



**P7 STATE**

### JIO FIBRE COLLAPSES UNDER SNOW, CONSUMERS AGHAST

A number of Consumers on Thursday complained that the Jio failed to repair the damaged cable on the second day of the snowfall causing huge inconveniences.

**P5 THINK**

### POST-COVID CLASSROOMS, HOW TO OVERCOME THE CHALLENGE

COVID-19 pandemic has hit all the major areas of human existence and one among them is education. It has caused huge loss to the education of children across the world and as the pandemic is losing its heat, governments the world over are planning to



**P8 SPORTS**

### WANTED SOME SPACE, SAYS KOHLI ON STEPPING DOWN AS RCB SKIPPER

Virat Kohli, who had stepped down as the Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper after the 2021 IPL season, said he took that call to give himself some space and



**Quote!**  
Paths are made by walking  
- Franz Kafka

**NEWS DIGEST**

#### Fate Of 6 Missing Kishtwar Residents Unknown

SRINAGAR: Authorities launched a rescue mission on Thursday to trace six persons who went missing a day ago while travelling from Anantnag to Kishtwar district in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. A three-pronged rescue mission was **More on P6**

#### Bangladeshi National Arrested In Uri

SRINAGAR: The Army on Thursday detained a Bangladeshi national from Baramulla district for visiting the Valley without travel documents. Rabi-ul-Islam son of Muhammad Saleem was detained by soldiers in the border town of Uri and later **More on P6**

#### BSF Fires At Flying Object Along IB

JAMMU: The Border Security Force (BSF) opened fire at a flying object along the International Border (IB) in R S Pura sector here on Thursday, sources said. The flying object, possibly a drone, was trying to intrude into the Indian territory from across the border but **More on P6**

#### Shed Collapse Kills Soldier At BB Cantt

SRINAGAR: An army soldier died after coming under a shed that collapsed due to snow inside Badami Bagh Cantonment area of Srinagar city. Sources said that Sepoy Altaf Ahmed (6946767M), a resident of Arji Virajpath Kodagan area of Karnataka, was standing beside a shed when its **More on P6**

#### Corona Cases Fall Below 100 Mark

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The daily Coronavirus cases in Jammu and Kashmir dropped below hundred mark on Thursday as 75 more people tested positive for virus, while no fresh fatality was reported in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

Officials said that 52 cases of novel Coronavirus were reported from Jammu division while Kashmir Valley registered 23 new cases, taking the number of people infected since the onset of pandemic in J&K to 452722.

In the Valley, officials said, Srinagar reported a maximum of 12 new cases of Coronavirus, Kulgam 5, Baramulla 3, **More on P6**

## 180 Kashmiri Students Stuck In Ukraine

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: As many as 180 Kashmiri students are stuck in Ukraine as the country's military facilities, including airports were hit by Russian bombers following President Putin's order of military operation.

As the distressing dispatches from Kyiv to Kashmir are running high, the stranded Kashmiri students are painting a very dismal picture as the war enters a deadlier phase.

"30 minutes before the Fajr namaz, a loud thud shook the city," Saqlain Ali Bhat, 4th year medical student told Kashmir Observer over a phone from Ukraine. "And since then the situation keeps on growing worse. Panic is growing with each passing second."

What sounded like the sudden barrage of bullets was perhaps blasts that had occurred with battling succession. "Around three blasts took place in the morning," Recounts Zaffar Malik, a 4th year student currently pursuing his degree at a Medical College in Odessa

**@OfficeOfLGJandK** is cooperating sincerely and is in constant touch with @MEAIndia for safe and earliest evacuation of Kashmiri students from Ukraine."

city. "And then at noon, there was another blast. It was a missile that had struck a military establishment a kilometer away from our stay."

Dazed about the unfolding situation, Zaffar and his Kashmiri compatriots were initially unable to comprehend the Russian military's armed attack. "No one knew that the war had been declared but then when somehow our social media started filling with reports about the attack we came to know about the real happenings--- Russia **More on P6**

## 'We'll Denazify Them': Russia Invades Ukraine



**Agenceis**

**MOSCOW:** Russian President Vladimir Putin launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Thursday, forcing residents to flee for their lives and leaving at least 40 Ukrainian soldiers and 10 civilians dead.

Russian air strikes hit military facilities across

the country and ground forces moved in from the north, south and east, triggering condemnation from Western leaders and warnings of massive sanctions.

Weeks of intense diplomacy to avert war failed to deter Putin, who had massed more than 150,000 troops along the borders of Ukraine.

"I have decided to

proceed with a special military operation," Putin said in a television announcement in the early hours of Thursday.

Shortly afterwards, the first bombardments were heard in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, and several other cities, according to AFP correspondents.

"Putin has just launched a full-scale **More on P6**

### Terrifying Booms, Air Raid Sirens: Ukrainians Wake Up To Sounds Of War

Frightened Ukrainians took to subway stations on Thursday as air raid sirens rang out across the country's main cities following Russia's launch of its feared military attack.

Ksenya Michenka looked deeply shaken as she took cover with her teenage son -- their cat peeking out of a bag -- in a metro station off Kyiv's historic Maidan Square.

The expansive square was the focal point of two pro-Western revolutions that Russian President Vladimir Putin tried to reverse in 2004 and 2014.

But the former Soviet republic continued pulling away from Russia and building ties with the West.

Putin responded on Thursday by doing what many thought unimaginable -- launching an all-out air and ground assault on Ukraine.

Michenka said she ran to the subway station for cover "because Russia has started a war against Ukraine."

"We need to save our lives," **More on P6**

### Not Invasion, Says China

China on Thursday called for restraint on all sides after Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered an attack on Ukraine, while saying the military operation should not be described as an "invasion". Putin announced the launch of a major military offensive and ground troops crossed into the country from several directions on Thursday, with explosions heard in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv. "China is closely watching the latest situation, and we call on all parties to maintain restraint and prevent the situation from getting out of control," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua **More on P6**

## Flight Ops Resume from Srinagar As Visibility Improves

SRINAGAR: Air traffic to and from Kashmir resumed on Thursday following improvement in visibility, officials said.

The flight operations at the Srinagar airport were suspended on Wednesday due to bad weather after heavy snowfall in the Valley.

The officials said the operations resumed on Thursday afternoon.

They said the visibility at the airport improved from about 800 metres in the morning to about 1,500 metres in the afternoon, leading to the commencement of the operations.

Earlier in the morning,



Children throw snowballs at each other in the interiors of Dal Lake on Thursday. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

all flights were delayed while at least two flights were cancelled.

The Kashmir valley received heavy snowfall on Wednesday. It was this season's heavy snowfall in the

plains that threw life out of gear and led to the disruption of flight operations.

All the flights at the Srinagar airport were cancelled on Wednesday due to the very poor visibility.

### Banihal Highway Reopens For Traffic

The 272-km long Jammu-Srinagar highway on Friday was reopened for traffic after remaining closed for a day due to heavy rain and snowfall triggering shooting stones and landslides. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Traffic, **More on P6**

### More Rain, Snowfall In Kashmir Today

The meteorological department predicted on Thursday rain and snowfall on Friday, even as the Valley witnessed a bright sunshine after heavy snowfall of the season that disrupted air and surface traffic besides breakdown of power supply. **More on P6**

### LG's Principal Secy Reviews Restoration Work

Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor, Nitishwar Kumar on Thursday reviewed the overall situation arisen in the aftermath of recent snowfall in the Valley, and efforts being put in for **More on P6**

## Tamilian Heart Travels 350 Km To Become A Kashmiri Woman's



**Press Trust Of India**

**CHENNAI:** A heart from an 18-year-old brain dead donor was transported over 350 kilometres to Chennai and provided a fresh lease of life to a 33-year-old Kashmiri woman suffering from terminal heart failure, who travelled 3000 kilometres

for her treatment. Shahzadi Fatima from Srinagar had worsening heart failure symptoms due to Restrictive cardiomyopathy (RCM), a condition where the chambers of the heart become stiff over time. She became terminally ill and her only hope of survival was an **More on P6**

## Goyal Is Finance Commissioner Home, Kabra Revenue

**Observer News Service**

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday appointed Raj Kumar Goyal as Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Home Department, replacing Shaleen Kabra who has been posted as Financial Commissioner, Revenue.

Besides the two IAS officers, the administration also shifted four JKAS officers in the interest of administration.

As per an order, Gulzar Ahmad Dar, JKAS, Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as Additional Director, SKIMS, Srinagar and

ex-officio Special Secretary to the Government.

"He shall also hold the charge of the post of Administrator, Associated Hospitals, Srinagar, in addition to his own duties, till further orders," the order reads.

Reyaz Ahmad Wani, JKAS, Additional Director, SKIMS, Srinagar and ex-officio Special Secretary to the Government, holding additional charge of the post of Administrator, Associated Hospitals, Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as Special Secretary to the Government, Animal and Sheep Husbandry Department.

Zahoor Ahmad Mir, JKAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Bandipore, holding **More on P6**

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# High-Fiber Diet Reduces Risk Of Dementia, Suggests Study

ANI

Fiber is something that every dietician suggests for better health. It's known to be vitally important for a healthy digestive system and also has cardiovascular benefits like reduced cholesterol. Recently, evidence has emerged that fiber is also important for a healthy brain. A new study has opened up about this.

The study was published in the journal 'Nutritional Neuroscience'.

It was led by researchers in Japan and showed that a high-fiber diet is associated with a reduced risk of developing dementia.

"Dementia is a devastating disease that usually requires long-term care," said the lead author of the study Professor Kazumasa Yamagishi. "We were interested in some recent research which suggested that dietary fiber may play a preventative role. We investigated this using data that were collected from thousands of adults in Japan for a large study that started in the 1980s."

Participants completed surveys that assessed their dietary intake between 1985 and 1999. They were generally healthy and aged between 40 and 64 years. They were then followed up from 1999 until 2020, and it



was noted whether they developed dementia that required care.

The researchers split the data, from a total of 3739 adults, into four groups according to the amount of fiber in their diets. They found that the groups who ate higher levels of fiber had a lower risk of developing dementia.

The team also examined whether there were differences between the two main types of fiber: soluble and insoluble fibers. Soluble fibers, found in foods such as oats and legumes, are important for the beneficial bacteria that live in the gut as well as providing other health

benefits. Insoluble fibers, found in whole grains, vegetables, and some other foods, are known to be important for bowel health. The researchers found that the link between fiber intake and dementia was more pronounced for soluble fibers.

The team had some ideas as to what might underlie the link between dietary fiber and the risk of dementia.

"The mechanisms are currently unknown but might involve the interactions that take place between the gut and the brain," said Professor Yamagishi. "One possibility is that soluble fiber regulates the composition of gut bacteria. This composition

may affect neuroinflammation, which plays a role in the onset of dementia. It's also possible that dietary fiber may reduce other risk factors for dementia, such as body weight, blood pressure, lipids, and glucose levels. The work is still at an early stage, and it's important to confirm the association in other populations."

In many countries today, such as the US and Australia, many people consume less fiber than is recommended by nutritionists. By encouraging healthy eating habits with high dietary fiber, it might be possible to reduce the incidence of dementia.

# 'Reinfection With Different Subtypes Of Omicron Possible'

Press Trust Of India

Reinfection with the BA.2 subtype of the Omicron variant of coronavirus can occur shortly after initial infection with the BA.1 strain, according to a Danish study.

With the surge of Omicron subvariants BA.1 and BA.2, a large number of reinfections from earlier cases have been observed, the researchers said.

This has raised questions of whether BA.2 specifically can escape the natural immunity acquired shortly after a BA.1 infection, they said.

The researchers from Statens Serum Institut (SSI) in Denmark selected a subset of samples from over 1.8 million cases of infections in the period from November 22, 2021, until February 11, 2022.

The yet-to-be peer-reviewed study, posted on the preprint repository MedRxiv on Tuesday, identified a total of 187 reinfection cases.

The researchers found 67 cases in which the same individual had become infected twice at a 20-60-day interval, and where both infections were due to Omicron subtypes.

In 47 of the cases, the affected individual first became infected by BA.1 and then by BA.2, they said. The majority of the infected



were young and unvaccinated, and most experienced mild symptoms during their infections, according to the researchers.

The team noted that the difference between the severity during their first and second infection was negligible.

None of the infected individuals had become seriously ill, and none required admission to hospital, they said.

"The study shows that infection with two different Omicron subtypes is possible," the authors of the study noted.

"This seems to occur relatively rarely in Denmark, and reinfections have mainly affected younger unvaccinated individuals, they added

**6** The researchers from Statens Serum Institut (SSI) in Denmark selected a subset of samples from over 1.8 million cases of infections in the period from November 22, 2021, until February 11, 2022.

# Study Sheds Light On Benefits Of Positive Parenting, Suggests It Can Reduce Risk Of Childhood Obesity

ANI

A new study found that positive parenting, warm interactions and a good environment can reduce the risk of childhood obesity.

The study, 'Family Psychological Assets, Child Behavioural Regulation, and Obesity' was published in the 'Pediatrics' journal.

The researchers analysed data from over 1,000 mother-child pairs and found that children's early exposures to family psychological assets—including a home environment, emotional warmth from the mother, and a child's ability to self-regulate—reduced the risk of developing childhood obesity.

Encouragingly, these factors were protective even when children faced familial risks for obesity, including poverty, maternal depression or residence in a single-parent home.

"Research on parenting has shown that these types of family assets influence children's behaviour, academic success, career, and -- not surprisingly -- health," said Brandi Rollins, assistant research professor of bio-behavioural health.

"It is significant that these factors also protect against childhood obesity because the family assets we studied are not food or diet-specific at all. It is heartening to know that, by providing a loving, safe environment, we can reduce the risk that children will develop obesity," he added. The researchers found that children who had early-onset severe obesity did not face greater levels of family risk than children

who were not obese. Children with severe obesity, however, did have fewer family assets than children who were not obese or who displayed moderate levels of obesity. More research is needed to understand which factors contribute to the development of severe obesity and which factors reduce the risk.



"Though the findings on severe obesity may seem discouraging, they offer some hope. Some risk factors, like household poverty, can be very difficult to change. Assets, on the other hand, maybe easier to build. People can learn to parent responsibly. It is encouraging that parenting really matters, that family matters," Rollins said.

The research suggested parents do responsive parenting. It is one of the family assets measured in the study which involves responding to children in a timely, sensitive and age-appropriate manner based on the child's presenting needs.

# GSK and MS Dhoni team up for 6 in 1 vaccination awareness campaign

6 vaccinations in 1 injection can protect infants against 6 serious illnesses

Srinagar 24 Feb: Mahendra Singh Dhoni, India's legendary former cricket captain and a devoted father, now teams up with GSK to raise awareness about the need for 6 in 1 vaccination. As part of the campaign, MS Dhoni features in a newly released video which draws a parallel with hitting a six in cricket and explains how the 6 in 1 vaccination for infants provides protection against six diseases in one injection. The tagline of the campaign encapsulates the key benefits of the combination vaccine: less injections, less pain. Speaking about his involvement in the campaign, India's former international cricket captain, Mahendra Singh Dhoni said, "As par-

ents, my wife and I look for ways to give our daughter a good foundation for life. We have always believed that vaccination is an essential component of that foundation. However, watching my daughter go through the pain due to multiple injections during infancy was difficult for us both. I was eager to join GSK in raising awareness about 6 in 1 vaccination. Combination vaccination means that infants get the same kind of protection but with fewer injections. Less pain for them. And I am sure all parents would agree -- less pain for us too!" Speaking about the need for 6 in 1 vaccination, Dr. Rashmi Hegde, Executive Vice President - Medical

Affairs, GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Limited, said, "Every child should be vaccinated in a timely manner. Vaccines build children's immune memory and help to protect them from diseases. The 6 in 1 or hexavalent vaccine helps to protect infants against 6 serious diseases. 6 in 1 or hexavalent vaccination has helped protect millions of infants in India and across the world and has a proven record of safety and efficacy." The campaign will run across multiple media formats including videos on TV, digital videos on YouTube, a website, and at paediatricians' clinics. Parents should consult their paediatrician to know more about 6 in 1 vaccination.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION Ganderbal**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
CIVILWORKS  
SINGLECOVERSYSTEM (upto Rs.2.50 Crores)  
EE/R&B/Divn/Gbl/e-tender Fresh NIT No. 357 of 2021-22 issued under endorsement No.23271-80  
Dated:22.02.2022

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

S. No	Name of the Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money	Time of completion	M.H of Account	Class Of Contractor
1.	Construction of Boundary Wall for Graveyard at Gutlibagh Chanhar B2V3.	Rs.4.90 Lacs	Rs.200/=	5 Bid Security Declaration as per format	10-Days	B2V3 5475	DEE
2.	Construction of road from Hash Nosh Chinar Tree to Shahpora Ganderbal B2V3	Rs.4.90 Lacs	Rs.200/=	5 Bid Security Declaration as per format	10-Days	B2V3 5475	DEE
3.	Development of Public Park b.w.o earth filling and construction of stair at Baba Daryadin Sahib Shrine Ganderbal under B2V3. Name of Scheme:- Completion of left out work of Public Park at Ziyarat Sharief Baba Daryadin.	Rs.5.00 Lacs	Rs.200/=	5 Bid Security Declaration as per format	10-Days	B2V3 5475	DEE

Position of AAA:-Accorded, Position of funds:-Available.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	22/02/2022 from 6.30 PM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	22/02/2022 from 6.30 PM.
4	Bid submission End Date	28/02/2022 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	02/03/2022 at 10.00 A.M. in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Ganderbal

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury Receipt/e-Challan in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Ganderbal. Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.

2.1 The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Ganderbal within 07 (seven) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP.

2.2 The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond DLP.

2.3 Note:- All bidders shall submit the uploaded Treasury Challan in Original before issuance allotment.

3. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bid of responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Division (tender receiving authority).

4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bids

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited if-

a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c) Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

6(A). Instruction to bidders regarding tendering process.

6.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) to acquaint with the submission process.

6.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved Vendor.

6.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic form with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.

6.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

6.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically by registered post / through courier before the dates specified in Para-1.

6.6 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents including Bid Security Declaration, tender documents fee in terms of soft copies and all other documents required as per NIT with technical bid. No document (s) which has/have not been uploaded shall be entertained for technical evaluation in the form of hard copy. However in case of any clarification the bidders all have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arises.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
R&B Division Ganderbal

No.23271-80  
Dated:22-02-22  
DIPK-18572/21

**Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir**  
**NOTICE**

Whereas, a joint application has been received from Arshid Ahmad Bhat S/O Ghulam Nabi Bhat R/O Habak Naseem Bagh Sringar (Transferor) and Shri Manzoor Ahmad Wani S/O Ghulam Mohd Wan R/O Hamdanaya Colony Bemina (Transferee) for transfer of Auto carriage route Permit No 8187/ Star Covering Vehicle No JK01J- 6684.

Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit / vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office of the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir.

Within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily News Paper Kashmir Observer. Seller and purchaser identified by the authorized representatives of M/S JK Road Ways namely Mr Mohamad Yaseen

NOJK-RTOK 1511  
Dated: 24/02/2022

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Regional Transport Office,  
Kashmir

**Public Notice**

I have lost Fitness bearing No: JK03G-4708 Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO ANANTNAG within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Name:- Adil Ahmad Wani  
S/O :- Mohammad Yousuf Wani  
R/o :- Thajiwara Anantnag

ma

**Public Notice**

The name registered of our minor daughter in the passport with number: U0708762 (issued at Riyadh Saudi Arabia) is Aleen without middle and surname D/O Manzoor Ahmad Bhat (Father) and Gulshan Ara (Mother) R/O 53- Firdous Colony, Buchpora Srinagar, 190020.

We would like to get her middle and Surname as per details in academic records added to the passport as Aleen Manzoor Bhat and all future purposes.

The public notice published to this effect by the parents:  
Manzoor Ahmad Bhat (Father)  
Gulshan Ara (Mother)

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## District Admin Srinagar Provides Relief To Sonwar Fire Victims

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad AijazAsad, a team of District Administration, Srinagar today visited fire victims of Sonwar area of the district whose houses were gutted in a massive fire incident in the intervening night of Tuesday-Wednesday.

The team expressed sympathy with the affected families on loss of property and provided an immediate ex-gratia relief/assistance in the form of 20 blankets, 12 mattresses, 12 bed sheets and 04 kitchen sets, besides Rs 20000 to all four affected families out of Red Cross as an interim relief.

Pertinent to mention that, two residential houses were damaged in a fire incident at Palpora, Sonwar rendering four families homeless.

## Cultural Unit Of DIPR Performs 'Sufiyana Saazina'

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Cultural Unit Srinagar of Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) today organised a "Sufiyana Saazina" at Cultural Unit Hall Rambagh, here.

On the occasion, Mushtaq Ahmad Saznawaz performed a mesmerizing sufiyana-saazina on santoor and was accompanied by Ghulam Mohammad Bhat Anzwali on Sarangi and Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Khanday on Gadda.

Joint Director Information Kashmir and the employees of the department attended the programme.

## Family Seeks Govt Help In Locating Missing Man

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Family members of a 'missing' man Thursday appealed to authorities to help them in locating him.

According to family sources, Lateef Ahmed Rather, a resident of Baadipora-Chadoora had visited her sister's house located in Sadrabal area of Hazratbal Srinagar on 20 February. His sister told reporters at Press Colony Srinagar that Lateef left her house the next day and since then he is untraceable.

"His phone is switched off. We approached the police but all in vain," she said.

She said that Lateef had been recently released from jail after 8 years of detention. "We don't know where he is. If any agency has picked up, please let us know or if he has joined militant ranks, we appeal him to return home," her sister said.



## Passengers Resent Exorbitant Fare By Cab Service Providers In City

Syed Mohammad Burhan

Srinagar: Charging of exorbitant fare by some private cabs operating on different routes of Srinagar is taking a heavy toll on commuters.

A group of commuters told Kashmir Observer that both the companies 'Novo Cabs' and 'Jugnoo' charge extra amount once they reach their destinations.

"I booked a cab from Dalgate to Parimpora and was asked to give Rs. 230 on the mobile app. On reaching there, the driver told me to give Rs 300 while the app showed the same rate," said

a commuter Umar Javeed.

Javeed further said the driver of the Nova cab politely told him that the fault is from the company as they show one rate while booking and charge another once you reach the destination.

Another commuter Mohammad Danish told Kashmir Observer that he booked a cab from Jugnoo app from Lal Chowk to Airport and an amount of Rs 250 was shown.

"On reaching the Airport, I was asked to pay 320 by the driver," Danish said.

The cab service providers, however, deny the charge saying when a rider

books a ride the fare shown is what they call "an estimated fare".

Majid Zargar CEO of the Nova cab service, one of the most popular cab services in Srinagar said the google map is used to calculate the distance and it shows the shortest distance between two travel points.

"The customers usually do not select the exact location they are travelling, so they end up paying extra fare", Said Majid.

He further said the city lacks proper roads and due to traffic jams cabs take diversions due to which the

distance travelled is more and you have to pay more.

"Billing is done on the basis of how much the distance has been travelled. He said.

The owner of Jugnoo cab service couldn't be contacted.

Regional Transport Officer Kashmir, Sajid Yahya-Naqash told Kashmir Observer that he was not aware of the issue but will look into the matter.

"Since the concept is new in our society and is in its infancy, there are hiccups which need to be addressed," he added.

## DM, SSP Raid Hotspots Of Drug Consumption In Srinagar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In order to curb the menace of drugs and to break its supply chain in the district, the District Magistrate, (DM) Srinagar, Mohammad AijazAsad alongwith Senior Superintendent of Police, Rakesh Balwal Thursday evening launched a massive crackdown against the drug peddling and raided hotspots of drug consumption in various parts of the City.

The raids were carried out at Zero

bridge and other locations in Raj Bagh area of City wherein some persons found in substance abuse on the spot were rounded up. Based on the input given by them several shops were sealed after incriminating material was found there.

Speaking about the raids, the District Magistrate Srinagar said the operation was carried on receipt of specific inputs. Pertinent to mention that District Administration Srinagar has

launched MISSION WAAPSI with the aim to save and safeguard the youth from dangerous exposure to different kind of substance/ drug abuse.

Meanwhile, Senior Superintendent of Police Srinagar, Rakesh Balwal said operation against drug peddling and consumption shall continue to tighten the noose against the drug dealers and peddlers. This is being done for greater common good of the society.

## Meet Naqati Aroob: Srinagar Girl Who Has Co-Authored 15 Books

Agencies

SRINAGAR: A 21-year-old girl from Srinagar has been working on different fronts to bring a positive change in the society.

NaqatiAroob Iqbal (21) resident of EllahiBagh Srinagar has so far co-authored 15 books and her solo book titled "Why Silence" will be released soon.

NaqatiAroob said that she has so far organised dozens of events in different

areas of Kashmir to make people aware about the significance of planting more and more trees and ill effects of deforestation.

She said that many events were also organized to aware youth about effects of drug addiction and how we can contribute to keep our youth away from drug addiction, suicides, stress and other problems.

"I have co-authored 15 books so far and the main message of my writing also

revolves around the plight of people and other issues which make one's life miserable," she said.

"I am not working to get recognition or applause from the society but by serving people, creating awareness among them gives me satisfaction and peace of mind," she said.

"There is potential in every youth of J&K but they don't get the proper platform so I request them that they shouldn't suppress them for not getting a

platform and leave doing what they are fond of," she said.

"Once they get depressed, they get involved in mental disorders which leads to drug abuse, suicides and other things which is not good for them, their family and society," Naqati said.

"Our aim is to make Kashmir once again a paradise which it was but has degraded due to social issues. We want to take our youth out of social issues to make it paradise once again," she added. (KNO)

**Public Notice**  
I have lost the RC of my vehicle bearing Regd No: JK03F4695. Now I have applied for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.  
SAMEER AHMAD SHEERGOJRI S/O HABIBULLAH SHEERGOJRI R/O ZALANGAM KOKERNAG  
RNA\_R

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Faakhira Showkat D/O Showkat Ahmad Ro Chanapora Srg  
FKO\_R

از ریاست، نیشنل پبلسٹک ایجوکیشنل بورڈ، سوات  
درخواست نمبر: RBA-13/2022  
بیشمار نام و نامیاد  
1. شوکت احمد شہزاد اور احمدیہ 43 سال عمر پیشہ پرائیویٹ ملازم  
2. رحمان اختر و شوکت احمدیہ 40 سال عمر گھریلو کام  
3. قرناءہ اختر شوکت احمدیہ 15 سال زریعہ تعلیم  
4. آفرینہ شوکت اختر شوکت احمدیہ 13 سال زریعہ تعلیم  
اس طرح سائل کا نمبر 04 فروری 2022ء کو پیش کیا گیا اور سائل کے نمبر کوئی سرکاری ملازم جو پیش ہے۔ سائل کے نمبر کے پاس عدالت میں یہ کال آ رہی ہے جو موجود ہے۔ جسکی سالانی آمدنی 70,000/ روپے ہے۔ اس طرح سائل RBA مرٹیلٹی اجراء کرنے کی خواہش رکھتا ہے۔ اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ عدالت میں دن کے اندر آمد کرنا پڑے گا۔ تاہم اعتراض پتھر نہیں پیش کریں۔ بعد ازاں سے یہ معاہدہ کوئی نذر یا اعتراض تعلق نہیں ہوگا۔  
rma  
نامیاد جمعہ

**Office of the Principal Govt. Degree College for Women Baramulla**  
Jammu & Kashmir Pin -193101  
NAAC Accredited  
Website: www.gdcwbla.edu.in Email Id: wcbaramulla@gmail.com Tele fax: 01952-234985  
No: GDCWB/2022/ 2178 Dated: 24/02/2022  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
Sealed tenders affixed with revenue stamp worth Rs. 4/= are invited from registered / reputed Dhabas and Hoteliers to run the College Canteen for the academic session 2022-2023 with effect from April 2022 up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. The registration certificate issued by the concerned authority along with EMD or bid security of Rs 8000 (Rupees Eight thousand only) to be submitted in the form of Accounts Payee Demand Draft or FDR and must be attached with the tender documents pledged to the Principal Govt. Degree College for Women Baramulla, should reach the office of the undersigned within 21 days from the date of publication of this tender notice.  
The approved list of items to be sold in the college canteen and other terms and conditions can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during working hours from 02.00 pm to 04:00 pm. The tenderers are advised to be present at the time of opening of tenders before the committee on 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2022 at 02:00 pm. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any tender without assigning any reason thereof.  
Sd/-  
Principal  
DIPK-18634/21

**DIAL-EMMA**  
TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686  
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PDD: 0194-2450213  
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BARAMULLA: 0194-102029  
BUBHERA: 01932-228243  
PAMPORE: 01933-294132  
PATTAN: 01954-293507  
QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

**HIGHWAY STATUS**  
Sgr-Jammu highway - ( Open )  
Mughal Road - ( Closed )  
Srinagar- Leh- ( Closed )

**PRAYERS**  
FAJR 5: 44  
ZUHR 12:44  
ASR 4:43  
Magrib 6:25  
ISHA 7: 45

**HIJRI CALENDAR**  
23 - Rajab  
1443

**This Day In History**

- 138 - The Emperor Hadrian adopts Antoninus Pius, effectively making him his successor
- 1497 - Italians troops reconquer Taranto on France
- 1910 - Dalai Lama flees Tibet for British India to escape Chinese troops
- 1916 - Battle of Verdun: German troops conquer Fort Douaumont without firing a shot, the largest and highest fort defending the city of Verdun during World War I
- 1921 - Tbilisi, capital of the Democratic Republic of Georgia, occupied by Bolshevik Russia
- 1921 - The Living Buddha, Hutuktu, is crowned King of Mongolia as the country declares independence from China
- 1925 - Diplomatic relations between Japan and the Soviet Union established
- 1930 - Check photographing device patented
- 1932 - Austrian immigrant Adolf Hitler gets German citizenship
- 1945 - US aircraft carriers attack Tokyo
- 1954 - Abdul Nasser appointed Egyptian premier
- 1956 - Nikita Khrushchev denounces Joseph Stalin at the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union
- 1962 - India Congress Party wins elections
- 1964 - Muhammad Ali [Cassius Clay] TKOs Sonny Liston in 7 for his first world heavyweight championship title
- 1966 - Syrian military coup under General Hafiz al-Assad
- 1969 - Mariner 6 launched for fly-by of Mars
- 1979 - Soyuz 32 carries 2 cosmonauts to Salyut 6 space station is launched
- 1986 - Thousands of Egyptian military police riot, destroy 2 luxury hotel
- 1988 - South Korea adopts constitution
- 1989 - 1st independent blue-collar labor union in Communist Hungary forms
- 1989 - Javed Miandad scores 271 v NZ at Eden Park
- 1990 - Australia beat Pakistan 2-0 to win cricket's World Series Cup

*From KO Archives*

## Truce Extended For Three months

**Agencies**

**N**EW DELHI - India extended its cease-fire against mujahideen in Kashmir for three months, but warned it would take firm action against any group that continued with violence.

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee told parliament, the cease-fire, due to expire on Monday would now be extended until the end of May.

"Having exam-ined all as-pects of the question in its totality the government has decided to further extend the period up till the end of May, said Vajpayee today

Shiv Sena MPs, including three ministers, boycotted the Lok Sabha when prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee made the statement.

A bullet for a bullet should be our policy, party leader in the Lok Sabha Anant Geete, said adding the extension of the cease-fire would result in increased threat to country's security. Our demand is that the cease-fire be immediately scrapped, he said

National Security advisor and principal secretary to Vajpayee, Brajesh Mishra said the extension of cease-fire should not be construed as a sign of weakness and indecisiveness.

We look for friendship and peace with neighbours, but at no time should it be seen as weakness or indecisiveness, Mishra said during an interactive session with the media and academics of the Jawahar Lai Nehru University after releasing a book Kargil and after, challenges for India here.

Mishra said there was strong evidence that showed that Pakistan could control the level of violence in Jammu and Kashmir. What Pakistan has done is stop shelling across the border, but it has continued to support materially and otherwise the militant acts in Jammu and Kashmir.

Mishra ruled out any third party mediation on the Kashmir issue in spite of growing favourable international opinion on India's stand on Kashmir.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena supreme Bal Thackeray, a known critic of unilateral cease-fire, has expressed concern over the growing violence in Jammu and Kashmir and dismissed as a foolish idea any possible talks between Vajpayee and Pakistani military ruler Pervez Musharraf.

According to people, it is a foolish idea. What is to discuss when they have a categorical demand for Kashmir... It is not your personal property, it is not a birthday cake. My country is not a birthday cake so you can cut your piece and eat, Thackeray told CNN in an interview.

"Not under pressure"

Defence minister George Fernandes said the decision had not been taken under any pressure. It was taken in view of the challenges before the nation and also in consideration of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, he told reporters. He said India extended the cease-fire to provide an opportunity to militants to come forward for talks.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 25 February, 2001)



# KASHMIR OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the Kashmir Observer LLP  
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001  
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.  
RNI Registration No: 69503/98  
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16  
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider  
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Switchboard: (0194) 2106304  
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## K O V I E W

### Weathering Snow

On Wednesday, Kashmir Valley was swept up by a fresh snowstorm. True to the forecast by the weather department, snow silently fell through Tuesday night, pleasantly surprising people with a flawless white morning. Unlike previous snowfall, when the Valley plunged into a prolonged electrical failure the time first flakes fell, this time the power supply was restored by Wednesday afternoon itself, in some places continuing through the better part of the day and into the evening.

Also, the apparent damage to the powerlines at the time of the halt in snowing did not look severe enough to cause another extended blackout, except in some residential colonies where lamp posts uprooted and are yet to be installed. Also unlike previously, Power Development Department was better prepared to deal with the situation. The utility has in the past been the target of public vitriol, both on the street and online for its inability to immediately restore electricity after the Valley was snowed in.

There is a widespread belief that the PDD does not plan ahead for a snowstorm that is forecast days ahead. Considering the fact that the winter is very harsh in Kashmir, the governments here are supposed to be not only prepared for sudden weather challenges but also once faced with this challenge address it in the shortest possible time. However, this time the situation has more or less been handled well.

Meanwhile, after fresh snowfall, Valley reels under a deep dive in mercury. As is natural after every light or heavy snowfall, Srinagar-Jammu national highway is closed to traffic leading to scarcity of many an essential commodity in the Valley – most of it, however, artificial in nature. It is shocking how a two to three day road closure is sufficient to create a humanitarian problem in the state. Internally, however, the snow plows did a good job of road clearance facilitating an early resumption of traffic. A good performance this time round will be a boost for the image of the PDD.

But there are still some areas in Srinagar and in other parts of the Valley which remain without power supply and hence need urgent government attention. In many places, powerlines have either been severely damaged or lamp posts have been uprooted. But the PDD is yet to reach these areas. Incidentally, we had a very benign Chillai Kalan this winter. But as often happens in the Valley, the winter can well extend into April. This calls for the government to be more proactive in the season.

## OTHER OPINION

### Go No Further

The crisis over Ukraine is now close to a tipping point. By recognising the two breakaway regions of Ukraine and sending troops into the “independent republics”, Russian President Vladimir Putin has shown complete disregard for the consequences of his actions. His televised speech, filled with nationalist grievances and the historical denial of Ukrainian statehood, the claim that modern Ukraine was created by Communist Russia – specifically by Lenin, Stalin and Krushchev, by “separating, severing what is historically Russia’s land” – and the allegation that Gorbachev allowed Ukraine to slip out of Moscow’s grasp, provided an insight into the mind of a leader whose only plan to make Russia great again is to hark back to a grandiose past. This is the kind of nationalism that seeks to redraw borders and rewrite history, imagining that this will somehow restore lost glory. If countries across all of Europe, or indeed across Asia and Africa, whose borders were arbitrarily drawn at the time they shook themselves free of colonial rule, were to start reclaiming what they lost in history, there would be no end to irredentist claims and the world would find itself in perpetual conflict. From his brinkmanship, it appears that Putin is unafraid of war or the devastation it can bring to his own country and people, as well as to the rest of Europe, with the impact extending far beyond the theatre of conflict. This is why even China, which always cites respect for territorial integrity on the question of Tibet and Taiwan, has issued a cautious statement asking all parties to “exercise restraint”, as it tries to balance its blossoming friendship with Russia with its concerns about what Putin has done.

The onus is now on the Western alliance of the United States and Europe not to escalate this crisis, and find ways of dialling it down through diplomacy. Putin’s concerns about the expansion of NATO and the top-sided security architecture of Europe are not without basis. After all, didn’t the US resort to regime change in several countries, in a bid to stop the advance of Communism in its “spheres of influence” during the Cold War? The Western effort to contain China in the Indo-Pacific, as well as India’s concerns about Chinese influence in the Indian Ocean, are born out of similar concerns of security that Putin has about Europe and the eastward expansion of its transatlantic security partnership. It is both unreasonable and irresponsible of the Western alliance to dismiss these concerns out of hand. It was Putin’s decision to mass troops on the Ukrainian border that focused the minds of policy-makers in Washington to begin engaging with the Russian leader. The Biden administration, and France and Germany, must provide the leadership that is now required to prevent conflict.

As the world struggles to re-emerge from a third wave of the Covid pandemic, the last thing anyone wants is a confrontation in Europe that would have an impact on countries far away, disrupting global supply chains, imposing heavy costs on economies that have barely survived these last three years. After two decades of a purposeless war in Afghanistan, powers that claim to be global leaders must tread more cautiously and wisely.

The Indian Express

# The Increasingly Complicated Russia-Ukraine Crisis, Explained



Jen Kirby And Jonathan Guyer

Russia has built up tens of thousands of troops along the Ukrainian border, an act of aggression that could spiral into the largest military conflict on European soil in decades.

The Kremlin appears to be making all the preparations for war: moving military equipment, medical units, even blood, to the front lines. President Joe Biden said this week that Russia had amassed some 150,000 troops near Ukraine. Against this backdrop, diplomatic talks between Russia and the United States and its allies have not yet yielded any solutions.

On February 15, Russia had said it planned “to partially pull back troops,” a possible signal that Russian President Vladimir Putin may be willing to deescalate. But the situation hasn’t improved in the subsequent days. The US alleged Putin has in fact added more troops since that pronouncement, and on Friday US President Joe Biden told reporters that he’s “convinced” that Russia had decided to invade Ukraine in the coming days or weeks. “We believe that they will target Ukraine’s capital Kyiv,” Biden said.

And the larger issues driving this standoff remain unresolved.

The conflict is about the future of Ukraine. But Ukraine is also a larger stage for Russia to try to reassert its influence in Europe and the world, and for Putin to cement his legacy. These are no small things for Putin, and he may decide that the only way to achieve them is to launch another incursion into Ukraine – an act that, at its most aggressive, could lead to tens of thousands of civilian deaths, a European refugee crisis, and a response from Western allies that includes tough sanctions affecting the global economy.

The US and Russia have drawn firm red lines that help explain what’s at stake. Russia presented the US with a list of demands, some of which were nonstarters for the United States and its allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Putin demanded that NATO stop its eastward expansion and deny membership to Ukraine, and that NATO roll back troop deployment in countries that had joined after 1997, which would turn back the clock decades on Europe’s security and geopolitical alignment.

These ultimatums are “a Russian attempt not only to secure interest in Ukraine but essentially relitigate the security architecture in Europe,” said Michael Kofman, research director in the Russia studies program at CNA, a research and analysis organization in Arlington, Virginia.

As expected, the US and NATO rejected those demands. Both the US and Russia know Ukraine is not going to become a NATO member anytime soon.

Some preeminent American foreign policy thinkers argued at the end of the Cold War that NATO never should have moved close to Russia’s borders in the first place. But NATO’s open-door policy says sovereign countries can choose their own security alliances. Giving in to Putin’s demands would hand the Kremlin veto power over NATO’s decision-making, and through it, the continent’s security.

Now the world is watching and waiting to see what Putin will do next. An invasion isn’t a foregone conclusion. Moscow continues to deny that it has any plans to invade, even as it warns of a “military-technical response” to stagnating negotiations. But war, if it happened, could be devastating to Ukraine, with unpredictable fallout for the rest of Europe and the West. Which is why, imminent or not, the world is on edge.

**The roots of the current crisis grew from the breakup of the Soviet Union**

When the Soviet Union broke up in the early ‘90s, Ukraine, a former Soviet republic, had the third largest atomic arsenal in the world. The United States and Russia worked with Ukraine to denuclearize the country, and in a series of diplomatic agreements, Kyiv gave its hundreds of nuclear warheads back to

Russia in exchange for security assurances that protected it from a potential Russian attack.

Those assurances were put to the test in 2014, when Russia invaded Ukraine. Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula and backed a rebellion led by pro-Russia separatists in the eastern Donbas region. (The conflict in eastern Ukraine has killed more than 14,000 people to date.)

Russia’s assault grew out of mass protests in Ukraine that toppled the country’s pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich (partially over his abandonment of a trade agreement with the European

**“PRESIDENT BARACK Obama, hesitant to escalate tensions with Russia any further, was slow to mobilize a diplomatic response in Europe and did not immediately provide Ukrainians with offensive weapons.”**

Union). US diplomats visited the demonstrations, in symbolic gestures that further agitated Putin.

President Barack Obama, hesitant to escalate tensions with Russia any further, was slow to mobilize a diplomatic response in Europe and did not immediately provide Ukrainians with offensive weapons.

“A lot of us were really appalled that not more was done for the violation of that [post-Soviet] agreement,” said Ian Kelly, a career diplomat who served as ambassador to Georgia from 2015 to 2018. “It just basically showed that if you have nuclear weapons” – as Russia does – “you’re inoculated against strong measures by the international community.”

But the very premise of a post-Soviet Europe is also helping to fuel today’s conflict. Putin has been fixated on reclaiming some semblance of empire, lost with the fall of the Soviet Union. Ukraine is central to this vision. Putin has said Ukrainians and Russians “were one people – a single whole,” or at least would be if not for the meddling from outside forces (as in, the West) that has created a “wall” between the two.

Ukraine isn’t joining NATO in the near future, and President Joe Biden has said as much. The core of the NATO treaty is Article 5, a commitment that an attack on any NATO country is treated as an attack on the entire alliance – meaning any Russian military engagement of a hypothetical NATO-member Ukraine would theoretically bring Moscow into conflict with the US, the UK, France, and the 27 other NATO members.

But the country is the fourth largest recipient of military funding from the US, and the intelligence cooperation between the two countries has deepened in response to threats from Russia.

“Putin and the Kremlin understand that Ukraine will not be a part of NATO,” Ruslan Bortnik, director of the Ukrainian Institute of Politics, said. “But Ukraine became an informal member of NATO without a formal decision.”

Which is why Putin finds Ukraine’s orientation to-

ward the EU and NATO (despite Russian aggression having quite a lot to do with that) untenable to Russia’s national security.

The prospect of Ukraine and Georgia joining NATO has antagonized Putin at least since President George W. Bush expressed support for the idea in 2008. “That was a real mistake,” said Steven Pifer, who from 1998 to 2000 was ambassador to Ukraine under President Bill Clinton. “It drove the Russians nuts. It created expectations in Ukraine and Georgia, which then were never met. And so that just made that whole issue of enlargement a complicated one.”

No country can join the alliance without the unanimous buy-in of all 30 member countries, and many have opposed Ukraine’s membership, in part because it doesn’t meet the conditions on democracy and rule of law.

All of this has put Ukraine in an impossible position: an applicant for an alliance that wasn’t going to accept it, while irritating a potential opponent next door, without having any degree of NATO protection.

**Why Russia is threatening Ukraine now**

The Russia-Ukraine crisis is a continuation of the one that began in 2014. But recent political developments within Ukraine, the US, Europe, and Russia help explain why Putin may feel now is the time to act.

Among those developments are the 2019 election of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, a comedian who played a president on TV and then became the actual president. In addition to the other thing you might remember Zelensky for, he promised during his campaign that he would “reboot” peace talks to end the conflict in eastern Ukraine, including dealing with Putin directly to resolve the conflict. Russia, too, likely thought it could get something out of this: It saw Zelensky, a political novice, as someone who might be more open to Russia’s point of view.

What Russia wants is for Zelensky to implement the 2014 and ‘15 Minsk agreements, deals that would bring the pro-Russian regions back into Ukraine but would amount to, as one expert said, a “Trojan horse” for Moscow to wield influence and control. No Ukrainian president could accept those terms, and so Zelensky, under continued Russian pressure, has turned to the West for help, talking openly about wanting to join NATO.

Public opinion in Ukraine has also strongly swayed to support for ascension into Western bodies like the EU and NATO. That may have left Russia feeling as though it has exhausted all of its political and diplomatic tools to bring Ukraine back into the fold. “Moscow security elites feel that they have to act now because if they don’t, military cooperation between NATO and Ukraine will become even more intense and even more sophisticated,” Sarah Pagung, of the German Council on Foreign Relations, said.

Putin tested the West on Ukraine again in the spring of 2021, gathering forces and equipment near parts of the border. The troop buildup got the attention of the new Biden administration, which led to an announced summit between the two leaders. Days later, Russia began drawing down some of the troops on the border. Putin’s perspective on the US has also shifted, experts said. To Putin, the chaotic Afghanistan withdrawal (which Moscow would know something about) and the US’s domestic turmoil are signs of weakness.

Putin may also see the West divided on the US’s role in the world. Biden is still trying to put the transatlantic alliance back together after the distrust that built up during the Trump administration. Some of Biden’s diplomatic blunders have alienated European partners, specifically that aforementioned messy Afghanistan withdrawal and the nuclear submarine deal that Biden rolled out with the UK and Australia that caught France off guard.

Europe has its own internal fractures, too. The EU and the UK are still dealing with the fallout from Brexit. Everyone is grappling with the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Germany has a new chancellor, Olaf Scholz, after 16 years of Angela Merkel, and the new coalition government is still trying to establish its foreign policy. Germany, along with other European countries, imports Russian natural gas, and energy prices are spiking right now. France has elections in April, and French President Emmanuel Macron is trying to carve out a spot for himself in these negotiations.

Those divisions – which Washington is trying very hard to keep contained – may embolden Putin. Some experts noted Putin has his own domestic pressures to deal with, including the coronavirus and a struggling economy, and he may think such an adventure will boost his standing at home, just like it did in 2014.

**Diplomacy hasn’t produced any breakthroughs so far**

A few months into office, the Biden administration spoke about a “stable, predictable” relationship with Russia. That now seems out of the realm of possibility.

The White House is holding out the hope of a diplomatic resolution, even as it’s preparing for sanctions against Russia, sending money and weapons to Ukraine, and boosting America’s military presence in Eastern Europe. (Meanwhile, European heads of state have been meeting one-on-one with Putin in the last several weeks.)

*Views expressed in the article are the author’s own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer*

*The article was originally published by Vox*



All letters intended for publication must include the writer’s name and address, even if a pseudonym is used. Letters are edited as clarity, space and accuracy of expression require. Our publishing a letter does not mean we agree with everything or even anything in it. -EDITOR

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## Response To “Only Sufferings For Women?”

This is a response to the article, “Only Sufferings for Women” by Amir Suhail Wani, published on Kashmir Observer yesterday.

Thank you very much for the most impressive and enlightened article

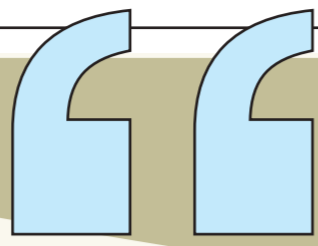
.You have really nailed it and shown mirror to the self styled thekedars and “warriors” of morality and ethics. The heronaceous crime of acid attack on a girl and trolling and plethora of abuses and fatwas against the toppler are absolutely unacceptable and need to be con-

demned unequivocally. That the toppler had to appear with her head covered to defend herself was humiliating and disgusting. A testimony how helpless and scared she felt for no fault of hers. It is a dangerous trend and needs to be addressed seriously. Quite a thought

provoking post and deserves to be an eye opener for parents, educationists and society as a whole. Thankyou for sharing your thoughts on such an important and complex issue.

Qurratul AIn





**F**OCUS MORE ON EXTRA-CURRICULAR/CO-curricular activities (at least for the next couple of months) in order to develop a liking for teachers as well as the school in the minds of the children who visit school from studies and so that it helps them to de-stress more and more

**MINDFUL  
FRIDAYS**

# Back To School

Post-Covid Classrooms, How To Overcome The Challenge



Wasim Kakroo

**C**OVID-19 pandemic has hit all the major areas of human existence and one among them is education. It has caused huge loss to the education of children across the world and as the pandemic is losing its heat, governments the world over are planning to throw open their schools for in-person classes. The government of UT of Jammu and Kashmir has also decided to open the schools and invite children back to the classroom, it means, more children will be away from home after a long period of time. Many babies born shortly before or during the COVID-19 pandemic may have stayed at home instead of enrolling in an early childhood education program such as day care or crèche. An early care and education programme will be a completely new experience for such young children and their parents—including caregivers who are playing the role of parents.

Young children are often apprehensive of strangers and prefer to be with their parents and other known and trusted caretakers. It's difficult to convey to children that a new caregiver will take care of them until they are old enough to express their feelings effectively, therefore it takes time for them to adjust to new people. School going children who are sensitive or easily frightened, or who have developmental issues, may require additional time to accommodate. Young children frequently have an easier time transitioning if they have spent time with both their parents and the new person.

Transitions back to school can be especially hard for some children and thus make them emotionally vulnerable. Thus, in order to help children keep up their morale and motivation, the parents and teachers need to make themselves effective in their teaching and parenting practices.

Keeping physical space between persons who don't live together has been critical during the COVID-19 pandemic. Teachers and children older than two years need to continue wearing masks, and early care and education programmes and schools will have to limit visitors to reduce contact. Looking at this situation, the masked faces might add to emotions of uncertainty because facial expressions are used to help communicate feelings and provide reassurance. Thus, changes to the environment and routines may cause things to seem and feel different for children who return to in-person care and offline classes.

Furthermore, adding more complexity to it, chil-

ren may be aware that the COVID-19 risk is associated with being in the company of others and may be concerned about getting sick. Children are adaptable and flexible in general, but attempts to protect their health may make transitioning to new environments and new people more difficult. Because they can't easily visit and may know less about the programme and the teacher than they would otherwise, parents may be hesitant to enroll their child in an early care and education programme.

Now looking at another dimension to the story, for many families, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated stress, fear, and worry. Parenting has become more difficult as a result of worries about illness, finances, and isolation, as well as coping with grief from loss and having less outside aid. Many parents say that their children's behaviour has deteriorated, including anxiety and acting out. Promoting social and emotional learning in schools and early care and education programmes can benefit children and their families. For children with developmental, behavioural, or emotional issues, the move from home to school may be more difficult. Teachers, parents, and programmes can assist children by planning the transition, developing new routines, and establishing strong connections. Children can adjust to their new programme, make new friends, learn new things, and thrive with the right kind of help.

**What parents and teachers can do to help children adjust to their new environment?**

Those who provide early care and education

understand how to assist children in adjusting to their new environment. However, if there is a pandemic and people have been out of care for a long time, it may be beneficial to provide some

**“ THOSE WHO PROVIDE early care and education understand how to assist children in adjusting to their new environment. However, if there is a pandemic and people have been out of care for a long time, it may be beneficial to provide some extra support during the transition**

extra support during the transition. Here are some suggestions to assist families in making the transition back to school.

**Teachers and school administrators can:**

1. Provide parents with virtual interactions, such as video calls and phone conversations. Connecting parents with other parents might help them learn more about the programme and share their experiences.
2. Create virtual tours so that parents may visit the building and classrooms and understand how their child would feel if they were a student there. Visitors who have been completely immunised may be allowed into schools. If not everyone from a family is fully vaccinated, properly vaccinated school staff can attend in-person meetings indoors with members of a family who may not be vaccinated.
3. Consider holding in-person meetings on the playground to introduce children to the teacher and other students before they begin the programme.

4. To assist children learn what to expect, create a daily framework and routine.

5. Share information with parents of returning children about how the COVID-19 pandemic may affect everyday routines and how they may help their children prepare for such adjustments.

6. Provide parents with regular updates on their children's progress in the programme.
7. Focus more on extra-curricular/co-curricular activities (at least for the next couple of months) in order to develop a liking for teachers as well as the school in the minds of the children who visit school from studies and so that it helps them to de-stress more and more.

**Parents and Caregivers can:**

1. Make contact with other parents whose children are enrolled in the same programme, who can share information and help them feel more at ease.
2. Consult with concerned teachers on the best way to say goodbye to their child at the beginning of the day—brief goodbyes are usually the most effective.
3. Try to stay cool and comforting, while parting away from the child, using a quiet voice and a relaxed face and body to show their child that they wouldn't leave them if they weren't safe and protected.
4. Spend more time before the children leave for school and after the children come back from school.
5. Take care of themselves during stressful situations so that they may better care for others.
6. Learn how to boost their emotional resilience and decrease anxiety.
7. Remember that this is just a stage—forming new relationships is a skill, and children can become resilient with the right assistance. Even if it's difficult to separate from their parents and caregivers, they'll develop a new trusting bond with their new teacher and feel more safe as a result.
8. Engage the children in various co-curricular/extra-curricular activities in order to establish more warmth in the relationship with the child.

**Parents who have concerns for their child because their child has not been keeping well can:**

1. Establish a daily, predictable routine for their child, including regular times for healthy meals, naps, and night sleep at home. Children adapt better when their bodies are rested and they know what to expect at home.
2. Keep track of their child's developmental milestones and know what to do if they have any concerns.
3. Seek professional help if their child's anxiety or behavior problems are severe or persistent.
4. Obtain parent training and support from a mental health expert so that parents can assist their children.
5. Seek out resources for themselves if they are depressed, anxious, or stressed.
6. Request an evaluation from the school, if a child's new concerns post COVID persist, to see if the child need special education services or accommodations.
7. Inquire about the school's Individualized Education Program (IEP) for children with disabilities.

**Schools can:**

1. Provide staff development and assistance for teachers, if there are more children who are having difficulty transitioning than usual.
2. Examine and improve resources for staff health and well-being.
3. Make sure they have access to mental health support, if teachers are struggling with their own stress, loss, or trauma as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak.
4. Provide easy access to social-emotional learning resources.
5. Have a directory of mental health professionals such as clinical psychologists and psychiatrists to seek out timely help for a child or staff if needed.
6. Hire school counselors to help children develop hope, resilience and positivity as well to help children who have special mental health needs.

We all need to look at all the dimensions of every aspect of human existence that have been affected by COVID-19 pandemic and one important aspect among them is education in the post COVID era. If we have to bring normalcy again in human existence then we need to look at each of the various aspects through multiple angles and the angle of mental health is one that can't be missed.

*The author is a licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar). He works at Kashmir Life Line, a free mental health counseling service. Author can be reached at wasimkakroo21@gmail.com*



## Advisor, CS Discuss The Functioning Of School Education Department With The Union Secretary

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, the Union Secretary, School Education & Literacy Department, Anita Karwal and the Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday discussed the functioning of the School Education Department to resolve the operational issues being faced in the efficient implementation of National Education Policy-2020 and various other schemes being implemented in Jammu and Kashmir.

Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department, Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department, Vivek Bhardwaj, Senior IAS Officer, Raj Kumar Goyal, Principal Secretary,

Higher Education Department, Rohit Kansal, Principal Secretary, School Education Department, B.K Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sheetal Nanda, Chairman and Secretary, BOSE along with the concerned officers participated in the meeting.

It was informed that the School Education Department will be shortly receiving Rs. 259 crore from the Finance Department for Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan besides Rs. 28.1 crore as UT share enabling the department to submit utilization certificate of entire funds of Rs. 464 crore to the Government of India within one week. The Department was asked to prioritize early resolution of other financial issues towards effective implementation of the scheme in J&K.

Further, under the National Education Policy, the School Education Department was asked to immediately roll out the Vidya Pravesh Programme- a preschool preparation program for Class 1st students, preparing the children for school. This programme consists of a three-month play module and also includes a subject of Indian Sign language at the Secondary Level. The National Education Policy is being implemented in Jammu and Kashmir from 1st April 2022.

To suitably train the teachers in imparting quality education, the Department was asked to ensure 100% participation in the Integrated Teacher Training Program NISHTHA 2.0 by the NCERT (National Council of Education Research and Training). The Department was

also asked to activate all its block and cluster resource centres.

It was further informed that to promote cognitive development in children of 3-8 years age category, the Union Government has launched a National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat). The initiative will ensure that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) by the end of Grade 3, by the year 2026-27. The School Education Department was asked to dedicatedly implement the initiative throughout primary schools of the Union territory.

It was also decided to open ten model schools in every district. Further, the SED was asked to achieve excellence

## Land Pass Books To Be Distributed To Land Owners By 15th August: CS

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta on Thursday said that the foundations of development with accountability and transparency through increased digitisation has been laid in J&K on enduring basis and urged the officers to expedite developmental works and focus on people connect to further improve the delivery of service.

He said the welfare of the people is at the front and centre of the developmental policies of the government and all interventions are informed by the need to address their needs and aspirations.

Dr Mehta made this comments while addressing a district capex review meeting

with the DDCs, which was also attended by the secretaries in the government.

He lauded the efforts of the DDCs in ensuring that the snowfall on 22nd February did not cause any significant disruption to the essential services.

The Chief Secretary said they should, however, not rest on their laurels as the good work done by them has led to more expectations from them especially, as there is still lot of work to be done in making J&K litter free, garbage free and debris free.

He informed that government will launch UT dashboard and 'your mobile our office' app shortly and steps are afoot on multiple fronts to usher in mobile governance in J&K within three months.

Earlier, Director Expenditure

Div I, Pk Bhat made a made a brief presentation on the financial and physical achievements under district capex made by the various districts in J&K.

Bhat informed that the expenditure performance of all the districts has improved since the last review and 16500 works have been completed till date.

Finance Secretary, Atal Dulloo said that DDCs have been regularly asked to improve the pace of execution of works so that annual physical achievement targets are met.

The Chief Secretary asked the DDCs to ensure that the set financial and physical targets for the current year are fully met and advised against allowing works costing up to Rs 20 lakhs to spill over to the ensuing year.

### CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

#### 180 Kashmiri Students

had come with all its might.

As the dreadful sounds came to an end and the morning progressed further, Kashmiri students had to hear more unfortunate reports. "News started coming that the airspace had been closed, that only meant one thing, going back home was now a dream."

With the same fear, another Kashmiri student Barkhaiz Bhat said that even though the bombing has somehow subsided for now, the situation still remains grim.

"We've been advised by the Government to evacuate to underground barracks as Russia may attack civilians."

If reports are to be believed then the Russian military has only attacked the military establishments of Ukraine. "They're only targeting military establishments. No one has asked us to go to underground shelters as the situation has not reached to that level as is being reported by media," said Zaffar.

The Kashmiri students, with whom Kashmir Observer spoke, said that they're in constant touch with the Indian embassy. "We've been asked to stay alive until we're evacuated," Zaffar said.

"Since morning, there has been a huge rush of people lining up in front of stores to buy groceries. The situation in the residential areas is normal. We had even attended our online classes," he said.

Meanwhile, J&K Students' Association has said that 180 Kashmiri students are stranded in Ukraine.

"As 180 Kashmiri students are stranded in Ukraine, we're in constant touch with them. Rajbhavan initiates a process to bring back all students safely on foot footing basis," JKSA spokesperson, Nasir Khuehami wrote on twitter.

"@OfficeOfJandK is cooperating sincerely and is in constant touch with @MEAIndia for safe and earliest evacuation of Kashmiri students from Ukraine," he said in another tweet.

#### 'We'll Denazify

invasion of Ukraine. Peaceful Ukrainian cities are under strikes," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba tweeted.

President Volodymyr Zelensky declared martial law and said Russia was attacking his country's "military infrastructure" but urged citizens not to panic and vowed victory.

The military said it had received orders from Zelensky to "inflict maximum losses against the aggressor".

It said its forces had killed "around 50 Russian occupiers" while repulsing an attack on a town on the frontline with Moscow-backed rebels, a toll that could not be immediately confirmed by AFP.

"Sounds of bombing"

Kyiv's main international airport was hit in the first bombing of the city since World War II and air raid sirens sounded over the capital at the break of dawn.

"I woke up because of the sounds of bombing. I packed a bag and tried to escape," said Maria Kashkoska, as she sheltered inside the Kyiv metro station.

In the eastern Ukrainian town of Chuguyiv, a son wept over the body of his father among the wreckage of a missile strike in a residential district.

"I told him to leave," the man sobbed repeatedly, next to the twisted ruins of a car.

"The time to act is now"

Kuleba said the worst-case scenario was playing out.

"This is a war of aggression. Ukraine will defend itself and will win. The world can and must stop Putin. The time to act is now," he said.

Within a few hours of Putin's speech, Russia's defence ministry said it had neutralised Ukrainian military airbases and its air defence systems.

Ukraine said Russian tanks and heavy equipment crossed the border in several northern regions, in the east as well as from the Kremlin-annexed

peninsula of Crimea in the south.

The Russian army said Moscow-backed separatists in the east had advanced by up to three kilometres (1.8 miles) into territory previously under government control.

The fighting roiled the global financial markets, with stocks plunging and oil prices soaring past \$100.

The Russian ruble fell nine percent against the dollar after the attack and the Moscow Stock Exchange was down more than 25 percent.

'Unprovoked and unjustified'

In his televised address, Putin justified the operation by claiming the government was overseeing a "genocide" in the east of the country.

The Kremlin had earlier said the leaders of two separatist territories in eastern Ukraine had asked Moscow for military help against Kyiv.

Putin recognised the independence of the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Lugansk republics on Monday.

US President Joe Biden spoke with Zelensky after the Russian operation began to vow US "support" and "assistance".

Biden condemned the "unprovoked and unjustified attack by Russian military forces," and vowed Russia would be held accountable.

"President Putin has chosen a pre-meditated war that will bring a catastrophic loss of life and human suffering," he said in a statement.

Biden was due to join a virtual, closed-door meeting of G7 leaders -- Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States -- on Thursday, likely to result in more sanctions against Russia.

In Brussels, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said Russia faced "unprecedented isolation" and would be hit with the "harsh sanctions" the EU has ever imposed.

The Russian invasion also rattled other countries in eastern Europe once dominated by Moscow.

NATO member Poland said it was invoking Article 4 of the NATO Treaty, calling for urgent consultations among leaders of the Western military alliance.

Lithuania joined Poland's call and said it would impose a national state of emergency.

Drop NATO ambitions

Ukraine has around 200,000 military personnel, and could boost that with up to 250,000 reservists.

Moscow's total forces are much larger -- around a million active-duty personnel -- and have been modernised and re-armed in recent years.

But Ukraine has received advanced anti-tank weapons and some drones from NATO members. More have been promised as the allies try to deter a Russian attack or at least make it costly.

Russia has long demanded that Ukraine be forbidden from ever joining the NATO alliance and that US troops pull out from Eastern Europe.

Putin this week set out a number of stringent conditions if the West wanted to de-escalate the crisis, saying Ukraine should drop its NATO ambition and become neutral.

"Putin's aim is to end the existence of Ukraine," said Tatyana Stanovaya, founder of the political consultancy R.Politik Center and a non-resident scholar at the Carnegie Moscow Center.

"It is possible that the east of Ukraine will come under Russian control," she said, adding: "I cannot see anything that would stop Russia now".

**Terrifying Booms,**

she said in a tense voice. "We hope the metro can save us because it is underground."

Many in the city of three million people woke up to a series of terrifying booms echoing somewhere in the distance in the deep of night.

"I woke up because of the sounds of bombing," said 29-year-old Maria Kashkoska as she sat on the subway station's floor.

Ukrainian defence officials later said that Kyiv's main international airport had come under a Russian bombing attack.

"I packed a bag and tried to escape. We are sitting here, waiting," she said after packing her charger and a few essentials.

The booms were followed a few hours later by air raid sirens that sounded over Kyiv at the break of dawn.

A police car drove down Kyiv's main Khreshchyatyk Avenue urging everyone to remain calm and take shelter.

Queues formed outside currency exchanges as well as petrol stations.

AFP reporters saw people carrying suitcases to bus and train stations in an effort to get out of Kyiv and move further west.

- 'Remain calm' -

But nowhere seemed completely safe.

Air raids sounded over the western city of Lviv -- the new diplomatic home of US and European officials who fled Kyiv -- and the sounds of exploding bombs echoed across the northern city of Kharkiv.

Kharkiv rests just 35 kilometres (20 miles) south of the Russian border and once served as the capital of Ukraine when it was still part of the Soviet state.

Russian-backed insurgents tried but failed to seize the city of 1.4 million people when they launched their deadly insurgency in 2014.

"I once again call on the people of Kharkiv to stay at home and to remain as calm as possible," mayor Igor Terekhov said.

But the most frightening explosions and heaviest fighting was ringing out across the scattering of impoverished towns that hug Ukraine's frontline with Russian-backed rebels in the east.

An AFP team in the eastern town of Chuguyiv saw a man crying over a body stretched out on the ground.

Firefighters tried to extinguishes the flames of a house burning after an apparent attack.

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"If they continue to bomb us, I will find weapons and defend my homeland," said 62-year-old Vladimir Levichov.

**Not Invasion,**

Chunying said at a regular press briefing where she was repeatedly asked if Beijing condemned the actions. Beijing has trod a cautious line on Ukraine as Moscow massed thousands of troops on the borders, and criticised the West for new sanctions after Russia ordered troops into two breakaway Ukrainian regions it now recognises as independent.

Hua on Thursday refused to call the military action an "invasion", labelling the term "prejudiced", and dodged questions on whether China was in contact with Russian and Ukrainian leaders.

"The Ukraine issue has a very complicated historical background" and was the result of "various factors," Hua told reporters.

China has blamed the United States and its Western allies in recent weeks for "hyping up" the crisis, with Hua saying at an earlier briefing on Wednesday that the US was "adding fuel to the fire."

The Chinese embassy in Ukraine on Thursday warned its citizens to be alert for "severe disturbances" and to stay home as much as possible.

**Banihal Highway**

Shabir Ahmad Malik said that the men and machinery was pressed into the services soon after the weather started improving.

He said that as soon as the road clearance was completed, the Light Motor Vehicles were allowed to ply.

The official communique issued by the department said that subject to the fair weather and better road conditions, the LMVs (Passenger)/private Cars shall be allowed from both sides on Jammu-Srinagar highway tomorrow.

"TCU Jammu/Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the traffic."

LMVs/private Cars from Nagrota (Jammu) at 0600 hrs to 1200 hrs, from Jakhani (Udhampur) at 0700 hrs to 1300 hrs & from Navyug Tunnel (Qazigund side) 0600 hrs to 1200 hrs (subject to change depending on the road position then). No vehicle shall be allowed before and after cut off timings," the statement said.

It said that subject to fair weather and better road conditions, HMVs shall be allowed from NAVYUG Tunnel (Qazigund side) towards Jammu after assessing the traffic situation on NHW.

TCU Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the HMVs, the statement said, adding that Mughal Road, Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri Road and Kishtwar-Sinthan Road shall remain closed for vehicular movement in view of snow.

**More Rain, Snowfall**

A weather department official said that light to moderate rain and snow was expected at scattered places of J&K on Friday.

"Mainly dry is expected thereafter till the end of February. There is no forecast of any major snowfall till the end of the month," he said.

The official said that Srinagar recorded a rise of 0.7 degrees Celsius in night temperature with mercury settling at 0.7°C against last night's 0.0°C. The temperature was below 0.2°C than the normal for this time of the year in Srinagar, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of minus 0.1°C against 0.0°C on the previous night, while Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, had a low of minus 0.8°C against minus 1.0°C on the previous night, the official said.

Pahalgam, the famous resort in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 0.8 °C against minus 0.8°C last night, he said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 5.2°C, same as witnessed on the previous night, he said.

The temperature was 1.5°C above normal for this time of the year in the famous resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.

Kupwara town in north Kashmir recorded a low of 0.2 °C against 0.1°C on the previous night, the official said.

While 'Chillai Kalan', the 40-day long harshest period of winter ended on January 30, and 20-day long 'Chillai Khurd' culminated on February 19, Kashmir is presently under the grip of 10-day-long 'Chilla Bachha'.

Jammu recorded a low of 12.0°C against 13.2°C on the previous night, the official said. The temperature was 1.4°C above normal for the J&K's winter capital during this time of the year, he said.

Banihal recorded a low of 0.8°C, Batote recorded 2.7°C and Baderwah witnessed a low of 4.0°C, the official said.

Ladakh's Leh recorded a low of minus 5.6°C against last night minus 6.9°C on previous night while mercury at automatic station in Kargil settled at minus minus 9.0°C. Drass, the second coldest place in the world after Siberia, recorded a low of minus 7.2°C, same as on the previous night, official added.

**LG's Principal**

restoration of power & water supply, road connectivity, and other essential services. Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K. Pole, Deputy Commissioners of Kashmir Division, Chief Engineers of KPDCI, KPTEL, MED, PHE, besides other concerned officers attended the meeting, an official spokesperson said.

While assessing the post snowfall scenario in the Valley through virtual mode,

Kumar, he said, took stock of the measures undertaken for restoration of Power supply and transmission lines in each district of the Valley.

Pole, the spokesperson said informed the chair regarding the progress in restoration of Power Supply in the Valley.

"He said that power supply will be restored by evening in most of the areas barring some parts of Gulgam for

which alternative from Anantnag is being explored," he said.

Regarding snow clearance, he said, Pole informed that MED has cleared 100% roads under Priority Phase-I, while under Phase-II, all the roads will be cleared by today evening. Besides, PWD had cleared the snow from 75% of roads by 11 AM, while rest will be cleared by evening.

"Similarly, the meeting was also briefed that to monitor prices of essential items, various market checking teams have been constituted to inspect markets and take appropriate action against the profiteers," the spokesperson said.

LG's Principal Secretary, he said, directed all DCs to conduct field inspections of hospitals and other important institutions to put a check on their functioning.

He said Kumar also asked the Div Com to ensure that tourists don't face any difficulty in the back drop of snow and cancellation of flights, besides keeping roads open to all major tourist destinations.

"Divisional Commissioner Kashmir informed that roads leading to famous tourist destinations including Gulmarg have been already cleared of snow while matter related to flights has also been addressed," the spokesperson added.

**Tamilian Heart**

early life-saving heart transplantation. With her condition worsening, on December 31, 2021, she was admitted with sign of severe heart failure. Doctors at MGM Healthcare soon treated her with isotropes and other medications.

On January 26, 2022, a suitable brain-dead donor was identified in a private hospital in Trichy. The heart was soon rushed to Chennai through a green corridor and a high-risk heart transplantation was carried out on Ms Shahzadi. She made an uneventful recovery after the procedure and is ready to begin a new life in Kashmir.

Fatima, an unmarried woman from Kashmir lives with her brother, a daily wage earner who was not able to meet her medical expenses and the cost of the transplant. Seeing the plight of this woman, Aishwarya Trust, a non-profit.

HEALTHCARE organisation that supports the medical expenses of deserving patients decided to support the entire cost of the transplant at MGM Healthcare. Mrs Chitra Viswanathan, the founder of Aishwarya Trust said, it was a meaningful way for Aishwarya Trust to celebrate Republic Day by funding the lady's heart transplant on 26th January 2022. For its part, MGM Healthcare carried out the transplant at a subsidised cost.

Dr K R Balakrishnan, Director - Institute of Heart and Lung Transplant & Mechanical Circulatory Support of MGM Healthcare who led the surgery lauded the efforts of the victim's family in generously agreeing for organ donation in the face of great personal tragedy and Transtan which oversees the organ donation activity in the state.

Such lifesaving transplants need co-ordination and support from several people and is a true team effort, said Dr Suresh Rao, Co-Director. Institute of Heart and Lung Transplant & Mechanical Circulatory Support.

Dr. Ravikumar R, Sr. Consultant & Clinical Lead - Cardiology & Heart Failure Program, MGM Healthcare said, Heart failure is an under-recognised problem in India. The quality of life and longevity of end-stage heart failure patients who are not responding to conventional therapy can be improved by advanced procedures like heart transplant and Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD).

**Goyal Is Finance**

additional charge of Registrar, District Bandipore, has been transferred and posted as Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar.

Meanwhile, as per a separate order, Ms. Narinder Kour, JKAS, Deputy Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Jammu, has

transferred and posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Public Grievances Department, with immediate effect.

**Fate Of 6 Missing**

launched to trace them, they said.

"Rescue mission has been launched to search six missing persons at Margan Top," officials said.

"One team is proceeding by road along with a snow cutter machine and JCB, headed by an SDM accompanied by Tehsilidar, MED and NHIDCL officials," they said.

A second team, comprising Army Rescue team and local volunteers, is proceeding by foot, they said.

The third one -- a helicopter rescue team -- is currently on standby at Larkipora, waiting for the weather to improve, the officials added.

The six persons from Warwan went on foot from Anantnag via Margan Top. Kashmir valley, especially the areas in the south, received heavy snowfall on Wednesday and there are apprehensions that the persons might have been caught in the snow.

**Bangladeshi National**

handed over to the police for questioning, reports said Thursday. During the investigations, reports said, it surfaced that the Bangladeshi citizen had travelled to India and then to Kashmir without any passport.

The report quoted an unnamed police official saying that a fake Aadhar Card was recovered from Islam's possession.

He has been booked under Foreign Registration Act.

"An FIR vide number 23/2022 under section 14-A of Foreign Registration Act has been registered at police station Uri and further investigation is underway," the official told a local news agency KNT.

**BSF Fires At Flying**

was forced to retreat, they said.

A moment of a flying object was detected along the IB in R S Pura-Arnia sector, prompting alert BSF troops to open fire at it, the sources said, adding over 20 rounds were fired.

The flying object was forced to return back, they said.

Drones have frequently been used by terror elements from across the IB to drop weapons and explosive materials as well as narcotics. (PTI)

**Shed Collapse Kills**

roof collapsed leaving the soldier injured, reported news agency KNT.

He was shifted to hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Srinagar-based Defense Spokesperson Colonel Emron Musavi said that he will share the details about the incident once those reach him.

On Wednesday, Kashmir witnessed massive snowfall, disrupting air to surface transport, damaging property in parts of the Valley.

**Corona Cases**

Budgam 2 and Kupwara 1. No fresh cases of infection were detected in the five other districts of Pulwama, Anantnag, Shopian, Bandipora and Ganderbal.

In the winter capital, officials said, Doda district registered the highest 22 fresh cases of virus, Jammu 18, Kathua 5, Udhampur 4, Ramban 2 and Poonch 1. The four districts of Rajouri, Samba, Kishtwar and Reasi recorded no new cases of Covid-19.

Also, the officials said that the death toll due to pandemic remained 4748 in J&K--2325 in Jammu and 2423 in Kashmir, as no fresh fatality was reported in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

"Moreover, 353 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 169 from Jammu Division and 184 from Kashmir Division," they said.

The officials further said that no new cases of Mucormycosis were reported today, thus the total number of confirmed cases remains 51 across J&K.



## Admin Grants Rs 50K Assistance To Self-Immolation Victim

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The District Administration Ganderbal on Thursday reached out to the youth who took an extreme step of self-immolation on Tuesday and provided him an assistance of Rs 50,000. The said person identified as Aamir Hamid Shah, resident of Haran Ganderbal took the extreme step during a demolition drive undertaken by Irrigation and Flood Control Department over the banks of Nallah Sindh in Haran and was rescued on spot however he received burn injuries before flames were doused and is being treated at SKIMS, Soura, an official spokesperson said Thursday.

He said that on behalf of District Administration, Tehsildar Lar today visited SKIMS to enquire about his health condition and have firsthand appraisal about health care facilities being provided to the injured. He expressed sympathies with the injured youth on behalf of District Administration and also provided fifty thousand rupees in cash assistance to him. Earlier, Additional District Development Commissioner Ganderbal, Khurshid Ahmad Shah who is appointed as an Enquiry Officer visited the spot where the incident happened to enquire into the whole spectrum of episode that led the victim to take such extreme step.

### MATRIC RESULTS FALLOUT

## CEO Bandipora Seeks Explanation From Principals, Headmasters

Agencies

**BANDIPORA:** Chief Education Officer (CEO) Bandipora on Thursday asked the principals and Headmasters of 16 schools to explain their position as to why their institution has performed poorly in the recently declared Class 10th results.

An order issued by CEO, reads that "The result of 10th class annual examination 2021 was declared recently and it was observed that 05 Higher Sec Schools and 11 High School have shown 40% or below pass percentage which has been viewed seriously by the Director School Education Kashmir and the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora."

"This is matter of grave concern and needs to be addressed immediately by fixing the responsibility on the teachers who are responsible for the dismal performance of the students," it reads.

The order further reads that "in light of the above you are directed to explain your position as to why your institution has performed poorly by recording 40% or below pass percentage of students in the recently declared class 10th result."

"Besides you are also directed

to take immediate necessary action with regard to the below mentioned points and report compliance within 03 days positively," it further reads.

The CEO has said that the teachers having zero percentage result in their respective subject shall be deemed to have been placed under suspension with immediate effect. "The teachers having 20% or below result in their respective subject, their increment shall be stopped forthwith," he said.

The order also reads that the teachers with zero and below 20% result be deployed for remedial teaching within their own school, before and after school timing, so that they prepare the students for supplementary examination to be held by JKBOSE.

"All the arrangements on account of remedial classes to be done by poor performing teaching staff of these schools," it added.

"The reply to explanation and compliance report from the heads of the institutions who have recorded 40% or below pass percentage in the recently declared class 10 result should reach to this office within 03 days positively without any fail," reads the order—(KNO)

## DC Bandipora Discusses Traffic Decongestion With Traders, Transporters



Observer News Service

**BANDIPORA:** In order to overcome traffic congestion and streamline the traffic in Bandipora Town, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmad on Thursday convened a meeting of the representatives of various trade associations and transporters at Mini-Secretariat, here.

The meeting was attended by President Municipal Council Bandipora besides other officers. The meeting discussed various measures pertaining to shifting of all passenger vehicles to New Bus Stand and other trade activities.

On the occasion, threadbare discussions were held wherein various measures were thoroughly discussed to shift all the passenger vehicles to New Bus Stand and Madhumati Stand Bandipora to minimize the possibility of traffic congestion in the main market and to enhance the commercial activities in the main market.

The DC informed that keeping in view the present situation, a proper mechanism has been formulated to boost the com-

mercial activities in the district and to avoid traffic congestion and various problems faced by the public in the main market.

He stressed for strict implementation of the plan devised for proper management of traffic and other trade related activities and warned that any kind of violation shall be viewed seriously.

Dr Owais said that the District Administration acknowledges the concerns of the transporters and traders operating in the district and assured all possible support will be provided for earliest possible redressal of genuine concerns.

In the meeting, it was stated that after shifting of Auto Stand, all traffic will ply smoothly and better transport facilities will be available to the people across the district. The meeting was attended by ARTO Bandipora, Tehsildar Bandipora,

Ex. Engineer R&B, SHO Bandipora, President MC Bandipora, EO MC Bandipora, Civil Society members, representatives from Bapaar Mandal, representatives from Transport sector besides other concerned officers from District Administration.

## Govt Sets Target To Make J&K Power Surplus In 5 Years

Press Trust Of India

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir administration has set a target to harness the region's hydropower potential to make the Union territory power surplus in next five years.

"In order to achieve this target, the administration has taken several path breaking reforms in the power sector which will change the dynamics of the power sector here," an official spokesman said here.

He added that among the priorities in this regard was tapping the 20,000-megawatt (MW) power potential of the region.

In the past 70 years, only 3,500 MW out of the potential of 20,000 MW had been harnessed in Jammu and Kashmir, the spokesman said.

"Once the entire potential is exploited, J&K will have surplus power and can be an energy exporter. However in the past two years alone, the projects for about 3,000 MW capacity projects have been revived and subsequently put on track for operationalisation," he said.

The spokesman said key reforms were undertaken in the power sector during 2020.

The J&K government had constituted a four-member task force on power sector reforms for implementation of initiatives, schemes and relief measures under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

"The initiatives included Rs 90,000-crore liquidity infusion to distribution companies as a concessional loan offering by Power Finance Corporation (PFC) and REC Ltd; tariff policy reforms encompassing consumer rights,



promotion of industry and sustainability of power sector and distribution reforms in the power sector," he added.

Reforms in the power sector were rolled out in the UT in 2019, with the formation of separate transmission and distribution corporations for Kashmir and Jammu divisions, he said.

The administration has planned new projects of 3,300 MW which include four projects of Kirthai II (930 MW), Sawlakote (1856 MW), Duhasti stage II (258 MW) and Uri-I stage II (240 MW) to be executed soon.

"Also, back in January 2021, in a historic moment for energy sufficiency in Jammu and Kashmir, memorandums of understanding (MoUs) were signed for implementation of much-awaited mega hydro power projects, including 850 MW Ratle HEP and 930 MW Kirthai-II HEP," he said.

On that occasion, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said the vision of the government was to harness hydro energy resources of

J&K with a goal to double the energy generation by 2024 and also to prepare a strategy for efficiency through policies, monitoring mechanisms to ensure energy security for economic and social benefits.

On the transmission front, the spokesman said Rs 7,500 crore are being invested on system strengthening projects, which include 1,000 MVA transformation capacity already added at 220 KV level; creation/argumentation of six 220/132 KV grid stations and 875 MVA transformation capacity added at 132 KV level.

He said Jammu and Kashmir has achieved 100 per cent household electrification under SAUBHAGYA before the target date. Over 3,57,400 beneficiaries were covered under the scheme.

Under Smart Prepaid Metering project, 40 per cent of energy consumed will be metered via smart metres by March 2022, during which two lakh metres will be installed while eight lakh metres will be installed by March 2023 across the UT, he added.

## ADG BSF Reviews Security Situation At LoC, IB

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** BSF Additional Director General (Western Command) P V Rama Sastry visited forward areas along the International Border (IB) and the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu frontier and reviewed the security situation and the area domination-cum-deployment of troops, officials said.

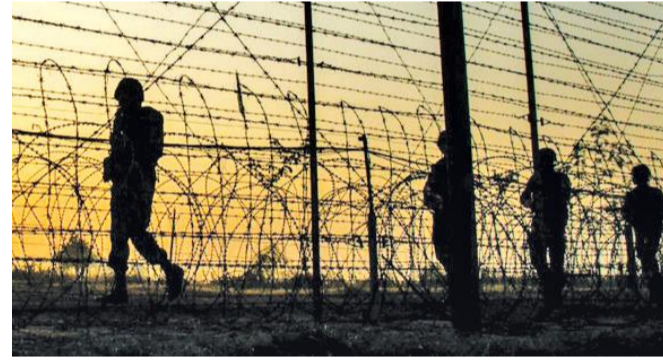
The ADG visited Jammu frontier for a three-day visit beginning Tuesday and during the period, he visited areas of responsibility (AOR) of troops along the IB and the LoC, they said.

He was welcomed by BSF IG (Jammu frontier) D K Boora and other officers and was given an impressive guard of honour.

Sastry reviewed BSF's overall deployment and domination plan on LC area and held discussion with commanders of the sector and the battalions on ground and reviewed the security situation, they said.

Boora gave a detailed presentation to the ADG covering all critical aspects of border security and domination on the IB and the LoC, they said.

The IG described the general security scenario covering the deployment pattern of BSF battalions and their robust domination on the Jammu IB.



He also informed Sastry about the threats being faced by the BSF, ranging from tunnelling and cross-border smuggling by Pakistan-based elements.

A special emphasis was laid on the threat posed by the drones from Pakistan abetting smuggling of weapons and narcotics to the Indian territory, they said.

The ADG was made aware of the challenges faced by BSF troops due to rainy season, foggy weather and high-altitude.

Boora highlighted the recent achievements of BSF Jammu like seizure of narcotics on the border, neutralising intruders from the neighbouring country and detection of tunnels along the border.

Sastry visited LoC areas of Sunderbani Sector in Rajouri

district accompanied by the IG and took stock of the situation, they said.

During his visit to the Jammu IB, he visited Makwal, R S Pura, Samba and Kathua border areas where he was briefed by sector commanders and battalion commandants. The ADG visited BoPs and interacted with the officers and men deployed there.

He reviewed the border domination plan and held discussions with the battalion commandants. The ADG also held a meeting with farmers in R S Pura area and exhorted them to practice agriculture clear of BSF fencing.

He also patiently heard their concerns and assured of all possible assistance from the BSF. Sastry also interacted with the jawans and praised them for their dedication and professionalism.

## Admin Reviews Mehraj Ul Alam, Maha Shivratri Facilities

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Thursday chaired a meeting to review arrangements for Mehraj ul Alam and Maha Shivratri festivals to facilitate devotees to observe religious festivals.

On the occasion, Div Com directed concerned officers of PWD & MED to clear snow from the roads leading to Hazratbal, Jinab Sahab Soura, Khanqah Moola, Shankar Acharya, and other shrines and temples. He also directed concerned officers to prepare exigency plan to clear roads in case of Snowfall on festival days.

The Officers of KPDCI were directed to ensure availability of electricity on the auspicious occasions at sacred religious places besides keep the back up electricity available on the spot.

The Div Com directed PHE officers to maintain the water supply to the places where devotees throng on Mehraj Alam and Maha Shivratri. He also directed concerned to keep the



drinking water tankers available at Hazratbal where a large number of devotees assemble for prayer.

Similarly, SMC was directed to conduct sanitation drive and curb dog menace to avoid any inconvenience to the people.

Besides, SRTC officers were asked to keep buses available to ferry devotees to Hazratbal and Shankar Acharya.

Further, the meeting discussed the parking facility for devotees who throng to Hazratbal at Kashmir University and NIT Srinagar.

Moreover, Div Com directed Health officers to keep medical and paramedics staff available at sites for the welfare of devotees and also conduct covid tests on the occasion.

He emphasized on all the

concerned to ensure CAB is followed in letter and spirit.

Also, Div Com directed all Deputy Commissioners to make arrangements at prominent religious places where huge congregational prayers are held and also make arrangements at the temples in districts where Maha Shivratri is observed like Kheer Bhawani, Mattan etc.

He also directed the Metrology Department to conduct market checking and take strict action against profiteers for overcharging.

Div Com directed concerned to ensure availability of flowers, fish and nadru for Maha Shivratri in markets and near temples.

Meanwhile, the Div Com also reviewed security and traffic arrangements for these festivals with police and traffic officers.

## Jio Fibre Collapses Under Snow, Consumers Aghast

KO NEWS DESK

**SRINAGAR:** A number of Consumers on Thursday complained that the Jio failed to repair the damaged cable on the second day of the snowfall causing huge inconveniences.

On Wednesday, the Jio fiber collapsed under the unexpected snowfall. A number of cables could be seen lying on roads in different areas of Srinagar.

The consumers alleged that staff of the Jio Fiber even didn't entertain the complaints and showed a poor response.

Subsequently, a large number of its consumers here were left without any high speed internet facility.

The collapse occurred at a time when more and more people were getting Jio fiber connections in view of the ongoing ban on 4G mobile internet since August 2019.

Consumers also prefer to work from home due to Covid-19 and are availing the broadband high speed internet.

The disruption in high speed internet facilities hampered the working and consumers were unable to do their online work and related functions. Businesses too were hit. So was the functioning in other sectors.

"My cable got disconnected yesterday and I put my request to Jio immediately but till now they are yet to dispatch their lineman for repairing the same," said a consumer Badrul Duja of Radio Colony Rajbagh, Srinagar.

Another consumer, Firdos Dar who works at an office in Boulevard told Kashmir Observer that his repeated plea to the official of Jio got no response as result their works came under halt.

Several complaints came from other areas like Soura, Zoonimar, Nowgam, Chadroo,

An official of the Jio company told Kashmir Observer that due to unexpected snowfall some cables got damaged but they have pressed men and machinery to restore it.

"It will take a few more days to restore completely," they said.

## Month-Long TB Eradication Campaign Begins At Budgam

Observer News Service

**BUDGAM:** A meeting of the District TB Forum cum Review meeting of the District Health Society on National Tuberculosis Eradication Programme (NTEP) was conducted on Thursday at Conference Hall, here.

The meeting was chaired by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Budgam, Dr Akramullah Tak and attended by VC DDC Budgam, Nazir Ahmad, CMO Budgam, Dr Tajamul Hussain Khan, District TB Officer, Dr Adfar Yasien, Deputy CMO, Dr Tehmeena Bukhari, members from Civil Society, members of Forum, TB champions, District TB office staff and others.

At the outset, the ADDC lauded the role of health staff, Tuberculosis department and others concerned for playing a pivotal role in achieving more than 80 percent reduction in TB cases and getting TB free status to the district in the country.

He said that despite facing hardships during the Covid-19 situation, the Tuberculosis teams conducted house to house screening and went to all hard to reach areas to treat TB patients with utmost care and empathy.

He said the need is to work with more dedication to get cent percent reduction in the TB cases across the district.

At the outset, the ADDC also released a documentary made by the Central TB Division of the Central Ministry of Health to create awareness on eradication of the disease.

The documentary highlighted the role of teams of District Tuberculosis Office Budgam in

bringing major reduction of TB cases.

Speaking on the occasion, VC DDC Budgam, Nazir Ahmad called for playing a more effective role in bringing the cases down to ensure eradication of the disease 100 percent in the district.

On the occasion, District TB Officer, Dr Adfar deliberated upon district level status of TB cases, activities of the TB forum and activities undertaken under NTEP in the district. She informed that the government had set a goal to eliminate TB by 2025.

She announced that a month-long TB eradication campaign shall be carried out from today which shall culminate on March-24, celebrated as World Tuberculosis Day.

She said during the campaign, besides intensive screening, various activities shall be undertaken to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of tuberculosis (TB) and to step up efforts to end the chronic disease.

CMO Budgam, Tajamul Hussain emphasized that the TB Forum shall engage with concerned to ensure stigma attached to the disease is reduced and improve awareness for better results across the district.

He also said that an intensive Polio vaccination programme shall start from February-27 across the district, under which as many as 121261 children between 0-5 shall be administered anti-polio drops in the district.

CMO urged parents to take their children to the health centers and ensure their children are vaccinated to fight the polio effectively.

## Workshop On 'Legal Rights Of Women' Concludes At Shopian



Observer News Service

**SHOPIAN:** The two day workshop on 'Legal Rights of Women' organised by District Legal Services Authority, Shopian in collaboration with District Social Welfare Department Shopian concluded on Thursday at Mini Secretariat Arhama, here.

The main purpose of the programme was to educate the women about their rights guaranteed by the constitution and to make them aware regarding other laws. The participating women appreciated this step taken by the District Administration.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Shopian said that such a programme is an initiative towards empowering women and making them aware of their rights. He said there are many cases where women face discrimination and violence in society as a result, the numbers of women suicide cases

are very high. If they get to know about their legal rights, the number of cases can decrease.

CJM added that women empowerment should begin at home and there should be no discrimination by the parents towards their children. The male and female child should be treated equally then only it is possible to achieve the proper results.

Secretary, Legal Services Authority highlighted constitutional provisions regarding women empowerment. He said that DLSA is always available to the women in distress and the Authority is working for the welfare of the women in distress. He said that it is providing legal aid to many women on a daily basis and also apprised the gathering about basic rights of women and schemes available for them in legal institutions.

Other speakers also highlighted the issues related to women and provided information about women's rights.



## Karun Nair Slams Unbeaten 152 As Karnataka Makes 268 For 8 Vs J&K On Day 1



Press Trust of India

**CHENNAI:** India Test discard Karun Nair came up with a fighting unbeaten 152 as Karnataka scored 268 for 8 against Jammu & Kashmir on the opening day of the Ranji Trophy Elite Group C match here on Thursday.

Opener Devdutt Padikkal (8) fell early to Mujtaba Yousuf (2 for 2) after Karnataka won the toss and elected to bat.

Nair (267 balls, 21 fours, 1 six) and the other opening batter Ravikumar Samarth (45, 5 fours) then added 98 runs for the second wicket to steady the innings. K V Siddharth, who hit a century in the opening match against Railways, helped Nair add 56 runs for the third wicket.

Nair grew in confidence and was on the lookout for runs. However, the dismissal of Siddharth sparked a mini collapse as Karnataka slipped from 164 for 2 to 190 for 5 and then 209 for 7 after losing Shreyas

Gopal (7) and K Gowtham (2) to the veteran spinner Parvez Rasool (2 for 51).

Nair kept scoring runs even as he kept losing partners but he found an able ally in Ronit More, who made 23 from 59 balls and was involved in a vital 59-run partnership for the eighth wicket.

More, who batted resolutely, fell LBW to Yousuf off the final delivery of the day.

The 30-year Karun Nair holds the key if Karnataka has to reach a total of 300 in the first innings. In the other match in the group, Pondicherry ended the opening day at 284 for 5, riding on veteran Paras Dogra's unbeaten 207 (168 balls, 10 fours, 1 six).

Brief scores: Stumps Day 1: Karnataka 268 for eight in 90 overs (R Samarth 45, Karun Nair 152 batting (267b, 21x4, 1x6), Mujtaba Yousuf two for 44, Umran Malik two for 35, Parvez Rasool two for 51) Jammu and Kashmir.

## Tendulkar To Take Legal Action Against Casino For 'Using' His Morphed Images For Promotion



Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar on Thursday said he would initiate legal action against a casino for using his morphed images to promote itself on social media.

It is learnt that Tendulkar's images were used to promote a casino located in Goa.

"While my legal team will be taking the required action, I felt it was important for me to share this information with everyone," the legendary right-handed batter posted on his Twitter page.

"It has come to my notice

that there are multiple ads being shown on social media platforms, with a morphed photo showing me endorsing a casino," he said.

The 48-year-old Tendulkar, who has numerous records under his belt and has also been a former national captain, stressed that he was pained to see his images being used to mislead people.

"I have never endorsed gambling, tobacco or alcohol - directly or indirectly, in an individual capacity. It pains to see that my images are being used to mislead people," added Tendulkar.

## Wanted Some Space, Says Kohli On Stepping Down As RCB Skipper

Press Trust of India

**MUMBAI:** Virat Kohli, who had stepped down as the Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper after the 2021 IPL season, said he took that call to give himself some space and manage his workload.

Kohli had announced his decision to leave IPL captaincy after saying that T20 World Cup will be his last tournament as India skipper in the shortest format. He was later removed as ODI captain before he quit the leadership role in five-day format.

"I'm not someone who holds onto things more than I should. Even if I know I can do a lot more, if I'm not going to enjoy the process, I'm not going to do it," Kohli, one of the modern day greats, said on "The RCB Podcast" about dropping the captain's armband.

The former RCB and India skipper asserted that it is very difficult for people to understand what a cricketer thinks while taking such decisions.

"Because it's very difficult for people to understand your decisions unless they are in your situation. From the outside, people have their own expectations. Oh! How did that happen? We are so shocked," added Kohli, who is on the verge of playing his 100th Test.

"There's nothing to be shocked about. I explain to people, I wanted some space and I wanted to manage my work-



load and the story ends there."

Right from the inaugural IPL till last season, RCB have never won the cash-rich tournament.

Rubbishing all the conversations that people had about his decision, Kohli cleared the air saying, "There was actually nothing at all. I keep my life very simple and basic, when I wanted to make a decision, I made a decision and I announced it."

"I didn't want to think about it and contemplate it for another year. That would've done nothing to me, nothing to the environment I'm part of. Quality of life is something very important to me. And the quality of cricket is something very important to me."

"Over a period of time, you want to do what you're doing day-in-and-day-out and you

want to do as much as you can, but at the end of the day, you have to realize that quality is far more important than quantity," stressed Kohli. The elegant top order batter also stressed that he has always been himself.

"Quantity in hard work but quality in execution. That is the key. If you go for quantity in execution, then you're going to get burnt out. If I can't be myself in my everyday life and I can't be myself on the field, I will change something."

"Because that is who I am. That is the reason I am where I am. And that is the reason why people can connect to me at a certain level. My loved ones, people who are close to me, my friends they connected to me because of that factor, because I've always been myself," he signed off.

## Mayank Agarwal Set To Captain Punjab Kings In IPL 2022

Press Trust of India

**NEW DELHI:** India batter Mayank Agarwal is set to captain Punjab Kings in the upcoming Indian Premier League.

Agarwal, who is part of the Indian Test team, was one of the two players retained by Punjab Kings alongside young pacer Arshdeep Singh ahead of the mega auction earlier this month.

A formal announcement is expected soon.

"In all likelihood, Mayank will captain the side. The announcement is expected later this week," an IPL source told PTL.

Punjab, who went into the auction with the maximum purse, made good use of the money by getting the likes of Shikhar Dhawan, Jonny Bairstow, Liam Livingstone, Kagiso Rabada and buying back left-arm spinner Harpreet Brar and explosive Tamil Nadu batter Shahrukh Khan.

Dhawan's name as captain was also doing the rounds but the management was keen on Agarwal as the leader even before the auction.



"Dhawan is a welcome addition to the side and was always on the radar at the auction. He is a champion player but it seems Punjab were keen on Mayank as captain ever since K L Rahul left the team," the source added.

Agarwal and Rahul formed one of the most prolific opening pairs in the IPL over the past couple of years. Rahul will lead Lucknow Super Giants this season.

Agarwal had captained the team briefly last year when Ra-

hul was injured. Agarwal aggregated 400-plus runs in the past two seasons. He had made his IPL debut in 2011 and has so far played 100 games.

The 31-year-old has also played 19 Tests and five ODIs for India.

With a strong squad at their disposal, Punjab Kings are aiming to end their title drought in the IPL. Their only final appearance came way back in 2014. They finished sixth out of eight teams in last three editions.

## ICC Women's World Cup 2022 To Go Ahead With 9 Players A Side In Case Of COVID Outbreak

Press Trust of India

**DUBAI:** With an aim to conduct an uninterrupted tournament, the ICC on Thursday said all matches at the upcoming Women's ODI World Cup in New Zealand could be played with nine players in case of a COVID-19 outbreak. (More Cricket News)

The nine-player-a-side game is already in place in the ICC guidelines related to playing conditions and has been in effect since the U-19 World Cup in the West Indies, where India won the title for a record fifth time.

ICC's head of events Chris Tetley said that the prevalent playing conditions allow teams to field a truncated side if there is a COVID outbreak in their squad, supplemented by substitute fielders from within the management and coaching staff.

"If it becomes necessary we would allow a team to field nine players as an exception for this environment," Tetley was quoted as saying in an ICC release.

"And if they had female substitutes from within their management team, we would allow two substitutes to play - non-batting, non-bowling - to enable



a game to take place."

Keeping the pandemic scenario in mind, all teams have been allowed to take along three extra players as travelling reserves, who can be brought in the 15-member main squad should there be a COVID casualty.

The ICC official also didn't rule out rescheduling of games if needed.

"We'll be asking teams to show maximum flexibility and we'll be as flexible as possible if the need arises to fulfil our objective, which is to get the games on," he said.

The tournament begins on March 4 with the opening match between hosts New Zealand and West Indies in Mount Maunganui.

## Liverpool Rout Leeds 6-0 To Close Gap On Manchester City



Agencies

**LIVERPOOL:** Liverpool hasn't been this close to Manchester City since Christmas Day.

The gap is now down to three points in the Premier League title race - which once looked heavily in favour of City - after Liverpool demolished Leeds 6-0 on Wednesday.

Mohamed Salah, naturally, inflicted most of the damage by scoring two goals from the penalty spot and playing a part in two more. Sadio Mane also scored twice.

Liverpool has finally caught up to City in games - they've both played 26 in the 38-game season - and nearly on points.

With Liverpool still to visit City's Etihad Stadium on April 10, there's little to choose between the top two - the last two winners of English football's biggest prize.

At one stage in the middle of January, City held a 13-point lead, though Liverpool always had games in hand and just needed to keep in sight of the defending champions.

On a run of six straight victories, Jurgen Klopp's team has done just that and looks in prime shape heading into Sunday's League Cup final against Chelsea.

"I think for people outside, it is better to have three or six-point gap than to have a 20 or 30-point gap so it is more exciting," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said of the title race, "but we have to win a lot of the games against all the difficult opponents and that will be a tricky task."

"We will give it a try." Salah's league-high goal total is up to 19 after being gifted two penalty chances by Leeds' frail defense that has now conceded 16 goals in the team's last four games.

Stuart Dallas blocked Andrew Robertson's cross with his head to give away the first spot kick that was dispatched by Salah in the 15th minute.

Salah slipped in Joel Matip, marauding forward from center back, for the second goal in the 30th and then converted a second penalty five minutes later after Luke Ayling tripped Sadio Mane, who was bearing down on goal.

Mane added two late goals while there was also time for Virgil van Dijk to head home a corner in the third minute of stoppage time.

"It can happen, but I didn't expect it," Klopp said of the big win. "It's really difficult to defend man-marking against us for 90 minutes."

## Russia To No Longer Host Champions League Final After Ukraine Invasion

Agencies

**WASHINGTON:** UEFA will be stripped of hosting the Champions League final in St. Petersburg after Russia launched a wide-ranging attack on Ukraine on Thursday, the Associated Press has learned.

An extraordinary meeting of the UEFA executive committee will be held on Friday to discuss the geopolitical crisis and when officials are set to confirm taking the May 28 showpiece game out of Russia, a person with knowledge of the process said on Thursday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private talks.

UEFA did publicly rebuke Russia and said it was dealing with the "situation with the utmost seriousness and urgency" while confirming the meeting for 0900 GMT on Friday.

"UEFA shares the international community's significant concern for the security situation developing in Europe and strongly condemns the ongoing Russian military invasion in Ukraine," the governing body said in a statement.

"We remain resolute in our solidarity with the football community in Ukraine and stand

ready to extend our hand to the Ukrainian people."

As Russia's threats toward Ukraine had grown through the week, the British government and fan groups had already called for the final not to be played in St. Petersburg, where the stadium is sponsored by Russian state-owned energy giant Gazprom.

The company is also the main sponsor of Schalke, but the German second-division club said on Thursday that the Gazprom logo was being removed from its jerseys.

A senior Gazprom executive also quit the supervisory board of the Gelsenkirchen-based club after being a target of U.S. sanctions. Matthias Warnig is CEO of the newly built but never operated Russia-to-Germany Nord Stream 2 pipeline which is a \$10-billion-dollar project of Gazprom and European companies.

Critics said Schalke was used to popularize Gazprom in Germany as it pushed to construct the gas pipelines under the Baltic Sea, which bypassed Ukraine. Gazprom has been a sponsor since 2006 and provided the cash that fueled a run to the Champions League semifinals in 2011.

German newspaper Bild this



week began covering the Gazprom logos on Schalke jerseys with "Freedom for Ukraine" to protest against Russia's deepening military intervention in Ukraine.

UEFA's sponsorship by Gazprom is also under scrutiny with its branding having a significant profile this week at Champions League round of 16 games.

UEFA's leadership had held off

making a call on the Champions League final venue until Russia on Thursday started to target cities and military bases in Ukraine with airstrikes and shelling as tanks and troops rolled across the border.

The International Olympic Committee said it "strongly condemns the breach of the Olympic Truce by the Russian government," days after the end of the

closing of the Beijing Winter Olympics.

The truce is intended to secure safe passage for athletes during the Games and, in the long term, promote the idea of working toward world peace. It runs until the end of the Paralympics, which are due to open in Beijing on March 4.

The International Paralympic Committee condemned Russia

and said it held talks with sports officials in Ukraine, which still plans to compete in Beijing and requires safe passage for its athletes.

"This is a truly horrible situation, and we are greatly concerned about our National Paralympic Committee and Paralympic athletes from Ukraine," IPC President Andrew Parsons said. "Our top priority right now is the safety and well-being of the Ukrainian delegation, with whom we are in regular dialogue."

Russia's name, flag and anthem are already barred from the March 4-13 Paralympics in Beijing over previous doping disputes. Its team is due to compete as RPC, short for Russian Paralympic Committee.

Russia has violated the Olympic Truce three times in 14 years, fighting a war with Georgia over the disputed territory of South Ossetia during the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics and launching a military takeover that annexed the Crimean peninsula of Ukraine after the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics closed.

Focus is turning to Russia hosting other major sports events in the coming months.

In basketball, Barcelona said its team would not fly to Russia

for two games against Russian teams - Zenit St. Petersburg and CSKA Moscow - on Friday and Sunday in the Euroleague.

In rugby, European organizers postponed Georgia's match with Russia on Sunday in Tbilisi in the Rugby Europe Championship. The women's game between Spain and Russia on Saturday in Madrid was still on.

Formula One said it was "closely watching the very fluid developments" but made no further comment on whether its race in Sochi would be canceled in September. Four-time F1 champion Sebastian Vettel said he would not compete at the Russian Grand Prix.

"I will not go," the German driver said. "I think it's wrong to race in the country. I'm sorry for the innocent people that are losing their lives, that are getting killed (for) stupid reasons and a very strange and mad leadership."

In domestic sport in Ukraine, soccer's Ukrainian Premier League suspended operations on Thursday due to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's decision to impose martial law. The league has been on a two-month winter break and was due to resume on Friday. It did not give any planned date to restart.