against New Zealand at Lord's, starting on Thursday 4 June," England also confirmed the developments on their official X account.

Bethell, who was drafted in after regular RCB opener Phil Salt sustained an injury, didn't make much of an impact before getting hurt himself, scoring just 96 runs in 7 matches. Earlier in the month, Bethell had found himself in the

middle of a spat between two of England's greatest batters without actually uttering a word himself. And surprise, surprise! It's got to do with the IPL. During the first few weeks of the tournament when the young England left-hander constantly sat on the bench for Royal Challengers Bengaluru, former captain Alastair Cook opined that Bethell would be better served by returning home and playing some county cricket to be in the best position to perform well for England when they play Test cricket next. Bethell fa-

mously scored a century in Sydney during the ill-fated Ashes tour. It's the last Test the team has played. Never the favourite child of the English cricket establishment, Pietersen countered that Bethell would benefit by being around some of the best players in the world and learning from them, even if he was not playing. For good measure, he added that Cook has "absolutely no idea what it's like to be in the IPL." But Cook did not let the matter rest, suggesting there's only so much a young player can learn without actually playing. "I just gave my opinion and I can justify it by saying that at the time he wasn't playing. Last year as well, he went to the IPL and didn't play either, so he's already had that benefit once or twice. In my opinion, he could have come back and actually played some cricket. Ironically, since all this has come out, he's now played a bit," Cook said on the Stick to Cricket podcast.

Scientists Discover Fuel-Saving Earth-To-Moon Route Using Gravity

Planning space missions takes a large amount of time and effort because travelling through space is extremely expensive. Scientists always look for routes that use less fuel, as even small improvements in efficiency can save millions of dollars, reported Space.com.

An international team of researchers says it has discovered a more efficient route between Earth and the moon using advanced computer modelling. The researchers developed the method using the theory of functional connections, which reduces the amount of computing power needed to run complex simulations.

Using this method, the team simulated 30 million possible routes to the moon. Their newly published study references 280,000 simulations.

The researchers explained that the newly discovered low-cost route was previously hidden. The spacecraft travelling through the solar system only use fuel during certain parts of a mission. Scientists often rely on gravity for movement because it does not require fuel. These gravity-based paths across the solar system are known as the Interplanetary Transportation Network.

According to the researchers, finding a cheaper route to the moon depends largely on the gravitational pull of both Earth and the moon. In spaceflight, a "viate" refers to a natural trajectory leading to a specific orbit. The team found that instead of entering the lu-



nar-orbit viate from the side closest to Earth, it was more efficient to approach it from the opposite side. Study co-author Vitor Martins de Oliveira, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil, said researchers should not assume that the route closest to Earth is always the easiest option. He added that systematic analysis using faster methods could help uncover non-obvious solutions. The researchers found that this hidden route offered more gravity-based propulsion and reduced fuel use by 58.80 metres per second compared to the previous cheapest known route. The team also said the newly proposed route could help spacecraft maintain uninterrupted communication with Earth. Oliveira explained that the Arte-

mis 2 mission temporarily lost communication with Earth because it moved directly behind the moon. He said the newly proposed orbit could avoid such interruptions.

The researchers noted that the newly discovered route may not be the final solution for low-cost Earth-moon travel. Their current modelling only included the gravitational effects of Earth and the moon. Future studies may also consider the sun's gravity, which could lead to even more efficient routes. Study lead author Allan Kardec de Almeida Junior from the University of Coimbra in Portugal said the systematic analysis used in the study could be applied more widely in future research. The study was published in the journal *Astrodynamics*.

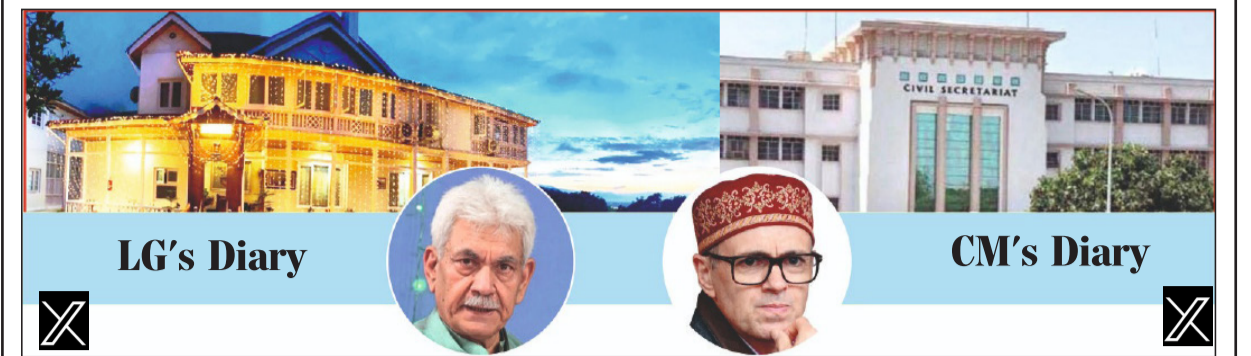
Blue Moon 2026: Rare Second Full Moon To Light Up Sky On May 31

Skywatchers will witness a rare astronomical event in May 2026, when a second full Moon will appear at the end of the month. The first full Moon appeared on May 1, while the second will appear on May 31, reported BBC.

calendar month, it is known as a blue Moon. The event also means that 2026 will have 13 full Moons instead of the usual 12. Why Blue Moons Happen A blue Moon happens because the lunar cycle does not perfectly match the calendar year. A day is based on the time Earth takes to

rotate once on its axis, while a year is the time Earth takes to orbit the Sun. A month is linked to the Moon's orbit around Earth. Usually, there is one full Moon every month, which is why many full Moons have traditional names connected to seasonal changes in nature. Examples include Feb-

ruary's Snow Moon, June's Strawberry Moon and December's Cold Moon. However, 12 lunar cycles are around 11 days shorter than a calendar year. Because of this difference, some years include an extra full Moon, resulting in two full Moons appearing within a single month.



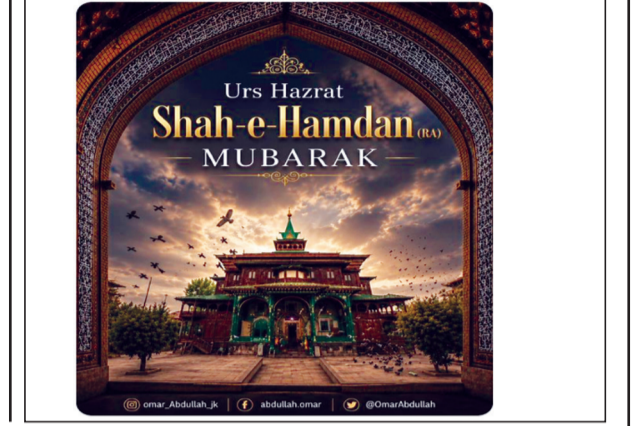
LG's Diary

CM's Diary

Office of LG J&K @OfficeOfLGJandK · 7h
From every lane and by-lane of UT, voices are rising in unison, demanding that not a single drug smuggler be spared. What began 43 days ago in Jammu has now surged into a powerful grassroots movement, echoing across communities with unstoppable force.



Office of Chief Minister, J&K @CM_JnK · 12h
Chief Minister extends warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of the annual Urs of Hazrat Mir Sayyid Ali Hamadani (RA), popularly known as Ameer-e-Kabeer, highlighting the revered saint's timeless teachings of peace, compassion, brotherhood and harmony, and Show more



Arjun Tendulkar set to make Lucknow Super Giants debut vs Punjab Kings

LUCKNOW: Arjun Tendulkar is set to make his debut for the Lucknow Super Giants on Saturday, captain Rishabh Pant said at the toss against the Punjab Kings at the Ekanan Stadium. Ahead of the IPL 2026 mini-auction in December, Arjun was traded by Mumbai Indians for his first stint outside the five-time champions. Lucknow Super Giants acquired the services of Arjun at his base price of INR 30 lakh.



"I think we would have bowled first also because the wicket here, this wicket is good for batting irrespective of bowling first or batting first. It definitely is one of the better wickets where we have played this season. I think it's going to be one of the most high scoring matches.

We have two changes. Arjun (Tendulkar) comes in and Arshin (Kulkarni) come in," Pant said at the toss. Punjab Kings skipper Shreyas Iyer won the toss and opted to bowl against LSG. PBKS made two changes, bringing in Marco Jansen and Vyshak Vijaykumar. Ahead of the season, R Ash-

win had said that Arjun's Tendulkar's hopes of substantial playing time in the IPL 2026 will not come to fruition due to LSG's stacked pace attack. "Arjun Tendulkar khelega hi nahi (Arjun Tendulkar won't play at all), and let's not even go there. I think it is very difficult because there are Mayank Yadav, Mohsin Khan, Avesh

Khan, and Mohammad Shami in this lineup. There are so many fast bowlers. How will he play? I don't think he makes any case unless and until there are a lot of injuries," Ashwin had remarked on his YouTube channel. Having made his T20 debut in 2021, Arjun was first signed up in the IPL by the Mumbai Indians the same season. In 29 T20Is, Arjun has snapped up 35 wickets at a strike rate of 16.0 besides aggregating 189 runs with the bat. Arjun has played only five IPL games in all, picking up three wickets. This is a crucial encounter for Punjab Kings with the Iyer-led side looking to stay alive in the IPL playoffs with a win against an already eliminated LSG.

Australian-style intensity: Irfan Pathan on Virat Kohli's tiff with Travis Head

HYDERABAD: With the business-end of the Indian Premier League (IPL) heating up, there was an on-field tiff between Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Virat Kohli and Sunrisers Hyderabad's Travis Head on Friday. During the match where RCB were chasing the 255-run target of SRH, Kohli appeared to mock the Head's frequent use by his team as an Impact Substitute by gesturing and telling him to bowl a few deliveries instead of staying off the field.



Kohli, however, was dismissed soon after for 15 off 11 balls, prompting Head to fire back with a sledge of his own. The tension appeared to linger after SRH's commanding 55-run win as Head tried to shake hands during the customary post-match greetings, but Kohli walked past him without acknowledging the gesture. Former India player Irfan Pathan said that the exchange during such a high profile game was pretty natural due to the pressure that comes with it. "Virat Kohli has always enjoyed playing cricket with that aggressive Australian-style intensity, a bit of banter, competitiveness, and emotion on the field. During that moment, he was asking Travis Head to come on and bowl a

few deliveries instead of remaining off the field as an impact substitute. These kinds of exchanges are quite natural in high-pressure games, especially when both teams are competing for crucial positions on the points table. In the end, it was simply part of the intensity and competitive spirit that comes with top-level cricket," Pathan said. SRH skipper Cummins did bring on Head to bowl one over as was suggested by Kohli during his stay in the middle. The part-time off-spinner

made an instant impact by bagging the prized scalp of RCB captain Rajat Patidar who fell on 56 in the 19th over. RCB eventually fell short by 55 runs, finishing exactly at 200 for four in 20 overs. By avoiding a defeat in excess of 90 runs, RCB still held onto their top spot on the standings, securing their Qualifier 1 berth against Gujarat Titans. Kohli and Co. will return to action in the first Playoffs match in Dharamsala on Tuesday.

FIFA Set To Strike World Cup 2026 Broadcasting Deal With India Worth USD 30-35 million: Sources

MUMBAI: Good news finally for the Indian football fans. After months of uncertainty and behind-the-scenes negotiations, India is set to officially secure the broadcasting rights for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, with the formal announcement expected next week. The deal, understood to be worth between USD 30-35 million, ensures that the biggest World Cup in history will be fully accessible to viewers across India. The development comes as a major relief for football followers in one of the world's fastest-growing sports markets.



The 2026 edition, to be jointly hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico. FIFA has expanded the tournament from 32 to 48 teams, increasing the total number of matches from 64 to 104. It is expected to become the most commercially lucrative

and widely viewed World Cup ever staged. The Indian market remains crucial for FIFA despite the national team's struggles on the international stage. Football's popularity in the

country has exploded, driven by the European leagues, the FIFA World Cup's massive television numbers. Cities like Kolkata, Kochi, Goa and Bengaluru continue to produce passionate football au-

diences, while younger viewers in Metros increasingly follow global stars and clubs. Globally, FIFA appears to have adopted a more flexible commercial strategy for some Asian territories. China reportedly secured its 2026 World Cup rights at nearly an 80 percent discount compared to previous cycles. The FIFA World Cup TV rights command the highest prices in Europe. Ironically, the broadcast deal comes at a time when Indian football itself is going through one of its most difficult periods in recent years. India's men's national team has slipped badly in the FIFA rankings after a disappointing run of results. The failure to sustain momentum after qualification for the AFC Asian Cup has raised uncomfortable questions about the structure of Indian football.