



P4 OPINION

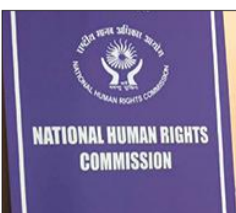
WHY INDIA, PAK CAN'T TALK

On the eve of his controversial visit to Russia, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in an interview to a Russian Television channel offered a televised debate to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to resolve their issues...

P7 STATE

UDHAMPUR INFANTS DEATH NHRC CLOSES CASE AFTER GOVT COMPENSATES KIN

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has closed the case pertaining to the death of 12 infants due to spurious drugs in Udhampur district after government...



P5 PANORAMA

WORLD HEARING DAY TO HEAR, LISTEN WITH CARE!

World Hearing Day is held on 3rd March each year to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world. The first event was held in 2007...



Quote!

Everything is ceremony in the wild garden of childhood

Pablo Neruda.

NEWS DIGEST

CRPF Constable Shoots Self Dead

SRINAGAR: A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) constable on Wednesday allegedly committed suicide inside his camp in Sanat Nagar area of this capital city. Constable Anand Lal shot himself dead using his AK-47 rifle at a camp of CRPF 29 battalion in Sanat Nagar area of the city, reports said Wednesday. The deceased ● P06

Retired Teacher Falls From Tree, Dies

SRINAGAR: A retired school teacher died on Wednesday after falling from a poplar tree in Uri area of Baramulla district. 65-year-old Mohammad Ismail Paswal was pruning a tree for firewood in Jabla village of Uri when he lost balance and fell down on the ground, reports said. Paswal, reports said, was shifted to the Sub-District hospital Uri where doctors declared him dead.

Panchayat Ghar Guttled In Blaze

SRINAGAR: A Panchayat Ghar was gutted in a mysterious blaze on Wednesday in Damhal Hanjipora area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district. According to official sources, fire broke out in a Panchayat Ghar at Hariweth village of the district on Wednesday evening and engulfed the building. They said fire ● P06

Ladakh Logs 29 New Covid Cases

LEH: Ladakh reported 29 fresh Covid cases that took the infection tally to 28,045, officials said on Wednesday. The number of active cases stands at 144, they said. The Union Territory has recorded 228 Covid-related deaths -- 168 in Leh and 60 in Kargil, they said, adding no death was reported on Tuesday. ● P06

'You'll Be Expelled': How Colleges Held Kashmiri Students 'Hostage' In Ukraine

PAGE 1 ANCHOR



Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR- The killing of an Indian student in Ukraine on Tuesday has heightened fears of families of more than 100 Kashmiri students still stuck in war-ravaged Ukraine.

With major cities of Ukraine already on the 'no flight mode' stranded Kashmiri students are finding it hard to find an exit route from the war zone.

"It's getting tough by the day," a Kashmiri student told Kashmir Observer minutes before his phone went off.

"It's like a death trap here. You fear missiles inside shelters and fret over the bloody war on the streets."

Amid this dreadful situation, these Kashmiris—for the very first time—sent home a detailed account about their failure to leave the country on time.

Why Couldn't They Leave
Several Kashmiri students that Kashmir Observer reached out said they chose to stay back in the country due to campus compulsions, fake normalcy by the citizenry and false assurances by the embassy.

"In the second week of January, the Indian embassy asked students to submit a form with their contact details, passport number, temporary address in Ukraine, university's name, course name and year of admission," said Mir Asif, a Kashmiri student.

"The embassy issued no specific reasons behind this sudden activity leaving us all baffled."

At the fag-end of January 2022, several foreign embassies in Ukraine's capital city, Kyiv had already issued an advisory for their citizens,

who were putting up in the country, to stay alert.

The advisory had come in reaction to the Russian armed fortification on the Ukrainian border.

Later, on February 24, when Russians invaded Ukraine, other foreign embassies including the United States, Britain, Canada, European Union, Australia and Israel issued an emergency advisory.

All of these countries had asked their respective embassy staff to "leave immediately" and had also advised citizens "to consider departing now using ● PAGE 06

Panch Shot Dead In Kulgam

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Unidentified militants on Wednesday shot dead a Panch in south Kashmir's Kulgam district, officials said.

The Panch Mohammad Yaqoob Dar of Sundoo village was critically injured after suspected militants fired upon him in Kolpora village of the district on Wednesday evening, they said.

Dar, who sustained multiple bullet injuries in the attack, was removed to the hospital for treatment. However, the doctors there declared him dead.

Medical Superintendent of the district hospital Kulgam Dr Muzaffar Zargar said that the Panch had bullet injuries in chest and neck and was brought dead to the hospital.

Meanwhile, in a statement issued here, a police spokesperson said that preliminary investigation has revealed that militants had fired upon the independent Panch Mohammad Yaqoob Dar at Kolpora Sundoo area of Kulgam.

"In this terror incident, he had sustained critical gunshot injuries and was immediately shifted to nearby ● P06

Schools Reopen In Kashmir After 31 Month Hiatus

Smiles, Excitement As Students Return To Classrooms

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: All the government and private schools across Kashmir Valley reopened on Wednesday after a gap of 31 months in wake of back to back lockdowns.

In the first phase, the government reopened most of the high and higher secondary schools across Kashmir on February 14 and 15. Universities, colleges and other institutions were also re-opened for offline classes last month.

The yellow-coloured school buses could be seen filled with students on the way to their respective schools across the city and other parts of the valley. Due to the reopening of schools, many parts of the city witnessed traffic snarls.

However, in most of ● PAGE 06



A TEACHER OFFERS CANDIES TO A GIRL STUDENT on the reopening of schools in Srinagar and other parts of the Valley on Wednesday after a 31-month break. KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Heavy Snow Spell Predicted Between March 6-7

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The meteorological department on Wednesday predicted widespread rainfall in plains of Kashmir on Thursday followed by a heavy snow spell between March 6 and 7 across the Valley.

Deputy Director, Meteorological Department, Mukhtar Ahmed told Kashmir Observer, on Wednesday that a widespread rainfall is expected in lower regions of Kashmir on Thursday.

However, in higher reaches, snowfall with light intensity is expected," Ahmed said.

"In the first ten days of March, a heavy spell of snowfall is expected between 6 and 7 March," he added.

The MET Deputy Director further added that the early prediction for the month of March has revealed that the temperature may slightly increase ● P06

Do You Get Your Copy of **KASHMIR OBSERVER** Regularly?

If Not

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

Ukraine War First Batch Of Kashmiri Students Arrive In Delhi

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: After being caught up in the middle of air raids and barages of missiles in Ukraine for five consecutive days, the first batch of 18 students from Kashmir region on Wednesday arrived in New Delhi in the Government of India's "special evacuation" flight.

According to the officials, the J&K Administration has set up a help desk at Delhi Airport for the assistance of these students and has also arranged their accommodation at J&K House in New Delhi.

Notably, 13 of these students who were waiting at Budapest airport since Tuesday evening

were brought back to Delhi in the IndiGo 6E aircraft that had reached Budapest from Delhi at 06.35 pm Tuesday under Government of India's Operation Ganga. The five students were brought back to Delhi in another aircraft that had taken off from Delhi to Poland Tuesday night.

Talking to Kashmir Observer, National spokesman of Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA), Nasir Khuehami said that all these students have landed safely in Delhi and will be provided free accommodation by J&K Administration's officials in Delhi.

"13 of these students were brought back to ● PAGE 06

J&K Opens Help Desk At New Delhi Airport

The Jammu and Kashmir government has established a help desk at the New Delhi Airport to provide assistance to the evacuees from Ukraine. The help desk established by the Resident Commission (RC) at the New Delhi Airport welcomed the students of J&K arriving in the capital from Ukraine, an official spokesperson said. ● P06

Indian Mission Issues New Advisory 'Leave Kharkiv Immediately'

In an urgent advisory, the India embassy in Ukraine on Wednesday asked all Indians stranded in Kharkiv to leave the conflict zone immediately. The embassy asked Indians to proceed to settlements in Pesochin, Babaye and Bezlyudovka as soon as possible. "For their safety and security, they must leave Kharkiv immediately repeat ● P06

Govt Rejigs Admin, 26 Officers Shifted

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday reshuffled the administration by ordering transfer of 26 officers, 25 among them Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS), in the interest of administration with immediate effect.

According to an order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD) on

Wednesday, Vikar Ahmad Giri, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Udhampur, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Ramsoo, against an available vacancy.

"He shall also hold the charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Ramsoo, in addition to his own duties, till further orders," reads the order, issued by Principal Secretary to the government, Manoj Kumar Dwivedi. ● PAGE 06

J&K Sees 36 Corona Cases, 123 Recoveries

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The daily Coronavirus cases witnessed a significant decline in Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday as 36 more people tested positive for the virus while no fresh fatality was reported in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, 18 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus were reported from the Valley and as many from the Jammu division on Wednesday, taking the number of people infected since the onset of pandemic in J&K to 453088. In the Valley, officials said,

Srinagar detected the highest 13 new cases of virus, Budgam and Kupwara 2 each and one new case in Baramulla. The six districts of Pulwama, Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian, Bandipora and Ganderbal registered no new cases of Covid-19.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of 11 new cases of infection, Doda 5 and one each in Rajouri and Reasi. No fresh cases were reported from the remaining six ● PAGE 06

MHA Orders Constitution Of VDGs In J&K

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: A day after Jammu BJP leaders called on Home Minister Amit Shah and demanded revival of the village defence committees (VDCs), the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Wednesday ordered the constitution of Village Defence Groups (VDGs) in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to an order, a copy of which lies with Kashmir Observer, the Under Secretary to the Government of India (MHA) has written a communication to Chief Secretary of J&K, informing him that the issue regarding revised scheme of village defence groups (VDGs) has been examined in the



Ministry and a few decisions have been taken.

"The members of the Village Defence Group shall be designated as Village Defence Guard (VDG)," the order reads.

It further reads that in more

vulnerable areas, persons (VI category) who shall be leading/ coordinating the VDG would be paid of Rs. 4500 per month and other persons (V2 category) who are members of these VDGs on voluntary basis will be paid a ● PAGE 06

Govt Forms Panel For Promotion Of 'One Nation One Ration Card'

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Union Territory administration on Wednesday ordered constitution of a Committee headed by Chief Secretary for promotion of "One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC)" in the Jammu and Kashmir.

The six member committee has been tasked with to quarterly review the trends and innovations in implementation of the One Nation One Ration Card Plan. The committee is also tasked to review incorporation

of Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence and other data driven Technologies and tools for advancement of the ONORC driven PDS reforms in the Jammu and Kashmir, according to the order issued by the government. The committee has been tasked to carry "any other matter as may be considered by the Core Committee for deliberations."

Its members include Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Finance Department; Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), ● PAGE 06



To place an advertisement

CALL +91-194 2502327

Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Walk Slower To Burn More Fat And Lose Weight Sustainably, Finds New Research

Taking a slow daily walk can promote gradual fat loss, and help you pick up other fitness habits

James Frew | Fit & Well

If you want to lose weight, the key is to train harder, lift heavier, run longer, and walk faster, right? Well, maybe not, according to a new study. In fact, walking slowly might be the best way to burn fat and drop pounds. When training at home, it's still worth using the best exercise machines for weight loss to hit your goals and tone up. Particularly as the rowing machine and multi-gym offer full-body workouts and promote muscle development. But in a break from traditional wisdom, research published in the journal *Nutrients* has found that slower walking speeds could be the key to burning fat quickly but safely and help you lose weight sustainably.

The team looked at the effect of walking speed on weight loss. And while many of us would imagine walking faster would be best, they found that "total body fat is lost... at all speeds, but the change is more rapid, clear, and initially greater with slow walking."

Across the 30-week study, the 16 participants were asked to walk 4.8km per day, four times a week. They were split into two groups, and the only difference between them was the walking speed; either 6.6km/h or 5.5km/h. Meanwhile, the researchers also recruited another 25 participants to do the same activity for only 15 weeks. Interestingly, the study's authors found that "fast walkers did not lose any significant amount of total body fat" in the 15-week group. Even more surprisingly, the fast walkers in the 30-week trial had



actually gained 1.24% body fat by the fifteenth week. However, they had lost 2.75% body fat by the end of the study, so the fat loss only began after the halfway point. It was a different story for the slow walking group, which experienced more gradual fat loss over 30 weeks. After 15 weeks, they had lost 4.2% body fat, which increased to 7.5% by the end of the trial. The researchers had a few ideas to explain these seemingly unusual outcomes when discussing the results. On average, the slow-walking group had 20% more

body fat than the faster walkers at the start, so they had more to lose. It also seems that how long, rather than how hard you exercise, plays a role. The authors point to an independent study published in *JAMA*, which found that "greater body fat loss was observed with increasing duration of exercise." These ideas help explain why the slower walkers lost body fat more sustainably across the experiment. Still, they don't help us understand why the faster walkers initially gained body fat before a more modest drop in the second

half. The answer may lay in how your body adapts to higher-intensity exercise. The researchers noted that training intensely increases your overall fitness level, causing your body to shift to burning fat for energy rather than relying on dietary carbohydrates. Whether you're into faster walks or prefer a calmer stroll, it seems walking is a free and effective way to lose weight sustainably. There are other benefits, too, as researchers have also found that regular walkers are more likely to stick to other fitness activities.

Once you've made a habit of taking some time outdoors, you might want to add some of the best exercises for weight loss into your routine too. These complement your walking by helping you burn calories and tone up simultaneously.

Of course, you can head outside in any shoes and get moving, but it's still worth lacing up a set of the best shoes for walking. These are more comfortable than sneakers and offer more support and cushioning with less rubbing.

Across the 30-week study, the 16 participants were asked to walk 4.8km per day, four times a week. They were split into two groups, and the only difference between them was the walking speed; either 6.6km/h or 5.5km/h.

انجمنیت دیگام باجلاس ہر روز ہوشیار اور صحت مند رہنے کے لیے ضروری ہے۔

مضمون درخواست منجانب:۔ ریاض احمد و ولد محمد متول راتھر ولد محمد متول راتھر صاحب آباد چیمپل انت ہاگ بگڑش حصول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بگڑش حصول SC سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر بڈگام میں پیش کیا ہے۔ اس بارے میں عملہ ٹیلڈ سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاں ہے کہ ساکن کا کنڈیشن ہڈی کاٹنے والا ہے۔ بگڑش حصول SC سرٹیفکیٹ کے لیے اس کی سہولت کی جائے۔

نمبر شمار	نام ولدیت	رشتہ نامزد ہوتی	پیشہ	عمر	آمدنی
01	سالم محمد	بیٹا	شیر خوار	5 سال	
02	علیہ بیجان	بیٹی	شیر خوار	03 سال	

مذکورہ کا کتبہ 02 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض معروض کرے۔ مبعاد گزرنے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

(تحریر الصدو نائب تحصیلدار) rna

انجمنیت دیگام باجلاس ہر روز ہوشیار اور صحت مند رہنے کے لیے ضروری ہے۔

مضمون درخواست منجانب:۔ ریاض احمد و ولد محمد متول راتھر ولد محمد متول راتھر صاحب آباد چیمپل انت ہاگ بگڑش حصول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بگڑش حصول RBA بیک وارڈ سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر بڈگام میں پیش کیا ہے۔ بگڑش حصول کے لیے اس کی سہولت کی جائے۔

نمبر شمار	نام ولدیت	رشتہ نامزد ہوتی	پیشہ	عمر	آمدنی
01	سالم محمد	بیٹا	شیر خوار	5 سال	
02	علیہ بیجان	بیٹی	شیر خوار	03 سال	

مذکورہ کا کتبہ 02 افراد پر مشتمل ہے۔ سرٹیفکیٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض معروض کرے۔ مبعاد گزرنے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

(تحریر الصدو نائب تحصیلدار) rna

انجمنیت دیگام باجلاس ہر روز ہوشیار اور صحت مند رہنے کے لیے ضروری ہے۔

مضمون درخواست منجانب:۔ ریاض احمد و ولد محمد متول راتھر ولد محمد متول راتھر صاحب آباد چیمپل انت ہاگ بگڑش حصول RBA سرٹیفکیٹ

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں ساکن نے ایک درخواست بگڑش حصول RBA بیک وارڈ سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر بڈگام میں پیش کیا ہے۔ بگڑش حصول کے لیے اس کی سہولت کی جائے۔

نمبر شمار	نام ولدیت	رشتہ نامزد ہوتی	پیشہ	عمر	آمدنی
01	عظمت بیگم بیگم	بیٹی	گھریلو کام	62 سال	
02	بال احمد محمد متول راتھر	ملازم	LPC	35 سال	
03	سمرت بال احمد محمد متول راتھر	ملازم	LPC	34 سال	
04	عمران متول راتھر	ملازم	LPC	33 سال	
05	سمیرا اختر زہیر	ملازم	LPC	32 سال	
06	گلزار احمد محمد متول راتھر	کارکن	8000/=	40 سال	
07	نفرت جان زہیر احمد محمد متول راتھر	گھریلو کام		36 سال	
08	افراغز احمد محمد متول راتھر	زیر تعلیم		06 سال	

اس کے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کو نہیں بتایا گیا ہے۔ لہذا اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض معروض کرے۔ مبعاد گزرنے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

(تحریر الصدو نائب تحصیلدار) rna

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been received from one. Shri : Manzoor Ahmad Shora S/O Hazir Mohammad Shora R/O Madina Colony Bemina Srinagar (Transferor) of Santro bearing registration number JK04A- 2545 . Chasis number 387327 Engine no. 66133 Model 2005 in favour of Shri. Ghulam Rasool Gujoo S/o Noor Mohammad Gujoo R/O Aali Masjid Eidgah Sriangar (Transferee). Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM/5914 Sd/ Assistant Regional Transport officer
Dated: 02-03-2022 mcb Budgam Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been received from one. Shri : Asrar Ahmad Malik S/o: Ghulam Mohammad Malik R/o: Budina Budgam (Transferor) of M/Cycle. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04C - 3445. Chasis number 22185 Engine no. 22185 Model 2013. in favour of Shri.. Mohammad Irfan Mir S/o. Mohammad Shaban Mir R/o Trahpoo Achabal (Transferee). As well as Duplicate RC is also required. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport officer ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.5926 Dated 02-03-2022 Assistant Regional Transport officer
mcb Budgam Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT REGIONAL TRANSPORT OFFICER BUDGAM KASHMIR

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Fayaz Ahmad Mir S/o: Mohammad Maqbool Mir R/o: Chewdara Beerwah Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04D 8134 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S J&K Bank B/U Beerwah. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.5821 Dated 02/03/2022 Assistant Regional Transport officer
mcb Budgam Kashmir

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Kulgam (Mini Secretariat Kulgam)

Phone No: - 01931-295587 Email ID:-cahok.ash@jk.gov.in

DASTI QUOTATION

Sealed short term quotation affixed with revenue stamps of Rs.2/- are invited from dealers / Band saw owners for supply of Saw Dust which should reach the office of undersigned within 03 days from the date of its issuance. The quotations will be opened on the same date by the committee of officers constituted for the purpose and the dealers / Band saw owners who wish to participate can attend the meeting of opening of quotations.

S.No	Name of the Item	Specification
01.	SAWDUST	Dry (Per Truck)

Terms and conditions :-

- The rate quoted should be FOR at Poultry Rearing Space Kounsarbal DH Pora Kulgam
- The rate quoted should be inclusive of all Taxes.
- The Approved dealer / Band saw Owner have to supply of whole quota of Saw Dust in one go within two days of receipt of supply order.
- Undersigned reserve the right to accept or reject any quotation without assigning any reason thereof.

Further queries and information can be had from the office of undersigned on working day during office hours.

No:-CAHO/Acctt/Kul/10152-57 Dated:- 28/02/2022 (Dr. Nisar Ahmad Khan) Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Kulgam

DIPK-18865/21

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR, NEAR J&K BANK(ZALDAGAR)

Telefax No. 0194-2503195 e.mail Id: xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com

Sub:- Extension in bidding time for this office Short Term e-NIT No. 47 OF 2021-22, Dated: 22-02-2022 for below mentioned work:-

“Providing, installation and commissioning of Video conferencing system for Conference / meeting hall at Mechanical Circle (I&FC Deptt)”.

Ref:- JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No's:- 2022_IFC_161723_1

EXTENSION NOTICE 1

Due to poor response to this office above referred e-NIT for the subject work, the critical dates are extended as under: -

Bid submission/ Document download / sale end Date	07/03/2022 at 1400 hrs
Date and time of Bid opening	08/03/2022 at 1400 hrs

Rest of the terms and conditions shall remain un-altered as laid down in the original e-NIT.

No. MIDS/Ts/ 5612-17 Dated:- 28-02-2022 Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mechanical Irrigation Division, Srinagar

DIPK-18873/21

Public Notice

I have lost my 8th calss Marks certificate bearing Regd no: DIET-BND-021-3151, Roll No: 8002013218069. Now I am applying 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 Govt HSS Shadipora within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Asmat Hlal D/o Hlal Ahmad Hajam aj-ko

CLOTHING & HOME APPLIANCES

YARDIMCI MULTI-VENTURE

Deals with clothing and home appliances at whole sale rates.

Contact:-0194-3550112 G-mail- yardimciunique92@gmail.com I.G: yardimci_multi_venture F.B: yardimci multiVenture

ELECTRONICS

10X MOBILE STORE

All types of Mobile and Mobile Accessories

Main Market Sannat Nagar Srinagar Contact:-7889657769

TECH WORLD

All Mobile and Electronic Accessories Xerox also available.

Sannat Nagar Srinagar Contact:-9149965005/ 9682370979

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

Printed & Published by Sajjad Haider on behalf of the Kashmir Observer LLP
Published from: # 5- Boulevard, Srinagar-190001
Printed at: KT Press Pvt. Ltd, Rangreth Ind Area, Srinagar.
RNI Registration No: 69503/98
Postal Registration No-L/159/KO/SK/2014-16
Editor-in-Chief: Sajjad Haider
Legal Counsel: Tasaduq Khwaja
Switchboard: (0194) 2106304
Editorial: (0194) 2502327
Email editorial: editor@kashmirobsvrvr.net

K O V I E W

Not black and white

US President Joe Biden in his first State of the Union address has warned Russian President Vladimir Putin that "he has no idea what's coming" in retaliation for the latter's invasion of Ukraine. He said that while Putin "may make gains on the battlefield, he will pay a continuing high price over the long run." US lawmakers in the audience applauded and roared with many of them waving Ukrainian flags and wearing the country's blue and yellow colours. West has already imposed severe sanctions on Russia. Even the west's leading corporate behemoths are pulling out of Russia or breaking their partnerships with their Russian counterparts. Biden in his address further ratcheted up sanctions, joining the European Union and Canada in banning Russian planes from US airspace announcing that the US Justice Department would seize the yachts, luxury apartments and private jets of wealthy Russians with ties to Putin.

Meanwhile, the human tragedy is unfolding in Ukraine on a vast scale in terms of the deaths of civilians. More than 450,000 people have fled Ukraine to Poland, and a further 113,000 to Romania.

The war has rallied western nations and many other countries from around the world behind the US. And suddenly all we are hearing is a predominantly western narrative on the war. Social media companies have censored Russian state-sponsored media so there is little in the public domain that can be called an alternative discourse. And this is creating a situation we are all so familiar with. West has again put on a moralistic lens on the war: a conflict between flawless virtue and pure evil. Putin is being projected as a reincarnation of Hitler. In fact, Time magazine's latest cover page shows Hitler's face lurking under that of Putin.

It is a familiar script that has earlier played out in US-led wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, and in the case of the US-backed Saudi war in Yemen. In the case of war in Iraq, it was the cooked up intelligence about the then Iraqi president Saddam Hussain possessing the Weapons of Mass Destruction that became the basis for war. And western media acted as cheerleaders for the destruction of Iraq. The point is that it is not the reality on the ground but the west's core interests that determine what is good and what is evil. Otherwise, the reality of Russian invasion of Ukraine is very complex. It is rooted in Russia's legitimate fears of being encircled by the west and the NATO military bases reaching its doorstep. Many of the Eastern European countries which were once a part of the USSR-led Warsaw Pact have become a part of the NATO, heightening Russia's insecurity. Now the growing likelihood of Ukraine also joining NATO became the last straw for Putin. While it is nobody's case to countenance the invasion of a sovereign smaller country by its powerful neighbour, the solution to the evolving fraught situation can be resolved if the US-led West and Russia sit down and work towards addressing each other's grievances and fears.

OTHER OPINION

A cautionary tale: On warning of the IPCC report

Amidst global turmoil, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change — the largest international consortium of scientists analysing and reviewing the evidence on the present and future man-made impacts of climate change — has a message that is predictably dire. The world faces unavoidable multiple climate hazards over the next two decades with global warming of 1.5°C; even temporarily exceeding this warming level would mean additional severe impacts, some of which will be irreversible. The report points out that the rise in weather and climate extremes has led to some irreversible impacts as natural and human systems are pushed beyond their ability to adapt. Alluding to the Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, in November 2021, the report notes that most of the targets that countries have set for themselves are too far in the future to have an impact in the short term at meaningfully reducing the climate impact.

India will achieve net zero emissions latest by 2070, that is, there will be no net carbon emissions, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared at the COP26 summit. By 2030, India would also ensure 50% of its energy will be from renewable energy sources. However, none of this can help the 1.5°C mark from being breached. A major point of emphasis of the report, particularly for South Asia, is the trend in the 'wet bulb' temperature — an index of the impact of heat and humidity combined — and its effect on health. Lucknow and Patna, according to one of several studies cited in the report, were among the cities predicted to reach wet-bulb temperatures of 35°C if emissions continued to rise, while Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Mumbai, Indore, and Ahmedabad are 'at risk' of reaching wet-bulb temperatures of 32°C-34°C with continued emissions. This will have consequences such as a rise in heat-wave linked deaths or reduced productivity. Global sea levels will likely rise 44cm-76cm this century if governments meet their current emission-cutting pledges. But with higher emissions, and if ice sheets collapse more quickly than expected, sea levels could rise as much as 2 metres this century and 5m by 2150. India is one of the most vulnerable countries in terms of the population that will be affected by sea-level rise. By the middle of the century, around 35 million of its people could face annual coastal flooding, with 45 million-50 million at risk by the end of the century if emissions are high. Experience has shown that partisan economic calculations trump climate considerations, but India must shore up its adaptation measures and urgently move to secure the futures of its many vulnerable who have the most to lose.

The Hindu

Why India, Pak Can't Talk

Today old equations between New Delhi and Islamabad and also between Kashmiri separatists and New Delhi no longer apply

RIYAZ WANI

On the eve of his controversial visit to Russia, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan in an interview to a Russian Television channel offered a televised debate to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to resolve their issues. The offer which came amidst his usual railing at the BJP's "racist ideology," hasn't received any response from New Delhi. India's position remains that the talks with India will go ahead if Pakistan ceases support to terrorism in India.

On the other hand, Islamabad has its condition: And this has been explained in detail earlier in an interview to Karan Thapar by Pakistan's National Security Advisor Moeed Yusuf. Pakistan, he clarified, wasn't interested in the nomenclature of the revoked Article 370 but what the constitutional provision guaranteed to Kashmiris. He wanted New Delhi to promise a permanent halt to any demographic change in Kashmir, restore the rights of Kashmiris and give these concessions whatever name it wanted.

But would New Delhi make these concessions in the first place? Very unlikely as this would effectively mean restoration of Article 370 in disguise or something close to it. And this should normally rule out a fresh engagement between the two countries. But if that were the case, the two neighbors wouldn't have established a contact early last year and agreed to reinstate the 2003 ceasefire along the Line of Control. The agreement caught people on both sides of the border by surprise. More so, the people of Kashmir who were expecting Pakistan to escalate matters for India for its withdrawal of the semi-autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir. On the contrary, Pakistan now appeared to play down New Delhi's far-reaching action. And by agreeing to the LoC ceasefire, New Delhi agreed to respect the sanctity of the LoC, which otherwise it had threatened to breach to take back Pakistan Administered Kashmir.

The ceasefire has since been held, completing its first anniversary on February 25. According to Army, not a single bullet was fired along the LoC over the last year which is quite an achievement considering in 2020, 4,645 violations were reported between the two neighbours which equates to nearly 12.7 violations a day.

There are several geopolitical factors at play. One is the unfolding geopolitics of the region. Since April 2020, India has been engaged in a tense stand-off with China along the Line of Actual Control. China staged incursions at four points - forcing India to mass its troops along the border to deter further intrusions.

Similarly, India and Pakistan have also been at daggers drawn despite the ceasefire. Given the tense state of affairs, it is unlikely that the ceasefire will last. It doesn't seem to be undergirded by any mutual understanding between them.

Then there in Afghanistan. The unfolding situation in Kabul, where the Taliban are now back in power has reduced India's capacity to influence the events in that country. Accordingly, Pakistan is suddenly in a greater position of leverage. Pakistan would also benefit from a friendly India to ensure continued stability on its eastern flank.

The LoC agreement is also traced to the US nudging the two countries from behind the scenes. The US involvement in the relationship between India and Pakistan is a fairly complex affair. New Delhi wants the US to intervene to sort out the terror problem in Pakistan, but it brooks no meddling in Kashmir. Similarly, Is-



For Representational Purposes only

The US involvement in the relationship between India and Pakistan is a fairly complex affair. New Delhi wants the US to intervene to sort out the terror problem in Pakistan, but it brooks no meddling in Kashmir. Similarly, Islamabad wants US intervention on Kashmir but wouldn't like Washington to speak on behalf of India on terror

lamabad wants US intervention on Kashmir but wouldn't like Washington to speak on behalf of India on terror. More so, at a time when the US is seen as partial towards India. This contradiction hardly makes the US an ideal mediator between the two countries. The starkness of this reality leaves India and Pakistan no choice but to engage and confront their problems themselves. And confront they must.

But here again, the two countries have exhibited a singular inability to talk sustainably. The suspension of the dialogue over the last decade is enlightening on this score. Following the attack on Mumbai that killed 166 people, the two nations have struggled to get back to a durable engagement.

Today old equations between New Delhi and Islamabad and also between Kashmiri separatists and New Delhi no longer apply. Following the withdrawal of Article 370, Hurriyat has been obliterated from the scene. In theory, at least, Pakistan is once again bolstered by the strategic depth of Afghanistan. But it has not only continued with the truce on the LoC but also stopped well short of exacerbating militan-

cy in Kashmir, a behavior that should be to the liking of India. But as things stand, this hasn't brought the two countries closer to dialogue. India isn't amenable to talk about Kashmir let alone concede to Islamabad's demands to restore constitutional protections to Kashmiris, even in some milder form. One factor in this is the considerable power gap that has come into play between the two countries in recent years, something which no amount of rhetoric in Kashmir and Islamabad can hide. India's GDP is now ten times larger than that of Pakistan. And this inequality is likely to leave a deep imprint on the content of a future bilateral dialogue. And of course, on the outcome of it too, if it is sustainably held. It would be an outcome that might not be completely satisfying of the expectations of the weaker parties. Or else, the logjam that has persisted for the past seven decades would linger on.

Former Pakistan president Musharraf was the first to recognize new realities. His four-point proposals on Kashmir envisaged a solution that would be a drastic climbdown from Islamabad's traditional stand on J&K. This solution was about some minor political and administrative adjustments in Kashmir. With moderate Hurriyat playing along, these proposals almost got the two countries to agree to a radical new solution for Kashmir. If the lawyers' agitation in Pakistan hadn't forced the sudden exit of Musharraf, this solution potentially could have resolved Kashmir.

There's a possibility that the two countries could return to the formula sometime in the future. And the fresh effort will have to be guided by the realization that ultimately India and Pakistan would have to resolve their problems themselves for a peaceful sub-continent. Only such a dialogue could be hoped to lead us towards a positive outcome. At the end of the day, the sub-continent needs the two countries to resolve their issues to usher in a true era of peace.

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 at Kashmir Observer



OBSERVER MAIL

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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

P.O. Box # 337, GPO, Srinagar-190 001
email: editpage.ko@gmail.com

Ukrainian Conflict and Western Oil Cartels

The conflict in Ukraine is not about national sovereignty, aggression but it's ultimately about oil cartels establishing monopoly over setting oil prices. Let me explain: right now Germany and Russia have already built the Nordstream2 pipeline. Germany only needs to initiate it, but it won't. Why?

In order to understand Germany's decision not to initiate Nordstream2 yet, we need to understand the current global capitalist order that we call "imperialism". It is when large scale banks and massive cartels (or corporations) privately own much of the global capitalist economy.

The US Empire's economic hegemony is based on Western oil cartels having a collective monopoly over oil and its prices determine the value of the US dollar. Anything that breaks this collective monopoly undermines the economic hegemony of the US Empire. Moreover, economic aggression against Iran by US and allies is a living example of what the US can do to someone who denies the hegemony of "Petrodollar". But what does this have to do with Nordstream2?

If Germany sets up the Nordstream2 pipeline, the western Oil cartels based in the US and Britain no

longer have the collective monopolistic power to fix the price of oil worldwide. If they don't collectively control the price of oil worldwide, they can't maintain/enhance the value of the US dollar. Furthermore, Germany and Russia breaking this monopoly could potentially undermine the value of the US dollar. This gives them a new found leverage.

The US Empire and the western oil cartels don't want this new arrangement, where Germany and Russia have this new leverage, so they're giving Germany an ultimatum: Either you stay in NATO with us by giving up Nordstream2 or you're on Russia's side and face dire consequences like Iran.

The US Empire and western oil cartels are pushing for the war on Ukraine because they want to cancel Nordstream2 pipeline and force Russia to become reliant on Ukraine to transport its oil. This maintains western oil cartel's monopoly over the price of oil.

Furthermore, as long as Russia owns its own oil, the western oil cartels and the US Empire's monopoly over the price of oil is potentially vulnerable because Russia has so much oil, so they want to expand NATO into Ukraine as a first step towards

colonising Russia.

They want to privatize all of Russia's natural resources including and especially oil in order to guarantee that western oil cartels based in the US and UK maintain their monopoly over oil and control prices to maintain/ augment the value of the US dollar.

Doing this meant that they've to get rid of the Russian Federal Government, where much of the natural resources including oil are state owned assets that are used for economic stability. This means privatizing State-Owned assets and reducing Russia to its 1991 state.

If we look through the prism of Islam on this matter as we should, we oppose this global capitalist order that we call "imperialism", based on Lenin's writings "imperialism is the highest stage of capitalism". We wish to undermine the monopoly of western oil cartels that is the economic basis of US hegemony.

The reason why Ukraine is so important to Oil cartels is that since oil from Russia to Europe is currently delivered through Ukraine, controlling Ukraine means controlling the land pipelines in Ukraine. All the oil that passes through can be taxed to match the global oil prices set by

western oil cartels. As long as oil cartels don't own oil in Russia, they can only control the amount of oil that Russia can deliver to the world and at what price and this is the reason why this system is called "Petrodollar".

It's pretty simple that even a common man in any country can't buy oil without and unless it's purchased with US dollar, this is the reason why the US dollar has any value in the first place. Countries that wish to purchase oil must convert their currency to US dollars to buy oil, this gives a ton of value to the US dollar.

In effect, controlling Oil prices and the supply of oil is essential to the strength and survival of the US dollar hegemony. Similar is the case in many middle eastern countries and African countries, where the US is spending billions of dollars to maintain the hegemony of "Petrodollar", by creating proxies and fake enemies to enter any state and exploit the resources of any resourceful country.

In Conclusion, it's the duty of every free human to understand the oppression of US and western Oil cartels and fight against it.

Majid Rizvi
majidaleerizvi@gmail.com

World Hearing Day: To hear, listen with care!

M Ahmad

World Hearing Day is held on 3rd March each year to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss and promote ear and hearing care across the world. The first event was held in 2007. Before 2016 it was known as International Ear Care Day. According to the World Federation of the Deaf, there are more than 70 million deaf people worldwide. Over 5% of the world's population – 360 million people – has disabling hearing loss (328 million adults and 32 million children). Russia tops the list of countries with the highest rate of hearing loss. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), over 5% of the world's population suffers from disabling hearing loss. Five percent may seem like a small number, but that totals over 360 million people across the globe. The National Association of the Deaf (affiliated with the World Federation of the Deaf) puts the number of Indians affected with hearing loss at 18 million. On World Hearing Day 2022, focus is laid on the importance of safe listening as a means of maintaining good hearing across the life course. In 2021, WHO launched the World report on hearing that highlight-

ed the increasing number of people living with and at risk of hearing loss. It highlighted noise control as one of the seven key H.E.A.R.I.N.G. interventions and stressed the importance of mitigating exposure to loud sounds. World Hearing Day promotes ear and hearing care across the world and raises awareness of how to prevent deafness and hearing loss.

A person who is not able to hear as well as someone with normal hearing – hearing thresholds of 20 dB or better in both ears – is said to have hearing loss. Hearing loss may be mild, moderate, severe, or profound. It can affect one ear or both ears, and leads to difficulty in hearing conversational speech or loud sounds. It is possible to have good hearing across the life course through ear and hearing care. Many common causes of hearing loss can be prevented, including hearing loss caused by exposure to loud sounds. 'Safe listening' can mitigate the risk of hearing loss associated with recreational sound exposure. Hearing loss (and related ear diseases) can be avoided through preventative actions such as: protection against loud sounds; good ear care practices and immunization. Hearing loss (and related ear diseases) can be addressed



It highlighted noise control as one of the seven key H.E.A.R.I.N.G. interventions and stressed the importance of mitigating exposure to loud sounds. World Hearing Day promotes ear and hearing care across the world and raises awareness of how to prevent deafness and hearing loss

when it is identified in a timely manner and appropriate care sought. People at risk of hearing loss should check their hearing regularly. People having hearing loss (or related ear diseases) should seek care from a health care provider. 'Hard of hearing' refers to people with hearing loss ranging from mild to severe. People who are hard of hearing usually

communicate through spoken language and can benefit from hearing aids, cochlear implants, and other assistive devices as well as captioning. 'Deaf' people mostly have profound hearing loss, which implies very little or no hearing. They often use sign language for communication.

The very first World Report on Hearing was released in 2021 to commemorate World Hearing Day. WHO hopes to reach out to national governments, global N.G.O.s, and development organizations, along with players in the hearing care sector, to raise awareness and organize action through the global release of the report. The World Report on Hearing and World Hearing Day presents a global call to action to alleviate hearing loss and ear illnesses.

We believe this is the perfect opportunity to highlight our shared responsibility to educate young people about noise-induced hearing loss in order to help prevent it. We know that young people may not be aware of the risk of spending too much time around loud noises – so this World Hearing Day, we ask that you join us in our efforts to spread the word.

The author is Incharge Abhedananda Home-Higher Secondary Institution for Specially-abled Children, Solina, Srinagar

COAL GASIFICATION: A Platform for Meeting India's Energy Independence and Self-Reliance Targets



Dev Gavaskar

India's vision, towards becoming a global economic super-power rests on the solutions to the challenges of self-reliance (AtmaNirbhar-Abhiyaan), monetization of domestic reserves, transformative innovation (Make in India vision), reduction of imports and jobs' creation, while simultaneously aiming for a decarbonized & sustainable economy in the coming decades. India has been blessed with three scalable and abundant natural resources in the forms of solar energy, biomass reserves and coal. While India can be bullish on the awesome advancements made in the field of solar installations, and a significant amount of research and development work has always been undertaken in case of biomass-based technologies, currently, these resources are challenged by limitations, like the state of downstream technologies for utilizing solar generated electricity and feedstock scalability issues for biomass. However, India does have reserves of 307 billion tonnes of coal; 80 percent of which has historically been consumed in thermal power plants and represents 55% of the total fuel source for power in India along with lignite. However, as India, being a signatory of the Paris agreement, aims at moving to cleaner forms of energy, an urgent need as arisen to explore alternative avenues for building a bridge from the energy

intensive "dirty" present to a cleaner, greener, and sustainable future without compromising on the demands of an ever-growing economy. At this socio-economic stage, India's most abundant natural resource, Coal, is in urgent need of diversification. To make this a possibility, India can look to utilize a commercially proven platform that 'extracts' the stored chemical energy from coal instead of burning it. Coal gasification is the process of producing syngas – a mixture consisting of carbon monoxide (CO), hydrogen (H₂) and carbon dioxide (CO₂) – by chemically reacting coal with steam and oxygen (or air), in ratios that results in gasifying the elements of the coal instead of burning them. This syngas can then be used to produce Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG), energy fuels (methanol & ethanol), ammonia for fertilizers and chemicals, and other chemicals and even plastics. Coal gasification plants have been widely deployed around the world, with countries using the technology to produce fuels and chemicals. Unlike coal combustion, the carbon dioxide stream from a coal gasification plant is highly concentrated, making carbon capture and utilization more practical and economical, especially when coupled with a source of green hydrogen or other means of CO₂ sequestration. In line with the objectives and visions mentioned above, it is no surprise that the Ministry of Coal has taken

“ In a nutshell, the coal to ethanol route provides a promising and economically compelling pathway to achieve the dual objectives of India's self-reliance and energy independence vision, by helping to achieve the E20 targets

an initiative for utilizing coal through coal gasification with a target of gasifying 100 million tonnes of coal by the end of this decade. To underline the government's seriousness towards this mission, the Ministry of Coal has also formed a new coal-linkage policy for coal gasification projects, under 'Sub-Sectors under Auction of linkages of Non-Regulated Sectors'

India's other major aim is that of self-reliance, through becoming an energy independent nation; as was categorically mentioned in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech on the 75th Independence Day, with a pledge of achieving this in the next 25 years. It is obvious, that the first step towards achieving self-reliance and energy independence, will hence have to involve the reduction of imports – primarily petroleum. To put things in perspective, India's annual net import of petroleum (used primarily in the transportation sector) stood at 185 million metric tons, which cost approximately USD 55 billion. To reduce these imports, and hence save foreign exchange,

the national policy on biofuels of 2018 was launched. Under the first phase, the Government of India had resolved to supply 5% ethanol blended petrol under its First-Generation Ethanol blended petrol (EBP). Progressively, the Government also advanced the target for 20% ethanol blending in petrol (also called E20) to 2025 from 2030.

As is well known, the traditional paths to make ethanol have been via sugar and biomass-based routes, which are limited and disadvantaged due to various reasons including cost, scale, and land requirement constraints and/or food chain diversion issues. Second generation ethanol feedstock have also emerged using feed such as energy crops, municipal wastes, forest & agricultural residues and wasted food-grains, which have also been primarily plagued by low efficiency and conversion. Additionally, the feedstock scalability challenges also put an upper limit on the scale of the 2G-ethanol plants, with one plant expected to produce ethanol in the range of

3 crore liters annually. While there is no doubt, that India has made rapid progress in ethanol blending, reaching approximately 8-9% blending via these routes, solutions must be sought for the significant demand-supply gap to meet the E20 targets, which will not be met via traditional methods. This solution must also be efficient, scalable and result in compelling economics. This is where coal – via gasification and conversion of syngas to ethanol – can help bridge the gap.

Historically the conversion of syngas to ethanol has been challenged by poor conversions & selectivity issues and multi-step reaction schemes, resulting in unacceptable economics. However, novel, disruptive, and transformational technologies, with compelling economics due to highly efficient and selective conversion of syngas to ethanol have been developed and are ready for commercialization. Furthermore, combining these technologies with coal-gasification can help build plants that are highly scalable, with one commercial coal-to-ethanol plant capable of producing more than 40 crore liters of ethanol annually – at significantly lower capital intensities. Companies have already been in discussions with potential stakeholders and parties, for building commercial and demonstration plants. For example, technology providers like Synata Bio are com-

mercializing an on-purpose syngas to ethanol technology and a demonstration 'coal-to-ethanol' project, which will alone produce about 2.5 crore liters of ethanol annually from coal-derived syngas, is being developed at the Sonapur-Bazari coal complex via a partnership between Synata Bio and Thermax – a project that will bring in approximately USD 100 million in the form of foreign direct investment. Coal-to ethanol technologies hence provide an effective means of not only solving the demand-supply gap for fuel-ethanol (and meet E20 target) but catalyze the acceleration of the development of coal gasification projects and syngas infrastructure in general, within India, as well as opening possibilities of bringing in foreign direct investments to the country.

However, there are several steps that are still required to incentivize such projects and the associated investments. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is already in the process of modifying National Policy on Biofuels 2018, to include coal-gasification based ethanol. Acceleration of this will give confidence to the potential investors for investing in these projects. However, in addition to this, clarity is required for the pricing that such 'synthetic' ethanol will fetch in the market. While subsequent projects based on these technologies will undoubtedly have reductions in the cost of

production (expected to compete with petroleum gasoline), the first of its kind plant will rely on incentivized pricing, necessary to balance the trade-offs between the plant size (expected to be substantially smaller than optimum to moderate the project capital investments) and the required project returns for the investors.

In a nutshell, the coal to ethanol route provides a promising and economically compelling pathway to achieve the dual objectives of India's self-reliance and energy independence vision, by helping to achieve the E20 targets. Furthermore, as electrification of the transportation sector picks up, these technologies can also provide a unique 'carbon capture and utilization' solution, by reacting the currently vented CO₂ stream with green hydrogen, to produce a wide range of key chemical products, including ethylene and other olefins. This holistic approach will, therefore, not only help in achieving India's goal of self-reliance and energy independence but also provide a true solution for the future inevitable target of decarbonization and even exceed India's commitments to the Paris accord agreement for climate change goals.

Dev Gavaskar, is a Partner with True North Venture Partners and also Vice President, Business Development with Synata Bio

