



P7 STATE

PANEL SHARES REVISED DRAFT REPORT WITH ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

The Delimitation Commission, mandated to redraw assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir, on Friday circulated a revised draft report to its associate members

P5

ON READING ABDULLAH SAEED'S 'THE QUR'AN: AN INTRODUCTION'

Professor Abdullah Saeed, an internationally recognized Muslim thinker and academic, has made a significant contribution to the different aspects of Qur'anic Studies and important issues of modern Islamic thought. Born and brought up



P8 SPORTS

INDIAN CHESS PLAYER ANWESH UPADHYAYA STUCK IN UKRAINE, SAYS SITUATION SCARY

Alone in his apartment and every bit scared, former Indian national rapid chess champion Anwesh Upadhya is one among the several of his compatriots stuck in Ukraine



Widom Quote!

Only the dead have seen the end of war

-Plato

NEWS DIGEST

Interview For Khadim-ul-Hujaj From Feb 27
SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Hajj Committee on Friday notified the interview schedule for Khadim-ul-Hujaj for Haj-2022 to be held at Haj House Bemina, Srinagar. As per an official handout, the interview of all the eligible candidates **More on P6**

Kashmiri Soldier Dies In Leh
SRINAGAR: A soldier from central Kashmir's Budgam district died on Friday, days after he suffered a brain hemorrhage in the Union Territory of Ladakh. The soldier identified as Bashir Ahmad Ganaie of Wahabpora succumbed at the Leh hospital **More on P6**

Man Killed In Hit-And-Run Case
SRINAGAR: A middle-aged man was killed on Friday in an alleged hit-and-run accident in Pattan area of Baramulla district. 55-year-old Farooq Ahmad Lone of Zangam Pattan was mowed down to death by an unknown vehicle, reports said. The driver fled in the car from the **More on P6**

Ladakh Logs 19 New Covid Cases
LEH: Ladakh reported 19 fresh Covid cases, raising the union territory's tally 27,947, officials said on Friday. The active cases have come down to 248 -- 228 in Leh district and 20 in Kargil district -- with 55 more patients recovering from the disease in the past 24 hours, they said. The union territory **More on P6**

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Contact Circulation Incharge: **Irshad Ahmad: 7006276927**

'Left Alone' By West, Ukraine Offers Neutrality; Russia Seeks Surrender

Agencis

MOSCOW: The conflict between Russia and Ukraine continued for the second day, with explosions reported in capital Kiev as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky rued being "left alone" by the West and announced readiness to declare neutrality.

Russian forces pressed deep into Ukraine and were virtually knocking at the gates of the capital city of Kiev.

Ukraine's army said Friday it was fighting invading Russian forces northwest of the capital.

Russians captured Zmiyni Island in the Black Sea, where 82 Ukrainian soldiers surrendered to them, Russia's defense ministry said. Ukrainian authorities said intense fighting was underway in the city of Sumy in the country's northeast.

The Interfax-Ukraine news agency said two explosions were heard in Kiev. Anton Herashchenko, an adviser to the Ukrainian interior ministry, said they emanated from the sounds of air defenses firing at an aircraft that was downed.

Kiev municipal authorities said at least eight people



RUSSIA AT THE GATES
were injured when the aircraft crashed into an apartment block and set it on fire. Ukraine's Foreign Minister

Dmytro Kuleba said Kiev had come under "horrific Russian rocket strikes."

Ukraine's nuclear agency said it was recording increased radiation levels from the site of the defunct Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

Experts at the agency did not provide exact radiation levels but said the change was due to the movement of heavy military equipment in the area lifting radioactive dust into the air.

A spokesman for Russia's defense ministry said Moscow will deploy paratroopers to help guard the nuclear power

plant near Ukraine's capital.

Radiation levels at the plant are normal, the spokesman told a briefing. Russian troops have destroyed 118 Ukrainian military infrastructure sites, he said.

Russia's military said it had "successfully" achieved its goals outlined for the first day of conflict with Ukrainian troops over the Donbas region.

"All of the tasks assigned to the groups of troops of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation for the day were successfully completed," Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said. **More on P6**

2 Militants, Civilian Killed In Shopian: Police



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants and a civilian were killed during an encounter in South Kashmir's Shopian district on Friday, police said.

"Based on specific input about the presence of militants at Shopian's Amshipora village area, a joint cordon and search operation was launched during the night," a police spokesperson said.

During the operation, a cluster of houses were cordoned off and searches were started to locate the hiding militants, the spokesperson said.

While evacuating civilians trapped around the suspected spot, two militants hiding in a nearby house came out and resorted to indiscriminate firing resulting in grievous injuries to Amshipora resident Shakeel Ahmad, who was immediately evacuated for medical assistance.

However, Ahmad succumbed to injuries. The militants' fire was retaliated effectively leading to an encounter, the spokesperson said.

"In the ensuing encounter, both the militants were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site. They have been identified as Muzamil Ahmad Mir, a resident of Chatripora and Shariq Ayoub, a resident of Bonpora, Amshipora Shopian," the official said.

According to police records, both the killed militants were categorised and linked with proscribed militant outfit LeT. They were part of the group involved in several militancy-related cases, the spokesperson added.

Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition, including an AK-56 rifle, two AK magazines, a Chinese pistol, a pistol magazine and **More on P6**

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LG Escapes Unhurt In UP Car Mishap



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday escaped unhurt when his vehicle met with a minor accident in Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, officials said here.

According to officials, Sinha's vehicle hit an iron pillar on the roadside. The left side of the vehicle was damaged and a tyre punctured in the accident near Rajghat bridge in Varanasi.

There were no **More on P6**

77 DySPs Shifted In Major Reshuffle

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In a major reshuffle, the Director General of Jammu and Kashmir, Dilbag Singh on Friday ordered transfer and posting of 77 deputy superintendents of police in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to an order issued on Friday, DGP has asked for immediate relieving of all officers in order to join new places of posting.

"In the interest of administration, transfer and posting of the following Deputy Superintendents of Police from and to the places shown against each is ordered with immediate effect," reads the order.

It reads that they shall be relieved immediately for their new places of posting and compliance report submitted to PHQ.

It further reads that one post of DySP from overall reserves is attached with DPO Srinagar for drawal of salary **More on P6**

Govt's Real Estate Push 50% Remission For Stamp Duty Rates For First Time Buyers

Observer News Service

JAMMU: In a bid to woo investors in the housing sector in Jammu and Kashmir, the administration on Friday announced the remission of 50% stamp duty for two years for all first time buyers of real estate in the housing sector.

The decision in this regard was taken by the Administrative Council (AC), which met under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha here on Friday, an official spokesperson said Friday.

He said that the decision is aimed at giving a boost to the real-estate sector in Jammu and Kashmir and motivating the new buyers to participate in the market. It is also expected to provide momentum to property sale and registration by making the purchase of property attractive and affordable.

"The Administrative Council also asked the Housing and Urban Development Department to work out the modalities for smooth implementation of the decision **More on P6**

Court Sends Ex-NIA SP, Activist Khurram To Jail

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Friday sent NIA's former Superintendent of Police Arvind Digvijay Negi, Kashmiri human rights activist Khurram Parvez and others to judicial custody for a month in a case related to the militant funding in the valley.

Special Judge Parveen Singh sent the accused persons to jail till March 24 after they were produced before the court on expiry of their custodial interrogation by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

The agency had arrested Negi, a former SP of the NIA, for allegedly leaking secret documents to an overground worker of the banned militant group, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

The case was filed under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), including those related to militancy and militant funding.

The NIA had alleged that the accused had been running a network **More on P6**

J&K Reports 95 Fresh Corona Cases

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Friday 95 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus while no fatality was witnessed in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

Officials said that Kashmir Valley reported 30 new cases of Coronavirus while the remaining 65 were detected from various districts of Jammu division, taking the number of people infected since the onset of pandemic in J&K to 452817.

Giving district wise details, the officials said, Srinagar reported 18 cases, Baramulla, Budgam and Kupwara 3 each and one new case each in Anantnag, Bandipora and Kulgam. The three districts of Shopian, Pulwama and Ganderbal.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu registered a maximum of 27 fresh cases of virus, Doda 20, Kathua, Samba and Ramban 5 each, Rajouri 2 and **More on P6**

Wide Smiles, Lush Green Fields At LoC As Ceasefire Completes A Year

Press Trust Of India

URI : Children play without fear and farmers tend their fields here without any threat of shells as they mark a year of peace and calm after the Indian and Pakistan armies reiterated the ceasefire on this day a year ago.

The surprise reiteration of the ceasefire agreement by the two neighbours from the midnight of February 24 last year came as a huge relief to the people of Uri near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir, who otherwise lived in constant fear and bore the maximum brunt of the animosity between the two countries.

While the security establishment, too, has heaved a sigh of relief and expressed happiness over the ceasefire holding up, it is actually the people the residents near the line of the divide -- who appreciate and realise the true meaning of the guns falling silent.

We know what the ceasefire actually means to us. We lived under constant fear for many years, but for the past year, we lived peacefully in our villages along with our children, Qazi Sheikh, a local, said.

He said the ceasefire has provided an opportunity to the villagers to carry out their activities without any fear of explosions rocking their neighbourhood.

Explosions and shelling used to be the order of the day, and we lived under a constant fear day and night. Now, we roam freely, and go on with our life happily, Sheikh said.

He was of the opinion that the ceasefire be made a permanent feature and both the countries must talk peace.

We hope the ceasefire continues. We want both the countries to maintain peace. We have suffered for long and we want to live our life normally and peacefully, he said.

Romana Irshad, a Class II student and a resident of Garkote in Uri, said, We can now play in open fields because of the ceasefire. Otherwise, due to fear, we used to play in our rooms. We study with a free mind without the sound of **More on P6**

Missing Kishtwar Residents Return Home

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Six persons from remote Warwan area of Kishtwar district, who were "missing" after starting journey on foot via snow-bound Margan Top in Anantnag on Tuesday, "safely" reached their residence on Friday.

As per the sources, soon after reaching the home, these persons said that they spent two nights at a shelter at Margan Top and one night at Naribalan.

"They left home this morning and reached back safely," they said, as per news agency GNS.

Deputy Commissioner Anantnag also confirmed now that the persons have reached home safely.

"The six persons who had gone missing while travelling from Kokernag to Warwan via Margan Top have reached home safely," he said, adding, "Major rescue effort had been jointly launched by District Administration Anantnag, Army and District Police with teams from SDRF and Mountain rescue deployed."

On Thursday authorities had launched a "rescue mission" to search them at Margan Top in Anantnag. One team, **More on P6**





Air Pollution May Increase Risk Of ADHD In Children: Study

Press Trust Of India

Children living in areas with higher levels of small pollution particles and less green spaces might have up to 62 per cent increased risk of developing ADHD, according to a study.

The research, published in the journal Environment International, found that children living in greener and less polluted areas have a 50 per cent lower risk of developing ADHD, one of the most prevalent neurodevelopmental disorders.

The researchers led by Matilda van den Bosch, from Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal), used data from 37,000 children in Vancouver, Canada.

They analysed the possible associations between exposure to greenness, small pollution particles (PM2.5) and noise in early life with later incidence of ADHD, which affects up to approximately 5-10 per cent children and adolescents.

"We observed that children living in greener neighbourhoods with low air pollution had a substantially decreased risk of ADHD," said van den Bosch.

"This is an environmental inequality where, in turn, those children living in areas with higher pollution and less greenness face a disproportionately greater risk," she said.

The study used administrative data of births from 2000 to 2001



and retrieved data on ADHD cases from hospital records, physician visits and prescriptions. The percentage of green space in the participants' neighbourhood was estimated with a novel and precise satellite metric, while the residential levels of two air pollutants—NO2 and PM2.5 -- as well as noise levels were estimated using available exposure models.

This is an environmental inequality where, in turn, those children living in areas with higher pollution and less greenness face a disproportionately greater risk

The possible associations between the three environmental exposures and ADHD were assessed using a statistical model that allowed to determine hazard ratios. The researchers were able to identify 1,217 cases of ADHD, equivalent to a 4.2 per cent of the total study population. The green space analysis revealed that participants living in areas

with a greater percentage of vegetation had a lower risk of ADHD, the researchers said.

The results show that a 12 per cent increase in vegetation percentage was associated with a 10 per cent reduction in the risk of ADHD, they said.

The study found that participants with a higher exposure to fine particles had higher risk of ADHD.

No associations were found for the rest of environmental exposures assessed: NO2 and noise, they said. The results are consistent with previous studies, which found associations between green space and air pollution, respectively, with ADHD.

However, most of the research conducted until now focused on the evaluation of single exposures and rarely evaluated joint effects of multiple environmental exposures.

"These associations are particularly relevant because exposures take place in early life, a crucial period for brain development where children are especially vulnerable," van den Bosch said.

"Our findings also show that the associations between PM2.5 and ADHD were attenuated by residential green space and vice versa, as if the beneficial effects of vegetation and the harmful effects of PM2.5 neutralised each other," said Weiran Yuchi, from the University of British Columbia, and first author of the study.

LinkedIn May Debut Its Own Podcast Network

IAN S

Microsoft-owned LinkedIn is reportedly debuting a podcast network that features in-house shows from the LinkedIn News team as well as programmes from leading industry figures. The shows are geared toward a professional audience.



LinkedIn Podcast Network is a pilot and builds on the success of Hello Monday, a podcast produced by LinkedIn News in which host Jessi Hempel delves into the evolving nature of work

They focus on areas including understanding technology, managing mental health and explaining the hiring process, reports Engadget.

Reid Hoffman, the co-founder and executive chairman of LinkedIn, will co-host a podcast about personal entrepreneurship called 'The Start-Up of You' that will premiere this spring.

The company said the LinkedIn Podcast Network is a pilot and builds on the success of Hello Monday, a podcast produced by LinkedIn News in which host Jessi Hempel delves into the evolving nature of work, the report said.

The podcast network ties into LinkedIn's other products -- such as newsletters, live events, videos and posts -- with the idea that hosts and audiences will be able to keep conversations going outside of the shows, it added.

Listeners will be able to check out the podcasts on LinkedIn directly if they follow the hosts and subscribe to their newsletters. The shows will also be available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and other podcast platforms.

Researchers Created Largest Human Family Tree Dating Back 100,000 Years

Press Trust Of India

Researchers have created the largest human family tree ever, dating back to 100,000 years, which can predict common ancestors, including approximately when and where they lived.

The study, published on Thursday in the journal Science, could have widespread applications in medical research, for instance identifying genetic predictors of disease risk. Until now, the main challenges in developing such a family tree were working out a way to combine genome sequences from many different databases and developing algorithms to handle data of this size. However, a new method developed by researchers at the University of Oxford in the UK can easily combine data from multiple sources and scale to accommodate millions of genome sequences.

The method predicts common ancestors, including approximately when and where they lived, they said. "We have basically built a huge family tree, a genealogy for all of humanity that models as exactly as we can the history that generated all the genetic variation we find in humans today," said Yan Wong, an evolutionary geneticist at Oxford's Big Data Institute. "This genealogy allows us to see how every person's genetic sequence relates to every other, along all the points of the genome," Wong, one of the principal authors of the study, explained.

Since individual genomic regions are only inherited from one parent, either the mother or the father, the ancestry of each point on the genome can be thought of as a tree, the researchers said. The set of trees, known as a "tree sequence" or "ancestral recombination graph", links genetic regions back through time to ancestors where the genetic variation first appeared, they said.

"Essentially, we are reconstructing the genomes of our ancestors and using them to form a vast network of relationships. We can then estimate when

and where these ancestors lived," said study lead author Anthony Wilder Wohns, who undertook the research as part of his PhD at the Big Data Institute.

"The power of our approach is that it makes very few assumptions about the underlying data and can also include both modern and ancient DNA samples," said Wohns, who is now a post-doctoral researcher at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, US.

The study integrated data on modern and ancient human genomes from eight different databases and included a total of 3,609 individual genome sequences from 215 populations. The ancient genomes included samples found across the world with ages ranging from 1,000s to over 100,000 years.

The algorithms predicted where common ancestors must be present in the evolutionary trees to explain the patterns of genetic variation, the researchers said.

The resulting network contained almost 27 million ancestors, they said. After adding location data on these sample genomes, the researchers used the network to estimate where the predicted common ancestors had lived.

The results successfully recaptured key events in human evolutionary history, including the migration out of Africa, they said. Although the genealogical map is already an extremely rich resource, the team plans to make it even more comprehensive by continuing to incorporate genetic data as it becomes available.

Because tree sequences store data in a highly efficient way, the dataset could easily accommodate millions of additional genomes.

"This study is laying the groundwork for the next generation of DNA sequencing," Wong said. "As the quality of genome sequences from modern and ancient DNA samples improves, we will eventually be able to generate a single, unified map that explains the descent of all the human genetic variation we see today," the scientist added.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
R&B DIVISION KHANABAL KMR.**

Mr. Umer Rashid Mir S/O Rashid Mir R/o Katriteng Bijbehara Phone No. 9797064416

No: _____
Dt: _____

FINAL NOTICE

Subject :- Beautification of Zirpora Bridge by way of installation of PVC Flowers, Baskets and Painting MC Bijbehara (Under Devolution Grants)

Whereas the above mentioned work was put to tenders vide this office E-Tendering NIT Sl. No: 274/2021-22/19683-93 Dt: 15-01-2022.

Whereas the rates quoted by you, your tender works out as First Lowest and you have to deposit performance security equal to 3% of contract value amounting to Rs. 10710/- (Rupees Ten thousand Seven Hundred & Ten only) as per-requisite for issuance of formal allotment of contract.

Whereas Letter of Intent was issued in your favour vide this office No: 21097-98 Dated: 05-02-2022.

Whereas as per the terms and conditions of contract, you were bound to start the work within 03 days, but despite lapse more than 19 days you have not started the work nor showed any interaction to do so.

Whereas your inaction on this part has put the undersigned to embarrassing situation before the intending department as well as higher authorities;

Now therefore, you are hereby provided final opportunity to deposit performance security, within 03 days positively, after Publication of notice for issuance of formal allotment of contract, failing which your contract shall be terminated, and the work shall be put to fresh tenders at your risk and cost without further notice which may be noted and action warranted under rules shall be taken against you.

Moreover you shall be debarred from entering into any tendering process.

"Treat this notice as final".

**Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Khanabal.**

DIPK-18669/21

File No.DSHK-Plan/29/2021-05-DIRECTORATE SHEEP HUSBANDRY DEPARTMENT KASHMIR
Government of Jammu and Kashmir

**Office of the Chairman State Level Purchase Committee
Sheep Husbandry Department J&K Kashmir**

Directorate of Sheep Husbandry Department Kashmir
Lal-Mandi, Srinagar 190008
Tel. No: 09194-2310604, Fax No: 0194-2311063 | Email id: kashmirmerino.sheep@gmail.com

E-Nit No:DSHK/Supply/ 15818-839 Dated:-21.02.2022

Subject: E-Procurement Notice for the supply of Clostridium Perfringens Vaccine, Inactivated I.P. (Type B, C & D, Enterotoxaemia vaccine). For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Union Territory of India, e-Tenders in two bid system (Technical-I and Financial bid-2) through Chairman State Level Purchase committee, Sheep Husbandry Department, J&K, Kashmir (Directorate of Sheep Husbandry Department, Kashmir) are invited from Original manufacturers/companies of repute and firms in line possessing valid authorization of principals, for fixing the rate contract for supply of Clostridium Perfringens Vaccine, Inactivated I.P. (Type B, C & D, Enterotoxaemia vaccine).

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility, criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), set of terms and conditions of supply/contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the e-procurement website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	21-02-2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	22-02-2022 to 12-03-2022
3	Bid submission start date	22-02-2022
4	Bid submission end date	12-03-2022
5	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	14-03-2022

Instructions for bidders regarding e-tendering process:-

- Bidders are advised to download bids submission manual from the "Downloads option as well as from Bidders Manual kit" on the website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint themselves with bid submission process.
- To participate in bidding process bidder has to get a Digital Signature Certificate (DSC), as per Information Technology ACT-2000. Bidders can get Digital Certificate from an approved vendor.
- The bidder has to submit their bids online in electronic format with the Digital Signature. No bidding will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per the schedule mentioned at Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.
- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reason.

(Note: Scan all the documents on 100dpi with Black and White option.)

DIPK-18647/21

Sd/
Chairman
State Level Purchase Committee
Sheep Husbandry Department

DSHK/Supply/15818-839 Dated:-21.02.2022

انجمنیات دیپارٹمنٹ با اہل اس نایب تحصیلدار دیپارٹمنٹ
مضمون درخواست نمائندگی: محمد ایوب ماگرے ولد غلام محمد ماگرے ساکر اہل تحصیل و ضلع بہت ناگ
بہتر حصول RBA برقیٹ

اصطلاح براد آگاہی بہتر حاصل عام۔

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03	محمد ایوب ماگرے ولد غلام محمد ماگرے	47 سال	پرائیویٹ ملازم	7000/=
04	شوکی رشید جید محمد ایوب ماگرے	37 سال	گھریٹ ملازم	
05	محمد حاشم پسر محمد ایوب ماگرے	05 سال	پیشہ خوار	

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تجزیر الصدو نائب تحصیلدار۔
rna

Public Notice

I have lost RC bearing Regd No: JK02BA-1666 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 JAMMU within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

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LCMA Conducts Demolition Drive In Various City Areas

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Enforcement Wing of J&K Lake Conservation & Management Authority today launched a demolition drive in the area of Brein-Nishat, ManzgamPahloo and Karporalaaam. During the drive, one 2nd storey house, roofing, block for plinth, one room/shed and block for garage were demolished. The demolition squad was accompanied by a police contingent from PCR Srinagar and territorial police.

The general public living in LCMA jurisdiction has been informed that strict action shall be taken against those found indulging in any sort of illegal constructions/encroachments.

It was also impressed that no construction activity within 200 meters from the lake and the other restrictions imposed under Master Plan should come up and the violators shall be dealt with strictly under the law.

SNTPL Pvt Fails To Restore Internet Services Post Snowfall

Agencies

Srinagar: SNTPL, private internet service provider has left hundreds of subscribers disappointed across Srinagar as the company hasn't been able to restore the internet services even after three days of snowfall.

A group of customers of SNTPL said that lines are lying on the roads, some are hanging on poles. They said despite repeated complaints made to the private internet service provider, the internet service remains snapped.

Adil Hussain, an SNTPL customer since past two years, said that there is no doubt about the fact that the snowfall created havoc on February 23 across Kashmir including Srinagar but it's been three no team from SNTPL visited his area.

"My work has suffered badly due to the non-availability of the internet. I have always been a loyal customer of SNTPL but they have let me down," said Adil, a resident of Zaffran Colony, Pantha Chowk, Srinagar.

Many other customers of SNTPL expressed similar concerns and urged the SNTPL authorities to get the lines repaired at the earliest.

Meanwhile, Customer Care Executive of SNTPL said that all teams are working hard in the field since past three days and by Sunday full restoration is expected.

"We are trying our level best to restore connectivity", the customer care of the company said.(KNO)

Cultural Unit DIPR Organizes Natia Mehfil

Observer News Service

Srinagar: On Friday, the Cultural Unit Srinagar of Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) organized a NatiaMehfil at Cultural Unit Hall of Joint Director Information Kashmir, here.

On the occasion, the artists of the Cultural Unit recited Nasheds which were appreciated by the audience. Mushtaq Ahmad Saznawaz recited Naat in his unique mystical style while Cultural Unit, Music Composer Ghulam Muhammad Bhat and senior artist Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Khanday performed Naat in their folk style.

Officers and employees of the Joint Directorate of Information, Kashmir Division were present on the occasion.

NC Seeks Amenities For KP Community On Herath

Agencies

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference General Secretary Ali Mohammad Sagar on Friday said the Herath Festival as a hallmark of syncretic culture of Kashmir and impressed upon the administration to ensure all basic and effective amenities to the Kashmiri Pandit (KP) community on the festive occasion.

Heerath, Sagar said, is a part and parcel of Kashmir's pluralistic culture. He said the day has been celebrated since time immemorial with utmost fervor and devotion.

"Regardless of the conflictual situation in the region, the Herath festival has been celebrated with the spirit of traditional brotherhood" he said.

Being the most important festival of our Kashmiri Pandit brethren, Sagar said it was imperative on the Government to ensure that the community is able to celebrate it in a hassle free manner. The divisional administration of Jammu and Kashmir divisions should establish fair price shops for the purchase of fish and walnuts across J&K," he said. The administration should also ensure adequate supply of water and electricity at all major temples across J&K so that the visiting devotees don't face any problems.



DC Srinagar Visits Hazratbal Shrine To Oversee Arrangements for Me'raj-e-Aalam

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In connection with the forthcoming observance of Meraj-un-Nabi (SAW), the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad AijazAsad, Friday visited DargahHazratbal to review the arrangements being made at the Shrine.

Besides, CEO, Wakaf Board, Mufti Fareed ud Din and Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Syed HaneefBalkhi other officers including Chief Planning Officer, CMO, Srinagar TehsilSars North, senior officers of PHE, R&B, PDD, SMC and other line departments accompanied the DC during the visit.

On the occasion, the DC directed the officers of all line Departments to put in place special arrangements for smooth observance of the pious day of Meraj-un-Nabi (SAW) at the Shrine for the Devotees.

The DC asked the PHE authorities to ensure adequate water supply at the Shrine so that visitors do not face any inconvenience. He instructed them to keep a sufficient number of water tankers at the premises to cater to the demand.

Similarly, the PDD Officers were asked to ensure uninterrupted power supply at the Shrine during the

DC Inspects Arrangements For MahaShivratri Festival

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad AijazAsad today visited Shankaracharya Temple to review the arrangements being made for the forthcoming festival of MahaShivratri-celebrated annually by the followers of Lord Shiva.

The festival is scheduled to be celebrated on March 01 with great religious and cultural significance and is celebrated by the Kashmiri Pandit community with great zeal and enthusiasm.

While taking review on the spot, the DC directed concerned departments to ensure all basic arrangements are put in place for the devotees expected to visit the historical Shankaracharyaji Temple on the top of Zabarwan hills.

The DC instructed for ensuring hassle-free traffic movement for the devotees from Lal Chowk, Karan Nagar, Jawahar Nagar, Indira Nagar and other areas

auspicious days of night prayers as well as on the day of display of Holy Relic and keep proper power

for the convenience of the Yatries, besides adequate facilities at the designated place for parking of the vehicles.

He also directed for ensuring uninterrupted supply of electricity and drinking water at the venue so that devotees do not face any problem during their visit to pay obeisance at the Temple.

The DC also directed the Chief Medical Officer, Srinagar to deploy a Medical team at the venue with the availability of all emergency medicines and first aid facilities. He also asked for the stationing of an ambulance with an oxygen support system to handle any medical emergency.

The DC directed the officers of all line departments to ensure all necessary arrangements required for smooth stay and enriching pilgrimage for all visitors on this pious occasion. He also stressed on maintaining proper sanitation at the Temple premises and at the entire pilgrimage route.

backup to tackle any power breakdown. With regard to clearance of snow, the DC asked

the concerned to ensure snow accumulated in premises and approach road of the Shrine is cleared well before the observance of Meraj-un-Nabi (SAW).

The DC also directed the SMC officials to deploy sufficient men and machinery at the venue to ensure proper cleanliness in and around the Shrine.

The DC also directed for setting up of Medical camp with adequate number of Doctors and paramedics, besides an ambulance service and other first aid facilities in the premises of Hazratbal Shrine.

Earlier, the DC was apprised by the CEO, Wakf Board about the arrangements being made by the Wakf Board for smooth observance of the holy religious occasion during which thousands of people are expected to visit to take a glimpse of the holy Relic and offer special prayers.

The members of the management of the Shrine also urged the Deputy Commissioner for augmentation of other facilities at the Shrine.

The DC issued on the spot directions to the concerned for taking immediate augmentation measures for the same.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner offered special prayers at the Shrine and prayed for prosperity and holistic wellbeing of the people.

30th Friday Prayers Disallowed At Jama Masjid Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar, Feb 25: People were not allowed to offer Friday prayers for 30th consecutive week since August 6, 2021 at Jama Masjid Srinagar.

The AnjumanAuqaf-Jamia Masjid voiced their concern and dismay over the continuous closure of Srinagar's Grand Mosque. In a statement the Anjuman said the last ten

days of the holy month of Mehraj-ul-Alam, the Ascension of the Prophet (SAW) are going on, the authorities are not allowing the Muslims of Kashmir to perform important duties like Friday prayers at the largest place of worship in Jammu & Kashmir - the historic central Jama Masjid Srinagar.

The AnjumanAuqaf Jama Masjid Srinagar in a statement termed this behavior of the authorities

as extremely regrettable and reprehensible. The statement further said that such acts constantly hurt the religious sentiments of Muslims and this attitude amounts to sheer interference in the religious affairs.

The AnjumanAuqaf has appealed to the influential religious organisations, Ulemas, Mashaihs and Imams to raise their voice against the biased attitude of her authorities towards Jama Masjid.

It termed the continuous closure of the central Jama Masjid and keeping the Anjuman head Mirwaiz Umar Farooq under house arrest for more than two and a half years as illegal. It also expressed hope that the Mirwaiz would be released on the occasion of Mehraj-ul-Alam so that he can directly convey the universal message of the philosophy of Me'raj-un-Nabi (SAW) through his sermon to the people of Kashmir.

Subject: - Grant of Registration of the Proposed Adventure Tour Operator unit under the name & style "M/s Hike The Trails Adventure Pvt. Ltd." Situated at Bolvard ghat 6 , Dalgate Srinagar

Public Notice

Whereas, Mr. Danish Showkat Dhar, Amir Lateef dar, Waseem Hassan Rather, Directors of Hike The Trails, intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for Registration of our proposed Adventure Tour Operator Unit under the name and style "M/s Hike The Trails Adventure Pvt. Ltd." Situated at Bolvard ghat 6 , Dalgate Srinagar, Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

Whereas, we will submit all the prior documents to the Department of Tourism as per prescribed Checklist prior to Registration of our unit as an Adventure Tour Operator.

Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before our case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/Financial Institutions/Bank/Organization, etc for objection, if any and the same should reach to the Deputy Director Tourism Registration, IRC Srinagar, Kashmir (e-mail Id:- ddtreg123@gmail.com) within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper/newspapers of the valley. No objections beyond a period of 7 days shall be entertained and the case shall be processed under rules.

Contact 7006061001

dca

DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEKH UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- 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)



HIJRI CALENDAR
24 - Rajab
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 41
ZUHR	12:44
ASR	4:44
Magrib	6:27
ISHA	7: 47

This Day In History

- 1921 - The USSR signs treaties respecting the integrity of Persia and of Afghanistan
- 1923 - Italian nationalist & fascists merge (blue-shirts & black-shirts)
- 1925 - Jihad against Turkish government
- 1938 - 1st passenger ship equipped with radar
- 1952 - Netherlands-Indonesian Unity conference
- 1955 - 1st aviator to bail out at supersonic speed-GF Smith
- 1977 - 1st flight of Space Shuttle (atop a Boeing 747)
- 1980 - Egypt & Israel exchange ambassadors for 1st time
- 1987 - NASA launches GEOS-H
- 1987 - Tower Commission probes Iran-Contra affair
- 1987 - USSR resumes nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalatinsk USSR
- 1990 - USSR agrees to withdraw all 73,500 troops from Czech by July, 1991
- 1991 - Kuwaiti resistance leaders declare they have control of their capital
- 1993 - "World Trade Center bombing of 1993": truck bomb explodes in parking garage of NYC World Trade Center at 12:18pm, killing 6 and injuring over 1,000 in what was the deadliest act of terrorism perpetrated on US soil at the time
- 2001 - The Taliban destroy two giant Buddha statues in Bamiyan, Afghanistan.
- 2004 - The United States lifts a ban on travel to Libya, ending travel restrictions to the nation that had lasted for 23 years.
- 2005 - Hosni Mubarak, President of Egypt, orders the constitution changed to allow multi-candidate presidential elections, asking Egyptian parliament to amend Article 76
- 2013 - A rocket launched from the Gaza strip into Israel ends the ceasefire since November 2012
- 2013 - A hot air balloon crashes in Luxor, Egypt, killing 19 tourists
- 2016 - Iranian elections: reformers and moderates win control of parliament

From KO Archives

Valley's Token Power Supply Dips To 1 1/2 Hr A Day

Tower Restoration Yet To Pick Up

Observer News Service

Srinagar - Despite official claims to the contrary, there was no perceptible improvement in valley's power supply. Even after making, three units of the Pampore gas turbine operational since yesterday, the net availability of electricity to the consumers averaged a little over one and a half hour in 21 hours. Something unprecedented, indeed.

Official sources told Kashmir Observer the valley had been divided into 18 groups to whom electricity was being provided for one hour in every 18 hours by rotation. Following the availability of another 60 mw of power from the three units of gas turbine, a 'generous' relief of two hours in given five days. This works out to a total of 8.30 hours power supply in 120 hours.

With the power minister, S S Slathia's claim of "suspected militants" having blasted three transmission towers in Banihal area emphatically blasted even by official circles, people have blamed the government of engineering the total breakdown to deprive the valley of even the bare minimum of power during winter months to the advantage of warmer Jammu.

According to reports, even the divisional commissioner, Khurshid Ahmad Ganai, did not rule out the involvement of some contractors and power development department (PDD) officials in the blasting of the transmission towers. Nothing could be more damning for the power minister who has allegedly been employing circumlocution and subterfuge to the hilt to escape the blame for the valley's worst ever power crisis.

Meanwhile, according to CNS, the work on restoration of the transmission towers at Sher Bibi and Bonakot had not picked up yet. A group of officials from the power grid corporation of India (PGCI) and the power development department (PDD) besides some labourers are reported to be camping at the two sites without taking up any actual work. The official claims of the work going on 'war footing' have proved to be a hoax, the report said.

Rajinder Singh reports from Jammu: Even the government promised improvement by Saturday with the temporary restoration of 220-KV tower, the power minister, S S Slathia told Kashmir Observer the valley would have to face power crisis for another week. He said restoration work was going on 'war footing' but it would take about two months. However, temporary restoration will be completed by February 27. He said 370 mw of power not being supplied to the valley at present was being saved with effect from February 17.

(Kashmir Observer, 26 February, 2001)

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Twitter Talks



"Just occurred to me after writing the post below (which Twitter promptly swarmed) that if Zelensky musters courage to take Putin's offer & declare Ukraine a neutral country, what happens to Biden, Blinken, Burns, Sullivan, et al? All the perfumes of Arabia won't remove the stink?"
@bhadrapunchline

"No one beats d US in perception management. In #UkraineRussiaConflict, popular view seems to be #Putin badman coveting Ukrainian territory. No recall of 20 years of Russian-NATO discourse, US role in undermining European trade relations with Russia, propping up of Zelensky"
@ghazalawahab

"Location matters in geopolitical calculations. If you are in DC or a European city, it be easier for you to ask India to take a stand against Russia. But if you are in New Delhi, you will know that doing so has geopolitical implications"
@happymanjacob

ADVENTURES IN ARCHIVES

EU's Praise And Practice

Effusive praise for the chief minister, Omar Abdullah, from European Union delegates visiting the state presently may have been well deserved, but Jammu and Kashmir is loaded with troubles far outweighing the comfort of having a personable, savvy and articulate chief executive. The EU's ritual sorties into Kashmir, mainly aimed at updating itself on the latest lie of the land and taking the political pulse of the region, are more an intelligence gathering exercise disguised as a diplomatic mission rather than a concrete effort to untangle the badly snarled strands of sub-continental discourse. The concern, legitimate from their own point of view, is not to be caught on the wrong foot when framing the next statement on the subject. True to their calling, the visiting diplomats are at pains to offend no side - therefore the mandatory interaction with the pro-freedom camp. Curiously though, the delegations, originating from an ongoing and profitable experiment in dismantling barriers between peoples and nations, seem wary of sharing the virtues of this enterprise with their interlocutors here. But that is another subject. Of immediate concern here are the more material expectations the European Union raises in Kashmir given its level of development, expertise and economic prowess. Some of them were voiced by the chief minister when he called for institutional European help in tackling unemployment, mainly by way of capacity building and developing small and medium entrepreneurship, which according to Mr. Abdullah, has the potential of generating over 4 lakh jobs if expanded by 25 per cent.

IT IS ALL very well to laud a Kashmiri leader as a role model for young politicians countrywide, but even Mr.

Though this can take time to fructify should the EU feel so generously inclined, the issue on which it could take prompt action, as again pointed out by the chief minister, is to ask member nations to withdraw the adverse travel advisories with respect to Kashmir which have hampered the tourist potential in the state to a great extent. It is all very well to laud a Kashmiri leader as a role model for young politicians countrywide, but even Mr. Abdullah would be far more pleased if his admirers contributed more tangibly in making his tenure memorable for reviving pre-militancy tourist inflows to the valley. The new tourist season is round the corner, and the European Union could be of immense help in taking a realistic view on these advisories soon, which could encourage other nations to follow suit. With a keen eye on Kashmir, the EU could not have failed to notice the nuanced positive trends in the situation here, and it is time it responded in kind by taking Kashmir off its list of forbidden regions. The European Union would like itself to be seen as a stabilizing influence for the trouble spots of world, and Kashmir is perhaps the most amenable and receptive to its alleviating ministrations. The shadowy interlinking of long-standing conflicts leave no part of the world immune to their harmful fallout, direct or indirect, and as such, the EU has a security stake in calming the strategically important Himalayan territory down. True, New Delhi brooks no interference in what it calls its internal affairs, but the international community has played a definite role in the recent past in nudging it to engage with its neighbour in a productive peace process. Hopefully, the EU will sustain that role. Since it is not burdened with the abrasive, high-handed and overweening image of the US, the European Union is viewed with far less suspicion on the streets of Kashmir. Its cautiously worded pronouncements do not ruffle feathers in New Delhi, and therefore its interest in Kashmir is less likely to evoke resentment from any quarter. Backed by skillful diplomacy, it could well act as an engine for change in Kashmir in spheres as varied as industry and environment, having an enviable record on both.

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Greater Jammu Or Greater Kashmir?

Linking Anantnag With Rajouri And Poonch Makes A Curious Sense: It Expands Kashmir Into Rajouri And Poonch Creating A Seamless Muslim Belt. And Conversely, It Extends Jammu Into Kashmir



RIYAZ WANI

In October last year, when former senior National Conference leader Devendra Singh Rana suddenly joined the BJP, he made a cryptic remark about the Dickson Plan.

"I pitched for the Jammu Declaration, which will be a voice of Jammu by Jammu for inclusive Jammu and Kashmir. It will defeat the votaries of the Dixon Plan who want to divide the Jammu region on the basis of religion," Rana said, citing this as a rationale for his decision to switch political parties

The Dickson Plan rings familiar to Kashmiris and anyone interested in Kashmir. The plan proposed by Sir Owen Dixon, a United Nations' representative, in 1953 recommended a solution to Kashmir along religious lines. It proposed assigning Ladakh to India, the northern areas and the Pakistan-Administered Kashmir (PaK) to Pakistan, splitting the Jammu division between the two countries, and recommended a plebiscite in the Kashmir Valley.

The plan, although seen as pragmatic, turned out to be stillborn. It was discussed between India and Pakistan but never made any headway. In recent decades, the plan with some variation was resurrected by the US-based Kashmir Study Group headed by Farooq Kathwari but other than generating some media interest in India and Pakistan, it didn't attract any notice from New Delhi. The KSG plan became known as 'Chenab Formula' according to which Muslim majority areas on the right of the Chenab River would go to Pakistan and the rest to India.

But since the revocation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, not only have these formulae fallen into oblivion but New Delhi has taken Kashmir off the table with Pakistan.

That is until Rana plucked the Dixon Plan almost out of thin air. And before we could ignore it as part of a politician's perpetual need to seek attention or create a rationale for the new turn in his politics, Delimitation Commission by arbitrarily linking Kashmir's Anantnag with Poonch and Rajouri - two Muslim majority districts in Jammu - has hurled Rana's stray Dixon Plan remark back into popular discourse.

What is the point of clubbing the areas as far apart as Anantnag in the Kashmir division and

Rajouri and Poonch in the Jammu division? Apparently nothing. It has a definite electoral rationale though. But does it have anything to

SO, DO WE have now Greater Jammu or Greater Kashmir? It plays both ways. A common parliamentary seat spanning Anantnag, and areas of Rajouri and Poonch would also psychologically link the Muslims in these places, no matter the distance. Would the BJP want that? That looks unlikely

do with some kind of a political settlement of Kashmir along religious lines as indicated by Rana? One has to be first raving mad to believe in this idea.

Would the BJP, which no longer acknowledges its part of Kashmir as a conflict, discreetly and unilaterally seek to divide J&K along religious lines with a nod to some settlement formula for Kashmir? Nothing can be farther from reality.

But there is a plan though. And this is about implementing the BJP's own idea of resolving Kashmir. On July 20, 2019, just a fortnight before the withdrawal of Article 370, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on his visit to Kargil War Memorial in Drass sector had declared the resolution of Kashmir issue was on the cards and that "no power on the earth can stop it". At the time, Singh shared no details about this solution. But the situation since has made it amply clear what he meant. The BJP is out to execute its own version of Kashmir solution in the teeth of Pakistan and the separatist struggle in Kashmir. And if its actions over the last two and a half years are anything to go by, it seems to have already covered a lot of ground - facing little resistance that the party had otherwise envisaged.

That said, joining Anantnag with Rajouri and Poonch makes a curious sense. As the former J&K minister Haseeb Drabu cryptically indicated in a tweet, it can be interpreted in two ways - it expands Kashmir into Rajouri and Poonch creating a seamless Muslim belt. Or conversely, it extends Jammu into Kashmir, by making a significant area of South Kashmir a part of it.

Now that you have merged Poonch and Rajouri with Anantnag, will the Assembly seats of these districts come to Kashmir Valley, in which case we have 56 seats then? Or alternatively, are you saying that Anantnag is part of Jammu, in which case, they get 57 seats and we get 35?" tweeted Haseeb Drabu, an economist and J&K's former Finance Minister.

So, do we have now Greater Jammu or Greater Kashmir? It plays both ways. A common parliamentary seat spanning Anantnag, and areas of Rajouri and Poonch would also psychologically link the Muslims in these places, no matter the distance. Would the BJP want that? That looks unlikely. Then what is the purpose behind the apparently inexplicable move? Certainly not to bring the Muslim areas of Jammu and Kashmir together.

Perhaps a possible explanation of why the BJP is doing it can be found in an old article written by the BJP's former J&K pointsperson Ram Madhav for a national newspaper titled 'Abrogation of Article 370 was the end of 'Kashmiri exceptionalism.'

"A new generation of leaders not seeped in the glib mindset of exceptionalism is championing these demands," Madhav wrote in The Indian Express. "Addressing them through early elections to the legislature and restoration of statehood at the appropriate time will strengthen this leadership."

So, is linking Anantnag with Rajouri and Poonch area, redrawing the constituencies, and even changing their names as a part of diluting the alleged 'Kashmiri exceptionalism.' It could also very well be so.

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

The author is the Political Editor of Kashmir Observer

Ukraine's Hybrid War Is Mutating

M. K. BHADRAKUMAR

Ukraine president Zelensky gave a video address after midnight on February 25, 2022 disclosing a Russian offer of talks

The first signs of the dual track in Russia's hybrid war in Ukraine have surfaced. By Thursday evening, the Kremlin held out an olive branch to the Ukraine president Volodymyr Zelensky.

Succinctly put, President Vladimir Putin expressed his preparedness to engage in discussions with his Ukrainian counterpart with a focus on obtaining a guarantee of neutral status for Ukraine and the promise of no offensive weapons on its territory.

The Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said without elaborating, "The president formulated his vision of what we would expect from Ukraine in order for the so-called 'red-line' problems to be resolved. This is neutral status, and this is a refusal to deploy weapons."

Putin had made it clear in a nation-wide address Thursday morning announcing the launch of the military operation that the Russian objective narrowed down to "demilitarisation" and "denazification" of Ukraine. The latter refers to the ascendant neo-Nazi groups in Ukraine who have been acting as a state within the state and perpetrated atrocities against the ethnic Russian population.

The Kremlin offer didn't come out of the blue. A group of Ukrainian MPs also came out yesterday with an appeal calling on Zelensky, in an open letter, to start negotiations with Moscow. Interestingly, the group is led by Vadim Novinsky - a Ukrainian billionaire and one of the co-leaders of the Opposition Bloc, an association of over dozen political parties. The group also proposed direct consultations between the parliaments of the two countries.

WHAT IS OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE WILL BE that Zelensky is somehow enabled to navigate his path toward dialogue with Putin. The good part is that Russian military operations will throw radical nationalists into disarray, and, secondly, it is improbable that Biden is raring to resume the shenanigans in Ukraine

But what lends enchantment to the view is that Zelensky on his own also requested French President Emmanuel Macron to convey a message to Putin directly. Macron has since disclosed that he has had "a quick, direct and frank conversation on a request from President Zelensky."

Macron said the aim of the conversation was a request from Kiev "to end hostilities as soon as possible." The Kremlin confirms that Putin held a "frank" conversation with Macron.

Macron's role is important, since it was he who first floated with Putin the idea, in the course of a conversation recently, that one way out of the impasse could be that Kiev unilaterally gave up any intention to join the NATO. Subsequently, in an interaction with the Russian media at the Kremlin on Tuesday, Putin also mentioned this idea.

Zelensky himself said (after Macron's conversation with Putin) in an emotional video address to the nation after midnight Thursday, "We have been left alone to defend our state. Who is ready to fight alongside us? I don't see anyone. Who is ready to give Ukraine a guarantee of NATO membership? Everyone is afraid." He went on to disclose that he had heard from Moscow that "they want to talk about Ukraine's neutral status."

Quite obviously, Zelensky realises by now that the cavalry is not coming from Washington or Brussels to salvage his government. In fact, Zelensky's request to Macron followed the repeated categorical affirmations by US President Biden that there is no question of

American intervention in Ukraine or of US troops engaging Russian military.

Meanwhile, Russian Defence Ministry highlighted on Thursday that Moscow's strategy will be to hit military targets and avoid civilian casualty. Ukraine's air defence system has been rendered non-functional. Moscow is encouraging Ukrainian soldiers to surrender or simply return to their families, the intention being to minimise any fighting.

All this suggests that a political track is on standby. The Russian game plan is to force Zelensky to see the writing on the wall. Ukraine's capitulation is a matter of days only. This hybrid war would have the following elements:

- Russia will no doubt systematically vanquish the neo-Nazi elements in Ukraine (especially within the military such as the Azov Brigade) who have Russian blood on their hands. These elements so far acted with impunity because of covert western support for their anti-Russian disposition.
- Russia estimates, rightly so, that any crackdown on the neo-Nazi elements will only strengthen Zelensky's hands. Lacking a power base of his own, he has been a hostage of extreme nationalists.

- On the other hand, Western powers have retrenched in panic from Kiev, and an embittered Zelensky is left to fend for himself. But, paradoxically, this also makes Zelensky a reasonable interlocutor, liberated from the US'

vice-like grip. Zelensky has been acting under immense external pressure and fear of extreme nationalists who enjoy "street power." (The coup in February 2014, scuttling an orderly constitutional transition from President Viktor Yanukovich, was organised by the ultra-nationalists with overt US support.)

- Zelensky's massive mandate (over 73% of votes) in the 2019 election was largely due to whole-hearted support from Russian voters who were attracted to his platform of dialogue with Russia and the promise of a negotiated settlement in Donbass with Moscow's help. But in the event, he became a captive of extreme nationalists and a victim of western manipulation.

- Nevertheless, Zelensky has been sporadically signalling to Moscow his desire for an exit route, sensing he was on a road to nowhere. Lately, he voiced dissatisfaction over the war hysteria in Washington. At least during one telephone conversation with Biden recently, they had a heated exchange, according to the CNN.

Russia's tentative offer appears to be that Ukraine could opt for a status of neutrality on the lines of Austria and Finland with a self-imposed ban on its NATO membership. Conceivably, Zelensky would be open to such an idea. Now, what is there in it for him?

First, Russia will forthwith call off or at least suspend the military operation. That will strengthen Zelensky's standing. Second, Russia's direct involvement holds the key to easing of tensions in the Donbass. Moscow had been dodging such a role.

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 India Punch Line

The author is a former diplomat who has served as India's ambassador to Turkey and Uzbekistan

On Reading Abdullah Saeed's 'The Qur'an: An Introduction'



Dr Tauseef Ahmad Parray

Title: The Qur'an: An Introduction
Author: Abdullah Saeed
Publication Details: Oxon, RN and New York: Routledge, 2008
Pages: xvi+268; ISBN: 9780415421249

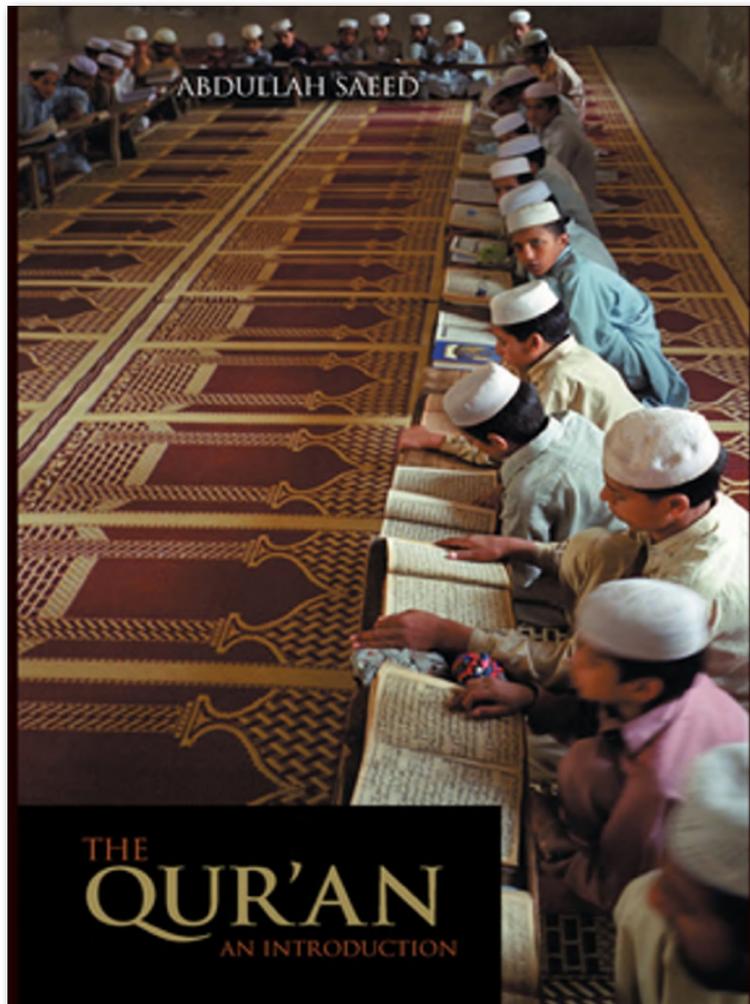
The Qur'an: An Introduction' provides a broad and engaging introduction to the study of Qur'an in a simple and concise manner'

Professor Abdullah Saeed, an internationally recognized Muslim thinker and academic, has made a significant contribution to the different aspects of Qur'anic Studies and important issues of modern Islamic thought. Born and brought up in the Maldives, he holds higher degrees from Saudi Arabia and Australia; he completed his PhD in Islamic Studies at the University of Melbourne (UoM) Australia, in 1992, and since then, has been actively involved in the development of Islamic Studies in the same University. In 2004, he was appointed as the 'Sultan of Oman Professor of Arab and Islamic Studies', and in 2010, was elected Fellow of Australian Academy of Humanities. He is also the Director of the National Centre for Contemporary Islamic Studies at UoM. A strong supporter of 'reform of Islamic thought', he has published widely on a range of issues concerning modern Muslim thought. His publications cover Qur'anic hermeneutics, the (re) interpretation of the Qur'an, ijtihad and Islamic law reform, Muslims in the West, extremism in Muslim societies, Islam and human rights, and other allied issues and themes. These are also his broad areas of research interest as well.

In the area of Qur'anic Studies, Saeed's major works (most of them published by Routledge) include: Contemporary Approaches to the Qur'an in Indonesia (2005); Interpreting the Qur'an: Towards a Contemporary Approach (2006); The Qur'an: An Introduction (2008); Reading the Qur'an in the Twenty-First Century: A Contextualist Approach (2013); and Contemporary Approaches to the Qur'an and its Interpretation in Iran (with Ali Akbar; 2020); etc.

Below is presented an assessment of his The Qur'an: An Introduction, which is one of his important books (in this specific area) for two reasons: firstly, in this book he has heavily relied on his previous works, and secondly, he has tried to make it 'as accessible and relevant as possible' to provide a broad and engaging introduction to the study of Qur'an.

Providing a student-friendly guide to the many ways in which the Qur'an can be read, The Qur'an: An Introduction is a concise introduction to all aspects of the Qur'an: history, understanding and interpretation, providing coverage of both pre-modern and modern periods; plenty of examples to illustrate key points and aid student understanding; and summaries, timelines and a glossary. It gives an overview of the rich interpretive traditions from the time of the Prophet (pbuh) to the present day and examines the Qur'an in the Western scholarship as well.



“SAEED'S AIM AND OBJECTIVE FOR writing this book was to design, in an easy and accessible language, a basic introductory work, for both Muslims and Western non-Muslim students. In his own words: “Many valuable works have already been written about the Qur'an; some of these deal mainly with classical Islamic principles of interpretation and understanding; others are written by Muslim scholars for a Muslim audience, and some are written by Western scholars for a Western audience”

Written in an easy and accessible language, it is a basic introductory work, designed for both Muslims and Western non-Muslim students.

Saeed's aim and objective for writing this book was to design, in an easy and accessible language, a basic introductory work, for both Muslims and Western non-Muslim students. In his own words: “Many valuable works have already been written about the Qur'an; some of these deal mainly with classical Islamic principles of interpretation and understanding; others are written by Muslim scholars for a Muslim audience, and some are written by Western scholars for a Western audience. This textbook aims to bring together aspects

of these perspectives by providing a holistic overview of the Qur'an, its place in history and its role in the life of Muslims today” (p. xiv).

Consisting of twelve (12) chapters, the book is preceded by Acknowledgements and Introduction and ends with Glossary, Bibliography, and Index. Some of the major themes, issues and topics covered in this book are: the historical context in which Qur'an was revealed, and the ways in which Qur'an has been understood as both 'revelation and scripture'; the important issue of the Qur'an's compilation, providing views of the traditional Muslim scholars and more recent scholarship on the subject; major themes of the Qur'an; Qur'an in

day-to-day life of 'ordinary Muslims'; the history of the 'Western scholarship' on Qur'an vis-à-vis recent developments in Qur'anic studies; 'translations' of the Qur'an; Qur'anic view of 'Other Scriptures'; the 'complex subject of interpretation': exegesis, and its various types, an overview of the development of tafsir-writing as a discipline: from classical period to the modern times; contribution of some prominent scholars who are developing and have developed some 'innovative ways to interpret the Qur'an's message for the modern world' like Fazlur Rahman, Amina Wadud, Muhammad Shahrour, Muhammad Arkoun, and Khaled Abou El-Fadl.

A significant feature of this book is that a list of 'recommended reading', books and articles (with a brief assessment of the main theme of that work), for those readers who wish to 'enhance their knowledge of topics covered in this book' is provided at the end of each chapter. Also, each chapter provides, very briefly (and in points), an introduction of what is present in that particular chapter or what the chapter discusses, and is followed by a 'summary' of some of the main and important points discussed in each chapter.

For example, some of the important points put forth in Chapter 1, "The Qur'an in its context", are: "The message of the Qur'an is embedded in the specific context of seventh-century Arabia, and is expressed in a language and symbolism that its first audience understood"; "Many elements of pre-Islamic culture and society were not rejected entirely by the Qur'an, but were accepted in a modified form"; and "Many teachings of the Prophet were socially progressive for his time" (p. 18).

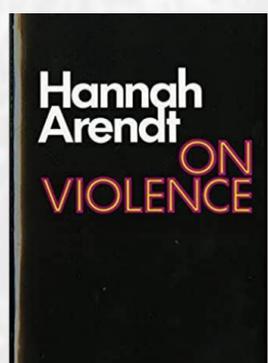
Similarly, in Chapter 6, the discussion revolves around the "Western scholarship and the Qur'an", and is divided into classical (Early), medieval (Later), and contemporary eras. Thus, the important points highlighted in this chapter include: Early Western scholarship on the Qur'an was largely polemical; Alternative Western theories about the origins of the Qur'an have questioned when it was composed, the identity of its author and what language it was originally written in; Today, the number of collaborative scholarly works on the Qur'an is increasing, as is the number of Muslim scholars based in Western institutions who combine traditional and modern approaches in seeking to understand the Qur'an (p. 113).

Moreover, in its last chapter it highlights "Modern interpretations of the Qur'an", and focuses on the works of many prominent scholars—like Fazlur Rahman, Amina Wadud, Muhammad Shahrour, Muhammad Arkoun, and Khaled Abou El-Fadl—and argues that Rahman "played a key role in developing notions associated with a hermeneutical approach within Islamic studies" and is, thus, described as "arguably the first modern reformist Muslim scholar to link the question of the origin of the Qur'an to both its context and interpretation"; Wadud is "a central figure in the formation of a 'hermeneutics of equality'" and Arkoun is a "pioneering figure of contemporary Islamic hermeneutics"; Shahrour, who is "influenced by postmodernism", emphasizes "the need to differentiate between the divine and human understandings of reality"; and El Fadl is a "vocal opponent of literalist interpretations of the Qur'an" (p. 222).

Thus, keeping in view the themes and topics of this book, the author justifies fairly his claim that it is designed "for Muslims and non-Muslim students" equally to serve as "a student-friendly guide to one of the most influential and important religious scriptures of the contemporary world" (p. i). Thus, taking into consideration all these aspects—coverage of the topics, broad-ranging, lucid, engaging and preciseness—Saeed's The Qur'an: An Introduction may fairly be described as a broad and engaging introduction to the study of the Qur'an.

The author is Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies, at GDC Sogam, Kupwara (J&K). Email: tauseef.parray21@gmail.com

READ WITH KO



An analysis of the nature, causes, and significance of violence in the second half of the twentieth century. Arendt also reexamines the relationship between war, politics, violence, and power. Annotation An analysis of the nature, causes, and significance of violence in the second half of the 20th century.

Benefits Of Digital Distractions?

Marion Thain

We are in the midst of a battle for our attention. Our devices have hijacked our brains and destroyed our collective ability to concentrate – to the extent that we're even seeing the emergence of a "goldfish generation". That, at least, is the story that's increasingly being told. But should we be paying attention to it?

Journalist Johann Hari's new book, Stolen Focus, has just joined a chorus of voices lamenting the attention crisis of the digital age. His and other recent books reflect, and perhaps fuel, a public perception that our focus is under attack.

Indeed, in new research by the Policy Institute and Centre for Attention Studies at King's College London, we found some clear concerns. Faced with the kinds of findings that arose from our research, it is easy to be nostalgic about a past that existed before the digital revolution. But new technologies have been blamed for causing crises of distraction long before the digital age, so how should we re-



spond to the current challenges? **An attention crisis?**

We surveyed a nationally representative sample of 2,093 UK adults in September 2021, asking about their perceptions of their attention spans, their beliefs in various claims about our ability to focus, and how they use technology today.

Half of those surveyed felt their attention spans were shorter than they used to be, compared with a quarter who didn't. And three-quarters of participants agreed we're living through a time where there's non-stop compe-

petition for our attention from a variety of media channels and information outlets.

The distraction caused by mobile phones in particular appeared to be a real issue. Half of those surveyed admitted they couldn't stop checking their phones when they should be focusing on other things – and this wasn't just an issue for the young. Despite the generational stereotypes of teenagers glued to their screens, a majority of middle-aged people said they struggle with this too.

The Conversation

30 Rounds Of Bullets Fired At Ex- Councillor, Brother In Gurugram; Both Dead

Press Trust Of India

GURUGRAM: A former councillor and his elder brother were shot dead by armed assailants who fired 30 rounds of bullets on Friday morning, police said.

According to the police, five armed assailants, who arrived in two motorcycles and a SUV, pumped the bullets into former councillor Parmjit Singh Thakran (36) and his elder brother Surjit Singh Thakran (39), in front of their house in Khod village.

The deceased were into the liquor trade and also owned a private school, police said, adding that prima facie the killing seems to be the result of a business rivalry. The incident took place at around 9.20 am when Parmjit was on a phone call outside his house. His brother was about 200 metres away, the police said.

As villagers gathered, the assailants managed to flee from the spot. The two brothers succumbed to their injuries at a private hospital here.

Following the complaint of Ajit Singh, brother of the deceased duo, an FIR has been registered against 13 people, including 8 named ones under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including 302 & 148 at Pataudi police station.

All came on bikes and a Scorpio ...fired on my brother

Parmjit first outside Dharmbir Nambardar's house. When I saw and ran towards my house from another way I found that others were firing on my brother Surjit. When I, my father Sumer Singh and Aunt Rajo Devi raised the alarm they managed to flee away. It was pre-planned murder conspired by Dhanora village residents Dhanpat and his nephew Jassu, Ajit Singh said in his complaint.

Raids are being conducted to nab the accused while a huge police force has been deployed in the village Khod as a precaution, they said. An FIR has been registered against 13 including 8 identified persons. Our teams are conducting raids at suspected places. Hope the accused will be nabbed soon and only then the actual cause behind the murders will be ascertained. Manbir Singh, DCP, Manesar told PTI.

According to the police, the accused are identified as Ajay, Dinesh, Rohit, Dinesh alias Gangaram, all residents of Khod, Sandeep Goriyawas, Dharmender Sarpanch of Mushedpur village, Dhanpat and Jassu, residents of Dhanora village.

It might be the result of business rivalry and police is also investigating it in connection with a double murder in the village in 2012 when two men were shot dead over a monetary dispute, the police said.

Hearing In Students' Right To Wear Hijab In Karnataka Classrooms Ends

The Court Asked The Petitioners To File Written Submissions, If Any, Before The Bench

Press Trust Of India

Bengaluru: The Karnataka High Court concluded the hearing related to the 'hijab' (scarf) case on Friday, but reserved its order. "Heard. Order reserved," Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi said.

The court asked the petitioners to file written submissions, if any, before the Bench.

The Bench, constituted on February 9 and comprising the Chief Justice, Justice Krishna S Dixit and Justice Jaibunnisa M Khazi, heard on a day-to-day basis over the last two weeks a batch of petitions filed by some girls seeking permission to wear the hijab in educational institutions where a uniform has been prescribed. The girls were allegedly denied entry into a pre-university college for girls in Udupi in December last for violating the dress code.

On January 1, six girl students attended a press meet held by the Campus Front of India (CFI) protesting against



denial of entry into classrooms as they were wearing the hijab. This prompted the boy-students to wear saffron shawls in protest.

As the issue of hijab versus saffron scarves spread to several educational institutions in many parts of Karnataka since then, the state government announced a holiday from February 9 to February 15 in all the pre-university colleges and from February 9 to February 16 in degree and diploma colleges.

In its interim order, the Bench asked the government to re-open the educational institutions, which were hit by the agitation, and restrained students from wearing religious attire till the court issues the final order.

The institution did not have any rule on hijab-wearing since no one used to wear it to the classroom in the last 35 years. The students who came with the demand had the backing of outside forces," the principal of a college said.

Tata Consultancy Services Partners With The University Of Kashmir To Launch Education, Skill Programs

SRINAGAR: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in partnership with the University of Kashmir, has launched a program to improve the employability skills of students in Kashmir, under its Corporate Social Responsibility initiative.

Over the next three years, TCS will carry out its Youth Employment Program (YEP), BridgeIT, goIT, Ignite My Future (IMF) and Adult Literacy Program (ALP) which have already seen success in other parts of the country. Under the YEP, school, and college students will be trained in 21st-century skills that are required to be successful in the digital economy. The training program covers English communication, corporate etiquette, analytical thinking, and problem-solving, basic computer and technical skills, and self-confidence.

The University of Kashmir will play the role of a facilitator to create linkages for TCS to drive its goIT and IMF initiatives. The goIT is a program for school students that increases interest in technology through design thinking, mobile app development, and mentorship from TCS employees.

The ALP will augment the Government of India's efforts to address the challenge of

educating adults.

Balaji Ganapathy, Global Head, Corporate Social Responsibility, TCS, said, "TCS believes in investing in helping young people to become responsible and productive citizens. We are pleased to partner with the University of Kashmir to empower students and educators in the region with skillsets and mindsets for the digital economy."

Additionally, TCS will pilot an 'Entrepreneurship in Tourism' program under its flagship BridgeIT program for promising students from the university's Department of Tourism, Hospitality and Leisure Studies.

These students will be mentored in key domain functions, portal management, data management and analytics and market assessment. They will also be guided around seed funding and human resources development to establish a tourism start-up.

Professor Talat Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor, University of Kashmir, said, "Such collaboration between academia and the industry shall go a long way in fostering strong linkages for skill enhancement, proper placement, and entrepreneurship development among students and youth," he said.

Convicts Who Have Spent 14 Years In Jail Can Be Given Bail: SC

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: In a significant order, the Supreme Court on Friday said the Allahabad High Court can consider granting bail to the convicts who are not repeat offenders and have served 14 years or more as jail terms as sentence as this would ensure massive decline in pendency.

The top court also said the convicts who have served jail terms between 10 to 14 years can be considered for bail during the pendency of their appeals against conviction in the high court.

The Allahabad High Court and its Lucknow benches had approximately 1,83,000 Criminal Appeals pending as of August 2021 and there are 7,214 convicts in various jails across Uttar Pradesh who have already undergone more than 10 years of their conviction and their

criminal appeals are pending adjudication in the high court.

A bench comprising Justices S K Kaul and M M Sundresh was "exasperated" over the non-formulation of common "template" by the Allahabad High Court and the Uttar Pradesh government to deal with the issue of bail to convicts who have served out considerable period of sentence and no likelihood of hearing of their appeals in near future.

The bench then went on to grant bail in 21 such cases filed against the denial of bail to convicts by the high court.

"The fact remains. If a convict has served out 14 or more than 14 years of the sentence, then his case is likely to be considered for remission. The court should either direct (the state authorities) that his application for remission be considered within three months or enlarge him on

bail," the bench observed.

It asked the counsel for the high court and the state government to note its directions on consideration and grant of bail to convicts, the court said: "We have put the word to the learned counsel... A list should be prepared of all cases where the persons have served out the jail sentences of 14 years and are not a repeat offender.

"In these cases bail can be granted in one go. Second category of persons could be one where the persons have served out more than 10 years sentence and in these cases, bail can be granted at one go unless there are any accentuated circumstances. These two parameters can be followed."

The bench asked the counsel for the high court to convey its views and to this, the lawyer said though he was appearing on the

administrative side, he would pass on the directions of this court.

"If a person has served out 14 years of imprisonment then I do not understand as to why the bail is not considered on grounds that the lawyer was present or the lawyer not present. There has to be a repeat offender or something like that for opposing or denying the bail," Justice Kaul observed during the hearing.

The bench said that it took 15 to 20 minutes in deciding the 20 odd bail applications and the same can be done in the high court by preparing the list of cases where the convicts have served either 14 or more or between 10 to 14 years of jail term.

"We wanted the high court to find a solution... otherwise, we could have done it earlier but we did not do it because we wanted the high court to find the template. But frankly both of us were

exasperated today so we decided on these. Template has to be there. The template, which was sought to be implemented earlier, was so complex," the bench said.

Earlier, the top court had asked both the Uttar Pradesh government and officials of Allahabad High Court to sit together and jointly submit the suggestions for regulating the matters of bail applications during the pendency of the appeals of the convicted persons.

The top court had said that if the suggestions are not given, then it may formulate some guidelines on its own.

It had said that Allahabad High Court registry has 20-25 page suggestions which are like counter-suggestions to those already given by Uttar Pradesh government.

The top court was hearing criminal appeals of the convicts in heinous offences seeking bail

on the ground that they have spent seven or more years in jail and be granted bail as their appeals against the convictions are yet to be listed for regular hearing in the high court due to the long pendency.

The high court has given a slew of suggestions to the top court like in cases of serious and grave offences, rights of the victim and his family should be considered before granting bail to an accused.

It suggested to the top court that a 'victim impact assessment' report should be obtained after consulting the victim and the report should clearly state all concerns along with vital information on physical, mental and social impact of the crime and impact the bail may have on the victim.

The high court's registry had given its suggestions to the top court in pursuance of an earlier

order asking it to help in laying down "broad parameters" for regulating the matters of bail applications during the pendency of the appeals of the convicted persons.

On August 23 last year, the UP government had suggested to the top court that bail pleas of life convicts, if they have undergone 10 years of jail term, and in other cases where half of the period of the maximum sentence awarded have been spent, can be considered by the High Court.

It had said that to ensure "public peace and the well-being of the society, life convicts who are hardened criminals, repeat offenders, kidnappers, in crimes related to massacre (three or more than three murders), habitual criminals, and fall in prohibited categories as per the UP Jail Standing Policy - no bail should be granted".

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

'Left Alone' by West,

Konashenkov added that the Russian military had eliminated Ukraine's air defenses and was in control of the skies over the former Soviet republic.

Kremlin: Russia willing to negotiate Ukraine's surrender

In a statement, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said Russia would come to the negotiating table on the condition that Ukraine promised to be neutral, not aspire to be a NATO member and also not keep any Western weaponry on its territory.

Peskov underlined that discussions over the terms of surrender would generally involve "demilitarization and denazification" of Ukraine.

President Zelensky said he is not afraid of talking about neutrality as his request for NATO accession went unanswered by European leaders.

On Friday, Reuters quoted Ukrainian presidential advisor Mykhailo Podolyak as saying that Ukraine wants peace and is ready for talks with Russia, including on neutral status regarding NATO.

"If talks are possible, they should be held. If in Moscow they say they want to hold talks, including on neutral status, we are not afraid of this," he said.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Moscow would be ready to hold talks with Kiev, but only once Ukraine's military had laid down its arms.

He also said that Moscow did not want "neo-Nazis" to govern Ukraine.

Ukraine currently is not part of NATO or the European Union, though it wants to join both. Ukraine gave up its nuclear arms, after gaining independence on the

breakup of the Soviet Union, in exchange for security guarantees from European countries.

Ukraine 'left alone'
Zelensky said his country had been left on its own to fight Russia after Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a "special military operation" aimed at "demilitarization" of the Donetsk and Lugansk Republics in eastern Ukraine.

"We have been left alone to defend our state," Zelensky said in a post-midnight video address to the nation. "Who is ready to fight alongside us? I don't see anyone. Who is ready to give

Ukraine a guarantee of NATO membership? Everyone is afraid."

Zelensky said that 137 Ukrainians, both military personnel and civilians, had been killed since the beginning of the attack, and 316 more had been wounded.

He said Russian "sabotage groups" had entered Kiev, and urged locals to remain vigilant and observe a curfew.

The Ukrainian president said he and his family remained in the country, despite Russia identifying him as "target number one."

The UN refugee agency said around 100,000 people had been internally displaced while several thousand more had left Ukraine since the fighting erupted.

Kiev has declared martial law. It claims to have killed 50 Russian troops and shot down six Russian aircraft, an allegation that has not been independently verified.

2 Militants, Civilian

26 AK rounds were recovered from the site of the encounter, he said.

LG Escapes

injuries to Sinha or any member of his entourage, they said.

The Lt Governor proceeded towards his destination in another vehicle in the carcade. Sinha, after attending important meetings in Jammu, was on an official visit to poll-bound Uttar Pradesh.

77 DySPs Shifted

of Gaurav Sikarwar, ASP, till his return from training.

As per the order 10 DySPs have also been given additional charge of vacant posts in addition to their own duties.

50% Remission

at the earliest," he said.

"Earlier, in line with its commitment to attract investment, promote infusion of technology, and create employment opportunities in the real estate sector, the Government hosted the first-ever Real Estate Summit in J&K, wherein several promoters in residential/retail/commercial space, film & entertainment industry, tourism & hospitality, logistics & warehousing, and financing institutions, participated, and shared their wisdom for the collective vision

of the growth of the sector in Jammu & Kashmir," he added.

Infra For Women

carried out at an estimated cost of Rs. 50 crore each and will include administration blocks, residential accommodations and hostels, and office buildings among others.

"The works will be completed in three working seasons," he said.

"Earlier, to check the rise in crime against women, the Government had raised two women battalions by sanctioning 2014 posts for recruiting women officers and officials on various ranks. The recruitment of these posts is currently underway," he added.

KU To Reopen

Listing the mandatory guidelines, the DAA office said all students shall produce vaccination certificates to attend the classes in offline mode and shall be subjected to random checks for COVID19 symptoms by thermal scanners or visual observations at all places in the campus especially class-rooms, laboratories, library and canteens.

"Overcrowding at any place on campus should be avoided under all circumstances. Adherence to SoPs notified from time to time by UGC and concerned Government agencies will be mandatory. Detection of any positive case should immediately be reported to concerned authorities and standard procedure shall be followed for isolation, quarantine etc," the guidelines read, adding that only candidates who have received both doses of vaccine shall be allowed in the class rooms.

"However, the Chief Proctor shall arrange special vaccination drive for the students of main and off-site campuses." All concerned Heads/Directors shall ensure the conduct of remedial classes within a week's time in case some classes or days are lost due to any unforeseen circumstances, the guidelines read, adding that the loss can be compensated in either offline or online mode.

The Deans of the respective schools will have a monthly review of syllabus completion with HODs, Faculty and CRs can also be invited in such meeting, if the Dean desires so.

The Provosts (Boys & Girls) shall keep the hostels ready for the students

by ensuring proper sanitization before the commencement of class work, the guidelines read.

Pertinently, Vice-Chancellor Prof Talat Ahmad recently chaired a meeting of Deans, Directors, HODs, Coordinators and top officers to discuss reopening of the University for offline classes and pass necessary directions in this regard to ensure smooth conduct of academic and research activities on the campuses.

Court Sends

of over ground workers of LeT and recruited persons across India.

In pursuance of conspiracy, the accused were in contact with their foreign based handlers and upon their directions were engaged in gathering intelligence on vital installations, government forces as well as identification of target locations for launching of militant attacks, the agency said.

J&K Reports 95

Poonch 1. No new cases of Covid-19 were reported from the three districts of Udhampur, Kishtwar and Reasi.

"Moreover, 187 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 126 from Jammu Division and 61 from Kashmir Division," the officials said.

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

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.

Wide Smiles, Lush

explosions in the background. Sheikh said the ceasefire has not only saved lives but their properties as well. We hope the ceasefire holds so we could see our farms prosper once again, Shera, a farmer, said.

Last month, the General Officer Commanding (GoC) of the Army's 15 Corps or the Chinar Corps, Lt Gen D P Pandey, said the ceasefire along the LoC in Kashmir was holding and the Army would like it to continue for the benefit of the people on either side of the divide. The Army will like the ceasefire to

continue only for the benefit of the people of Kashmir so that there is free movement for trade, for farming, business and schooling. So that they (the people of Kashmir on both sides) can live a life of a common citizen while the peace remains. That is the major benefit which has gone to them, the GoC had said.

However, he said, the Army was very carefully on the watch because the enemy is very very devious.

According to the official figures, there were 4,645 ceasefire violations in 2020, 3,168 in 2019 and 1,629 in 2018. In 2020, till the agreement came into effect, there were 592 ceasefire violations.

The security forces have attributed the less infiltration attempts from across the LoC in the past year to the ceasefire as well.

Missing Kishtwar

headed by SDM, proceeded by road alongwith snow cutter machine and JCB. Second team started by foot and comprised Army Rescue team and Local volunteers, officials said.

Third was by helicopter from Larkipora and was waiting for weather to improve, the officials had said.

A police officer said that one of the rescue team comprised of 12 armed police personnel, 14 J&K Disaster Response Force men, team of army and civilians. "They are now returning back after almost reaching the Margan top on foot."

Amid snowfall, the six persons had started their journey on foot through Margan top, a high mountain pass which connects Warwan Valley in Kishtwar district with the Anantnag district.

The persons included Ajaz Ahmad Koka son of Abdul Rehman Koka, Mohammad Akbar Koka son of Ghulam Qadir Koka, Ghulam Nabi son of Ghulam Qadir Koka, Gulzar Ahmad son of Ghulam Mohammad Koka, Manzoor Ahmad son of Ghulam Mohammad Koka and Idrees Ahmad son of Sunna ullah Dar, all residents of Choidraman Warwan.

These persons had called their families at around 9 p.m. on Tuesday and informed them about moving through Margan Top. Since then there was no contact with them, they said.

Interview For

Govt Reserves Industrial Estate At Udhampur For Women Entrepreneurs

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Friday declared the industrial estate at Udhampur as 'women industrial estate' to promote women entrepreneurship in the Union Territory.

"To promote women entrepreneurs in Jammu and Kashmir, the administrative council (AC) under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, today (Friday) declared the industrial estate at Seen Thakran in Udhampur as women industrial estate," according to an official spokesman.

In a first-of-its-kind decision, the administrative council declared the Industrial Estate at

Seen, Thakran, Udhampur as reserved for women entrepreneurs and women-led industries, he said.

The decision will benefit women entrepreneurs and industrialists as any business enterprise having a minimum of 51 per cent stake held by a woman entrepreneur shall qualify to apply for allotment in reserved industrial estate, he said.

Moreover, under the new J&K Industrial Land Allotment Policy, the eligible women entrepreneurs will be allotted suitable parcels of land through a transparent single-window mechanism in a time-bound manner.

Virtual Nationwide Training For Nurses Organized By IUST

Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: The Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) in collaboration with Alambdar Memorial College of Nursing and Medical Technology (AMCN&MT, Charar-i-Sharief) of Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST), conducted a one day virtual nationwide capacity building training of nurses for the management of children in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Principal AMCN&MT, Prof. Mehmooda Regu in her welcome address said that nursing professionals have played a pivotal role to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and emphasized the need for such training programmes to enhance the capacity and skills of nursing professionals.

While facilitating the training program, faculty AMCN&MT Ms. Fehmeeda Mehmood, and faculty Nursing SMVD College of Nursing Kakryal Ms. Pushpa Oreon, explained the different aspects of care and management of children having COVID-19.

At the end of training sessions, feedback and post-test was also conducted. The training that also focused on the preparedness of nursing professionals against third wave, saw an active participation from all over the country.

On this occasion, (ADG) Nursing Dte, GHS MOHFW Govt. of India Dr. Rathi Balachandran in her inaugural address shared that MOHFW was taking steps to empower nurses with latest knowledge & skills. Chairperson Trainings Dte, GHS MOHFW Dr. Sandiya Gupta deliberated the

need of training for nurses in pediatric population. Faculty of Nursing SGT University, Gurugram Prof. Raman Deep, also spoke on the occasion. Chief Guest and Dean Research IUST Prof. A.H. Moon appreciated the high tech human touch approach used by Nurses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Principal AMCN&MT, Prof. Mehmooda Regu in her welcome address said that nursing professionals have played a pivotal role to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and emphasized the need for such training programmes to enhance the capacity and skills of nursing professionals.

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At the end of training sessions, feedback and post-test was also conducted.

Court Reject Bail Plea Of 3 'Habitual' Burglars

Agencies

URI: A court here has rejected bail application of three "habitual" burglars.

"I have perused the bail application, objections from the prosecution and the case file. A bare perusal of the documents reveals that the accused are prima-facie involved in case FIR no. 02/2022 for the commission of offences under sections 457&380 of IPC," Court Of Munsiff/Jmic, Boniyar, Muneer Ahmad Bhat said, "Further the involvement of the accused in multiple FIRs in different police stations clearly indicates that the accused persons are habitual offenders."

The presiding officer Muneer

Ahmad Bhat said that the court was duty bound to keep in view the underlying factor behind the concept of bail—"balancing of conflicting interests of sanctity of individual liberty and the interest of the society."

"Therefore, in order to uphold the majesty of law and to maintain the confidence of law-abiding citizens and law enforcing agencies in the justice delivery system, the application for bail of the accused deserves to be rejected," the court said as per GNS and rejected bail plea of Altaf Ahmad Sheikh of Gantamulla Payeen Baramulla, Parvaiz Ahmad Sheikh of Kitchema Tehsil Narwar Baramulla and Mohammad Lateef Pathan of Lailub Mujpathri Khanshab Budgam.

DELIMITATION EXERCISE

Panel Shares Revised Draft Report With Associate Members



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Delimitation Commission, mandated to redraw assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir, on Friday circulated a revised draft report to its associate members incorporating some changes suggested by them.

Five Lok Sabha members from Jammu and Kashmir -- Farooq Abdullah, Mohammad Akbar Lone and Hasnain Masoodi of the National Conference and Jugal Kishore Sharma and Jitendra Singh of the BJP -- are the panel's associate members. They had suggested various

changes to the earlier draft report of the panel.

The panel had met on Thursday and accepted most of the suggestions after due consideration, sources said.

They said the reworked draft incorporating the suggestions was circulated to the five associate members on Friday.

In their objections and suggestions, the members had urged the panel to "redraw" some assembly seats. Their suggestions regarding Habba Kadal seat in Srinagar and Suchetgarh seat in Jammu have been accepted.

The commission has also agreed not to rename Inderwal

assembly seat, sources said.

The Delimitation Commission on Jammu and Kashmir is headed by former Supreme Court Judge Ranjana Prakash Desai, with Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and the State Election Commissioner of Jammu and Kashmir being its ex-officio members.

The associate members have been asked to respond to the latest draft in a week's time.

Later, the commission will put the draft in public domain to get suggestions from people.

It was recently given a two-month extension till May 6 to complete its task.

Northern Army Commander Reviews Op Preparedness

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi on Friday visited the 16 Corps headquarters in Jammu and reviewed the prevailing security situation in the region, officials said.

This is his maiden visit after taking over the reins of the Northern Command, he said.

On his arrival at the Nagrota-based headquarters of 16 Corps, the Army commander was briefed by General Officer Commanding Lt Gen Manjinder Singh on the operational preparedness of the corps, besides the prevailing security situation, the spokesman said.

Subsequent to the briefing, the Army commander expressed his satisfaction and



confidence in the 16 Corps, also called as the White Knight Corps, to successfully meet all challenges at any given time.

He interacted with senior officers and appreciated the ongoing efforts made by all personnel of the corps towards ensuring security and stability in the region.

He also lauded the efforts towards upliftment of the youth and the special efforts made towards empowerment of women under various projects of Operation Sadbhavana. The project aims at helping the people affected by militancy in the region.

11 Days On, No Trace Of Missing Kupwara Boy

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The parents of a missing 8-year-old boy who vanished from his home at Awoora village of Kupwara district without a trace 11 days ago are pleading for his safe return.

As per the family, Talib Husain son of Manzoor Ahmad Khan disappeared moments after he left home on the fateful day.

"We searched every noon and corner but no to avail,"

inconsolable parents of Talib said.

"I am dying with each passing second. I don't know if I'm alive or dead in the absence of Talib," the minor's mother said. "We request those who have taken away our son to have some mercy and for God's sake return him to us" she said as tears started rolling down her cheek.

"Our hand folded request to abductor (s) is to return our Talib. We promise that we will not take any action against the

person. Just return our missing son," the parents said.

When contacted SSP Kupwara said that investigations are underway.

"We have questioned a number of people and have also announced reward for anyone who helps in tracing the innocent child," he said, adding, "A team under the command of additional SP is investigating the matter and exploring all the possible angles to trace the child." (GNS)

TRANSHUMANT MIGRATION

Procurement Of Transport For Tribals Underway: Choudhary



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary reviewed the progress on procurement of trucks and other allied facilities for facilitation of biannual Transhumant migration of tribal population in various areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

On the directions of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha the department has initiated various steps for specific plans aimed at facilities to migratory population.

A fleet of 30 trucks under the process of procurement through J&K Road Transport Corporation and another set of 70 trucks in Phase-II. Govt is working on achieving saturation

under this project in current year by providing requisite number of trucks on all major routes. Pertinently funds have already been released to Deputy Commissioners for 08 Transit Accommodations as well.

MD J&K Road Transport Corporation Anprez Singh Rana, Special Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Harun Malik, Director Tribal Affairs, Mushir Ahmed, Secretary, Advisory Board, Mukhtar Ahmed, Director Sheep Husbandry, Kewal Krishan, SSP Traffic Jammu Dr Koushal Sharma, SSP Traffic NH Shabir Malik, RTO Jammu Dhanantar Singh, Additional Secretary Raj Mohamad, JDP Shama un Ahmed and other senior officers attended the meeting to finalise the operational arrangements, creation of facilities and inter-sectoral coronation.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary informed that department has initiated various measures overall tribal welfare and special focus on migratory population. Stating that funds have been provided already for procurement of 30 trucks and additional plan for 70 trucks he asked the stakeholders to finalise the requirement for achieving saturation to ensure that all the migratory families are provided required transport support. He

also asked for strict measures to be put in place to ensure that facilities are provided for genuine families already surveyed.

MD J&K Road Transport Corporation, Anprez Singh Rana informed that procurement is of Phase-I is underway and likely to be completed in April while tenders for Phase-II shall be floated. He further discussed about Operation & Maintenance modalities, MoU with Directorate of Tribal Affairs and creation of allied infrastructure.

Director Sheep Husbandry Jammu, Kewal Krishan suggested for more than 12000 registered sheep breeders to be included for availing the facilities as per fixed schedule.

SSP Traffic Jammu City Dr Koushal Sharma and SSP National Highway discussed about annual numbers of migration on National Highway, pick-up and drop-off points, base camp, transport support for household goods and other facilities. They termed the initiative as a great solution for both solving traffic management challenges during migration and convenience of movement for Transhumant families.

RTO Jammu Dhanantar Singh briefed about the specifications of trucks, registration, inspection, MoRTH guidelines and travel support for families. Addl Secretary, Transport Deptt, Raj Mohamad briefed about various measures being taken by the department for putting in place a professional mechanism to facilitate hassle-free movement of migrating families and smooth management of fleet as well.

The meeting also discussed operational models, recurring costs, lean-season working and capacity enhancement. It was decided that based on the numbers of families in 1st Survey of Transhumance and number provided by Traffic Police the J&K Road Transport Corporation will submit proposal for more number of trucks to achieve saturation. Animal transport norms and guidelines are being adhered by the stakeholder organisations.

TCS Partners With KU To Improve Employability Skills Of Students

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: IT major TCS on Friday said it has partnered with the University of Kashmir to launch a programme to improve employability skills of students in Kashmir under its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative.

Under the programme, TCS will carry out its five initiatives Youth Employment Program (YEP), BridgeIT, goT, Ignite My Future (IMF) and Adult Literacy Program (ALP) over the next three years that have already seen success in other parts of the country.

"TCS believes in investing in helping young people to become responsible and productive citizens."

"We are pleased to partner with the University of Kashmir to empower students and educators in the region with skill sets and mindsets for the digital economy," TCS Global Head (Corporate Social Responsibility) Balaji Ganapathy said in a statement.

Ganapathy added that the company strives to create digital social innovators among school children. "We are delighted that the University has agreed to play the role of a facilitator to connect us with institutions at the school level."

Under the YEP, school and

college students will be trained in 21st-Century skills that are required to be successful in the digital economy.

The training programme covers English communication, corporate etiquette, analytical thinking, and problem-solving, basic computer and technical skills, and self-confidence.

"Our goal is to train, coach and mentor young individuals of the University of Kashmir and enable livelihoods through both employment and entrepreneurship," Ganapathy said.

The University of Kashmir will play the role of a facilitator to create linkages for TCS to drive its goT and IMF initiatives, the company said.

goT is a programme for school students that increases interest in technology through design thinking, mobile app development, and mentorship from TCS employees.

The ALP will be implemented through the university's Directorate of Lifelong Learning, the statement said.

"Strengthening such relationships with industry and corporates for building competencies and resulting in industry orientation for students will translate into timely placement and greater work efficiency."

Div Com Reviews Financial Assistance Sanctioned To Cancer Patients

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Dr Raghav Langer on Friday reviewed financial assistance sanctioned in favour of patients under J&K Cancer Treatment and Management Fund for Poor (CTMFPP) here at a meeting of the Deputy Commissioners of the division.

The government scheme aims to ensure better treatment to poor and low income groups of cancer patients in the UT.

The fund has been established to provide necessary financial assistance to the people who come from modest economic backgrounds for cancer treatment and management including Surgery, Chemotherapy, Radio-therapy or a combination of these regimens. In this regard, Div Com said that this scheme is immensely useful and appealed to the public to take maximum benefit of this assistance.

During the meeting, it was informed that under the scheme the government provides 60 percent of cost of treatment to patients whose income is Rs 3000 per month, 50 percent to those whose income is Rs 3001 to Rs 6000, 40 percent to those whose income is Rs 6001 to Rs 12000 and 30 percent to those whose income is Rs 12001 to Rs 20000.

TRANSFORMING J&K

Apki Zameen Apki Nigrani: A Milestone Towards Improving Service Delivery For Citizens

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has taken numerous citizen centric measures to improve service delivery, and towards good governance to bring more transparency and accountability in the existing governance system.

And one among these administrative reforms is digitization of land records with one component 'Apki Zameen Apki Nigrani' under which land holders can easily access to their land records without any administrative hiccups.

Under the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP), the Union Territory of Jammu-Kashmir has achieved an important milestone to provide the most transparent and accountable services to the common people.

The Digital India Land Records modernization Programme was formally launched in the UT in April-2016 for improving online accessibility to the Land Records and System and stopping manipulation of the Land Records thereby making quality of services in Sub Registrar office/Tehsil Offices more efficient and transparent.



The DILRMP aims to modernize management of land records; minimize scope of land/property disputes; enhance transparency in the land records maintenance system and facilitate moving eventually towards guaranteed conclusive title to immovable properties in the UT.

As part of the program implementation in Union Territory, 7.70 crore pages of revenue record and 55216 Musavi (maps) have been scanned, besides 3895 Ground Control Points have been established, and Web-based Enterprise Geo-Information System (GIS) has been developed.

Under 'Apki Zameen Apki Nigrani', land Pass Book are being

made available in three languages- Hindi, Urdu and English so that people can easily get the required information.

The Revenue Department has been asked to evolve a mechanism of issuing revenue passbooks to the people, containing information on all their legal land possessions within one month for formal issuance by 26th January 2022. The process will be completed in the districts of Jammu and Srinagar by 31st March 2022 and in all other districts by 15th August 2022.

During the release of District Good Governance Index for 20 J&K districts, Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah had also

listed out ten path-breaking initiatives taken by UT after reorganization which include Apki Zameen, Apki Nigrani and trilingual land pass books was one among them.

The UT administration led by Lieutenant Governor has asked people to avail the full benefits from the scheme like 'Apki Zameen Apki Nigrani', has really empowered the people in the UT.

Besides, the administration had directed the Information & Technology Department to organize public scrutiny of Revenue records under 'Ap ki Zameen Ap ki Nigrani' initiative across all digitally connected Gram Panchayats.

Part Of Link Road Sinks In Ramban

Agencies

JAMMU: 300-meter portion of a link road in Ramban district has sunk due to incessant rains, disconnecting five Panchayat blocks of Gandhri from District headquarters, officials said on Friday.

They said that the portion

of Kanga-Gandhri-Bhatni road caved in late Thursday afternoon amid incessant rains.

SHO Firdous Ahmed confirmed to a local news agency GNS and urged people not to move through the area as the portion is still sinking. "The people are requested not to move through the road," he added.

Russia Stripped Of Major Events As Invasion Of Ukraine Intensifies



Agencies

As Russian forces moved deeper into Ukraine on Friday, sports bodies moved quickly to strip Russia of events, with St Petersburg losing the Champions League final while the Formula One Grand Prix will not be held in Sochi.

Russia launched its invasion by land, air and sea on Thursday following a declaration of war by President Vladimir Putin, with an estimated 100,000 people fleeing as explosions and gunfire rocked major cities.

European soccer governing body UEFA decided to relocate the Champions League final -- club soccer's showpiece event -- to the Stade de France in Paris after receiving support from French President Emmanuel Macron.

The decision was met with regret by the Kremlin but welcomed by UK Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries.

"Russia must not be allowed to exploit sporting and cultural events on the world stage to legitimise its unprovoked, premeditated and needless attack against a sovereign democratic state," Dorries said.

Formula One, motorsport's governing body FIA and the teams discussed the situation and came to the conclusion that it was "impossible to hold the

Russian Grand Prix in the current circumstances".

The race, which joined the calendar in 2014, was scheduled for Sept. 25 at Sochi's Olympic Park. On Thursday, both former champion Sebastian Vettel and reigning champion Max Verstappen said it was "wrong" to race in Russia.

After Poland, Sweden and the Czech Republic refused to play World Cup qualifiers in Russia, UEFA said home games of Ukrainian and Russian club and national teams competing in UEFA competitions would be played at neutral venues.

That could affect Spartak Moscow's chances in the Europa League after they were drawn with German side RB Leipzig. The Russian team had the advantage of being seeded for the draw but will now have to play the second leg at a neutral venue.

Five World Cup skiing events that were scheduled to take place in Russia this weekend and next month have been cancelled or moved by the International Ski Federation (FIS) in the interest of safety and integrity of the competition.

"Participants are already on site at the two World Cup events that were planned for this weekend and FIS is working closely with the involved stakeholders to ensure their quick return back home," it said.

Indian Chess Player Anwesh Upadhyaya Stuck In Ukraine, Says Situation Scary

Press Trust of India

KIEV: Alone in his apartment and every bit scared, former Indian national rapid chess champion Anwesh Upadhyaya is one among the several of his compatriots stuck in Ukraine amid a Russian invasion and is desperately hoping to be evacuated from the country which has been his home since 2012.

The 30-year old, who is doing apprenticeship in gastroenterology at a Kyiv hospital, had planned to return to India in March. But with Russia launching military operations on Thursday, flights have been suspended and he is unsure of what is in store.

"Did not expect this intensification. It is a full-scale military invasion. Never imagined this," the 2017 national rapid chess champion told PTI from Kyiv.

At a media briefing on Thursday, India's Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla assured all Indian citizens in Ukraine that the government will take all steps to bring them back safely.

He said there were around 20,000 Indians in Ukraine and of them, nearly 4,000 have returned to India in the last few days.

Upadhyaya said he has seen turmoil in the country, recalling the student protests in 2013 against the then President Viktor Yanukovich's decision of not signing an agreement that would have brought Ukraine closer to the European Union.

But he acknowledged that nothing compared to the chaos that has unfolded in the last few days.

"I was present during the Maidan Revolution which was bad but not this scary," Upadhyaya said, describing the current situation.

"My parents over in India are a worried lot and that's why I had planned to leave in the first week of March," he added about his family which is based in Bhubaneswar.

"They have been calling me constantly, as have some of my school teachers. I am here in my apartment alone. And I don't know what is in store. The attack happened all of a sudden. So, couldn't have done anything."

Upadhyaya said he had tried to leave Ukraine earlier but could not get flight tickets, adding that he obtained permission from his

bosses to leave once the tensions escalated and it became clear that a confrontation was on the cards. He said he was now awaiting instructions from the Indian Embassy in Ukraine.

"Yes, I am hoping for this madness to end and awaiting instructions from our embassy."

"As of now they (embassy) are taking appropriate steps to ensure a safe evacuation but we should not ignore that this situation is difficult and surprising for them as well. So patiently waiting," Upadhyaya said.

"The Indian Embassy has asked people to stay indoors and not go out. In the meantime, they gave the bomb shelters' location if necessary and asked us to stay in touch through the official page."

Upadhyaya had managed to buy some essentials once the tensions began to rise and he said all that he needs to sustain himself for now.

"I actually did manage to buy the essentials as the local news suggested a week ago. So with that I am good. I am more worried if the war comes into a residential areas. There are always collateral damages," he said.

With regard to power and water supply, Upadhyaya, who moved to Ukraine in 2012 to pursue medicine following a suggestion from his coach (Georgy Timoschenko), said, "so far everything (power and water supply) is working fine by God's grace."

He had last featured in an over-the-board event some two months ago in the city of Vinnytsia in the west-central part of Ukraine and finished on top.

But the doctor, who has an ELO rating of 2352 (The ranking points in chess), does not have his mind on the game now and only wants to get back to India.

"I am hearing distant explosions," he signed off, sitting in far-away Kyiv, hoping for better times.

Karnataka Bundle Out J&K For 93

Prasidh Krishna stars with 6/35

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: Pacer Prasidh Krishna starred with a six-wicket haul to demolish Jammu and Kashmir in their first innings and help Karnataka seize control of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group C match here on Friday.

Karnataka extending the overall lead to 337 runs after dismissing the opposition for 93 on the second day of the four-day match.

Fast rising Krishna (6/35), fresh from his stint with the Indian ODI team, blew away Jammu and Kashmir batting line-up, bundling the opposition out in 29.5 overs.

Earlier, resuming at the overnight score of 268 for eight, Karun Nair (batting on 152) moved to 175 and helped Karnataka post 302 all out in their first innings.

Nair's superb effort ended when experienced off-spinner Parvez Rasool (4/60) trapped him LBW.

In reply, Jammu and Kashmir opens -- Qamran Iqbal (35) and Jatin Wadhwan (25) began well, putting on 55 runs for the first wicket before Krishna produced an impressive spell and took six of the first seven wickets of his rival side.

Krishna removed Iqbal first



and then dismissed Shubham Singh Pundir (5) and Wadhwan in quick succession before Shreyas Gopal got into the act by scalping Jammu and Kashmir captain Ian Dev Singh for a duck.

Jammu and Kashmir were reeling at 75 for seven when Prasidh Krishna had Abdul Samad (3) caught behind by B R Sharath.

Jammu and Kashmir innings folded quickly as Vidhyadhar Patil (2/10) and K Gowtham (1/5) picked up the last three wickets.

Batting a second time, Karnataka got off to a bright start with R Samarth (62) and Devdutt Padikkal (49) putting on a century

stand in 31 overs before the latter fell to Abid Mushtaq.

Samarth fell close to stumps after a well compiled fifty as Karnataka extended the overall lead to 337 runs reaching 128 for two in their second innings.

With two days to go, Manish Pandey & Co hold all the aces in the four-day game.

Brief scores:

Stumps Day 2: Karnataka 302 all out in 103.1 overs (Karun Nair 175, R Samarth 45; Mujtaba Yousuf 2/52, Parvez Rasool 4/60, Umran Malik 2/35) and 128 for 2 in 42 overs (R Samarth 62, Devdutt Padikkal 49) vs Jammu and Kashmir 93 all out in 29.5 overs (Prasidh Krishna 6/35).

J&K Football: Annual Championship To Restart From Feb 28

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir Football Association (JAKFA) on Friday announced a fresh schedule for the postponed 29th Annual Championship. The First Phase of the Championship will now restart from February 28.

Two matches will be played at the Synthetic Turf TRC with DFA Bandipora up against DFA Pampore in the first kick off at 11:30 AM. The second match will see DFA Baramulla face DFA Kulgam at 1:30 PM.

Check the full released schedule below:

29th Annual Football Championship 2021-22 Organized by :- J&K Football Association Under the aegis of J&K Sports Council			
M-NO 3	DFA BANDIPORA	VS	DFA ZONE PAMPORE
28th Feb 2022 at 11:00AM			
M-NO 4	DFA BARAMULLA	VS	DFA KULGAM
28th Feb 2022 at 1:30PM			
M-NO 5	DFA ZONE HANDWARA	VS	DFA GANDEBAL
1st March 2022 at 11:00AM			
M-NO 6	DFA ANANATNAG	VS	DFA ZONE PATTAN
1st March 2022 at 1:30PM			
M-NO 7	DFA SHOPIAN	VS	DFA BUDGAM
2nd March 2022 at 11:00AM			
M-NO 8	DFA SOPORE	VS	DFA SRINAGAR
2nd March 2022 at 1:30PM			

2nd T20I: India On Course To Wrap Up Series In Dharamsala; Lankans Hope To Stay Afloat



Press Trust of India

DHARAMSALA: A reinvented India will look to pocket their second series win in as many weeks and build on the gains made from a drastic change in their batting approach in the second T20 international against Sri Lanka here on Saturday.

India were forced to look in the mirror after their early exit from the T20 World Cup last year but four months later, they look a transformed unit with a bunch of youngsters being tried out in various positions and roles.

It is still early days but the Rohit Sharma-led side has already figured out the core group of players that will travel to Australia for the World Cup Down Under later this year.

Young opener Ishan Kishan got a massive dose of confidence in the series opener on Thursday after his struggles against the West Indies.

Finding strike rotation tough in the preceding series, Kishan was able to overcome that weakness against the Sri Lankan bowlers besides flaunting the strokeplay he is known for in the IPL.

There is no time to settle in a T20 game and India have finally realised that, allowing them to post 180 plus totals regularly.

If it wasn't for Ruturaj Gaekwad's wrist injury, he could have opened with Kishan and

Rohit would have dropped himself down the order like he did against the West Indies. The same could happen on Saturday if Gaekwad is able to regain full fitness.

Such is Rohit's class that he has not taken any time to find his rhythm after coming from an injury break. He looked in sublime touch en route to his 44 but must be disappointed to not have carried on for longer.

Shreyas Iyer made merry at number three in the absence of the rested Virat Kohli and would be aiming to repeat that for the rest of the series.

When a full strength India take the field next, he might not find a place in the playing eleven and therefore, he needs to make the most of the opportunities that come his way.

As Rohit indicated after the opening game, a fit again Ravindra Jadeja will continue to bat higher up the order as the team wants to optimise his significantly improved batting skills.

"We want more from him that is why we asked him to bat higher. You will see that happening more and more in the games that he plays for India. I want him to bat up the order more."

"He is a very improved batter, so we will try and see if we can promote him going forward. We are very clear with what we want to achieve with him in white ball cricket," said the skipper referring to the all-rounder.

Comeback man Sanju Samson did not get to bat in the opener and he will be eagerly waiting for his turn at the scenic Dharamsala ground.

Australia 'Comfortable' With Security On Eve Of Pakistan Tour



Agencies

MELBOURNE: Australian Test skipper Pat Cummins said on Friday his team were "comfortable" with security arrangements and excited by what lies ahead, as Australia prepare to jet into Pakistan on their first tour since 1998.

They are due to leave over the weekend ahead of the first of three Tests in Rawalpindi on March 4 -- giving them less than a week to acclimatise and without any warm-up matches.

It will be followed by Tests in Karachi and Lahore before three ODIs and a single Twenty20, all in Rawalpindi.

"We've got to a place where everyone hopping on the plane is comfortable with where it's all sitting. It's been a really thorough body of work that the security and the logistics teams have worked through," Cummins said.

"And obviously the added layer of bio-security in these times as well. So we're feeling really good and once we get over there, we're going to be able to just concentrate on the cricket."

"More than anything it's a

really special tour," he added. "We're going to fly over there and experience something for the first time. We're really excited, everyone is in a good place."

Cricketer-mad Pakistan endured a long spell without a visit from an international team following a terror attack on a bus carrying the Sri Lankan side in Lahore in 2009.

Pakistan were forced to play home international matches abroad -- mostly in the United Arab Emirates -- until 2015, when normal service tentatively resumed.

But concerns surfaced again last year when New Zealand quit their first tour to the country in 18 years shortly before the opening match was due to start following a security alert.

Australia head into the series on the back of a 4-0 Ashes thumping of England over the home summer, with the starting XI for Rawalpindi expected to be much the same.

Usman Khawaja -- who was born in Pakistan -- is set to partner David Warner at the top of the order ahead of Marcus Harris, who was dropped during the Ashes.

BAN Vs AFG, 2nd ODI Bangladesh Clinch Series With 88-run Win Against Afghanistan



Agencies

Liton Das scored a century as Bangladesh secured an 88-run win against Afghanistan in their second one-day international to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series on Friday.

Liton struck 16 fours and two sixes in his 126-ball 136 as Bangladesh posted 306-4, its highest total against Afghanistan. Bangladesh dismissed Afghanistan for 218 in 45.1 overs with a disciplined display of bowling.

Liton was well supported by Mushfiqur Rahim (86). They combined for a national record third-wicket stand of 202.

"I enjoyed my partnership with Mushfiqur," Liton said. "We also

had some good partnerships in the past. He encouraged me a lot."

Bangladesh won the first match by four wickets.

After opting to bat first, Bangladesh lost captain Tamim Iqbal for 12, following a slow start.

Liton also appeared to be nervous but Shakib Al Hasan played some good shots around the wicket to keep the runs coming.

Legspinner Rashid Khan removed Shakib (20) to give Bangladesh a setback. Liton and Mushfiqur then survived some tricky moments against Afghanistan's celebrated spin trio -- Rashid, Mujeeb Ur Rahman and Mohammad Nabi. Mushfiqur brought up his 41st half-century, slog-sweeping Rashid for a boundary through midwicket off 56 balls.

M.D (UNANI) اور BUMS, BAMS

(سیشن 2021-22) داخلوں کیلئے رجسٹریشن شروع

علی گڑھ یونانی اینڈ آیورویڈک میڈیکل کالج، علی گڑھ

علامہ اقبال یونانی میڈیکل (یو جی اینڈ پی جی) کالج، مظفرنگر (یو پی)

(ڈاکٹر بھیم راؤ امبیڈکر یونیورسٹی آگرہ سے ملحق اور این، سی، آئی، ایم، این دہلی سے منظور شدہ)

B.U.M.S, B.A.M.S اور M.D (یونانی) کورس میں داخلے کے لئے جن امیدواروں نے

(AIAPGET - 2021-22 for M.D) اور (BAMS NEET 2021-22 for BUMS) کو

ایضاً کیا ہے وہ رجسٹریشن کے لئے فوراً کالج سے رابطہ قائم کریں۔ جو داخلے کا پہلا مرحلہ ہے۔

پی جی (M.D UNANI) کیلئے مندرجہ ذیل مضامین میں سٹیٹس موجود ہیں۔

(۱) کلیات (۲) تحفظی و سماجی طب (۲) معالجات

اتر پردیش آیوش ڈائریکٹریٹ کی جانب سے جاری کیا گیا کاؤنسلنگ شیڈول

BUMS اور BUMS کیلئے کاؤنسلنگ کے آن لائن رجسٹریشن بتاریخ 03-03-22 سے 14-03-22 تک

(For U.G) <http://ugcounseling.ayushup.in/>

پی جی (M.D UNANI) کیلئے آخری موقع۔

M.D کی کاؤنسلنگ کے آن لائن رجسٹریشن بتاریخ 26-02-2022 سے 02-03-22 تک

(For P.G) <http://pgcounseling.ayushup.in/>

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