



P7 STATE

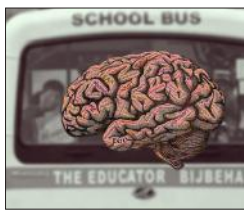
LANDSLIDE BLOCKS HIGHWAY, HUNDREDS OF VEHICLES STRANDED

A major landslide in Ramban district on Thursday has forced the closure of the 272 km-long Jammu-Srinagar national highway, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded, officials

P5

WHY DON'T WE HAVE MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION IN SCHOOL CURRICULUM?

School days are an indelible part of your life, whether you liked it or hated it. Our school days effectively formed us into the adults we are today, even if we are unaware of it at the time and it's no surprise, given that school is



P8 SPORTS

UNVACCINATED NOVAK DJOKOVIC SAYS HE IS OUT OF INDIAN WELLS, MIAMI

Novak Djokovic said that he will not be able to compete at the hard-court tennis tournaments in Indian Wells, California, or Miami because he is unvaccinated and



Quote!

No medicine cures what happiness cannot

- Gabriel García Márquez

NEWS DIGEST

'PIA' Marked Balloon Seized In Samba

JAMMU: A balloon in the shape of an aircraft with PIA mark was found in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, officials said on Thursday. On sighting the PIA (Pakistan International Airlines)-marked balloon in Sarna, a border village, the locals informed the police, who rushed to the spot and **More on P6**

Cop Found Dead At Friend's Apartment

JAMMU: A policeman on Thursday was found hanging inside the rented accommodation of his friend in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir. 36-year-old Ifthar Ahmed of Ari village in Mendhār, Poonch district was found hanging from the **More on P6**

Soldier Killed After Vehicle Overturns

SRINAGAR: A soldier was killed and four others injured on Thursday when an army vehicle turned turtle in north Kashmir's Kupwara district on Wednesday afternoon. According to reports, an army vehicle carrying soldiers of 21 Mahar Regiment overturned near **More on P6**

Fire Damages Temple, Probe Ordered

SRINAGAR: A temple was gutted in an overnight fire incident in south Kashmir's Shopian district, prompting the administration to order a probe, officials said Thursday. The Rojana temple located in Zainapora village of Shopian was gutted during the intervening night **More on P6**

BJP Sweeps 4 States, AAP Wins Punjab

4-1 for BJP, retains UP, U'khand, Goa, Manipur; 'Mann ki baat' in Punjab



Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: As results of the assembly polls showed BJP's clear mandate in Uttar Pradesh, posters emerged winners with on-target prediction of not only the saffron party's victory, but also an emphatic win for AAP in Punjab.

The exit polls had, however, gone off track with the result in

Uttarakhand, where 11 of them predicted a close fight with the BJP marginally ahead of the Congress. The result on Thursday showed a big victory for the saffron party, with the Congress lagging far behind.

As many as eight exit polls -- ABP News-CVoter, ETG Research, India Today- Axis My India, India TV-CNX, **More on P6**

BJP Credits Win To Modi

Cong Says Lost Polls, Not Courage

With the BJP sweeping the latest round of assembly polls, its leaders credited the performance to the popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who asserted that the verdict highlighted people's strong approval for the party's pro-poor and proactive governance model, while the beleaguered Congress sought to put up a brave face, saying it may have lost elections but not its courage. The Aam Aadmi Party, which received a thumping mandate in the Punjab polls, hailed its performance as a "revolution" and announced its presence on the national **More on P6**

2022 Has Decided Results Of 2024: Modi

Lauding party workers for ensuring an early Holi by making BJP victorious in four states, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the 2022 Assembly verdict from Uttar Pradesh has "decided the results of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections".

"It is a day of zest and festivities and this enthusiasm is for India's democracy," Modi said, while addressing BJP workers at the party's headquarters following its win in four state polls, and described it as 'jeet ka chauka'.

He said Uttar Pradesh has given many prime ministers but for the first time it has reelected a chief minister after he had served a full term. The prime minister said that governance delivery has been made better and transparent in the last few years, while delivering the poor their rights. Modi further said, "BJP

karyakartas had promised me that Holi would begin from 10th March this year, and they have kept their promise. These workers worked 24X7 and were successful in winning the trust of the people across states."

"BJP's vote share has increased in Manipur, Uttar Pradesh and Goa, even after being incumbent. All exit polls were proven incorrect in Goa, and the people of Goa have given us the chance to serve them for the third consecutive time," he said.

In Goa, he said, the BJP has emerged as the single largest party and even after being in power for 10 years, the number of BJP seats in the state has increased.

"BJP has created a new history in Uttarakhand too," he said, while referring to the BJP winning for the second consecutive time.

Courts To Resume Physical Hearing From Monday

Agencies

SRINAGAR: J&K and Ladakh High Court on Thursday ordered that judicial work in both of its wings at Srinagar and Jammu respectively as well as in all Subordinate Courts including Tribunals shall be through physical mode from March 14.

Amid significant decline in covid-19 cases, the court however ordered that "virtual hearing is not prohibited" either.

"Advocates are allowed entry in the Court rooms in the High Court and all the Subordinate Courts to a limited extent avoiding concentration but clerks and litigants are not allowed," the order by the Registrar General Sanjeev Gupta reads, adding, "The Counsels awaiting their hearing(s), may wait in the designated Bar Lounges/ Libraries and may avoid crowding in the corridors."

The order said that only those advocates whose cases are listed in the Courts and who are fully vaccinated shall be allowed entry in the Courtrooms.

"The guidelines and protocols for prevention of Covid-19 contagion including **More on P6**

BJP KARYAKARTAS HAD PROMISED ME that Holi would begin from 10th March this year, and they have kept their promise. These workers worked 24X7 and were successful in winning the trust of the people across states."

NIA Takes Over Udhampur Blast Case

Agencies

JAMMU: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday took over the probe of Udhampur blast, in which a civilian was killed and 14 others injured.

Officials said that a team of NIA led by an SP rank officer visited Salathia Chowk area, where an IED blast took place.

"The team collected evidence from the spot and also recorded statements of eye-witnesses," they said. "Till now, the central **More on P6**

J&K Adds 35 More Corona Cases

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Thursday 35 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus while no fresh fatality was registered in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, 21 new cases of Covid-19 were detected in Kashmir Valley and the remaining 14 from Jammu division, taking the number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic in J&K to 453382. In the Valley, officials said, Budgam **More on P6**

Gunshots Resonate Outside Hazratbal Shrine

Pak Militant Killed, 2 Associates Escape After Brief Shootout



A contingent of security personnel carrying out searches inside Hazratbal Shrine following a brief encounter in which a Pakistani militant was killed while two of his associates escaped. KO photo, Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: A Pakistani militant of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) was killed in a brief shootout in Hazratbal area here

on Thursday while a search operation was launched to nab two of his associates who managed to flee, police said. The trio tried to snatch weapons from the guard

posted at the Hazratbal shrine on the banks of the famous Dal Lake. The shrine houses the relic of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH). Inspector General **More on P6**

Militants Injure Bank Guard, Snatch His Rifle

Militants shot at and injured a bank guard in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday and snatched his rifle, officials said. According to an official, the militants targeted the Jammu **More on P6**

Two Militants Killed, 2 Soldiers Injured In Pulwama

Two Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants were killed in an encounter with government forces in Pulwama district of South Kashmir on Thursday, police said. Acting on specific input about the presence of militants, police, **More on P6**

Missing Soldier's Body Found In Budgam

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The body of an army soldier, who went missing early this week, was found in Khag area of Central Kashmir's Budgam district on Thursday.

Officials said that body of Sameer Ahmad Malla, son of Mohammad Yaqoob Malla of the Army's Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JAKLI) was found today in village Labren Dalwesh area of Khag.

"Dead body of soldier Sameer Ahmad Malla found. No mark of firearm injury was found on his body. #Investigation is going on. We are looking into both aspects, terror crime & murder," IGP Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said in a tweet. Malla went missing from



his Lokipora village of Khag on Monday evening. He was visiting home on leave to be with his wife on the birth of their second child, the officials said.

Malla had last talked to his mother from his mobile phone and informed her that his phone battery was running **More on P6**

Kashmiri Doctor Wins RCPsych Award

Zaid Bin Shabir

SRINAGAR: Dr Shah Tarfarosh, a medico from Kashmir currently working in England, has been awarded the RCPsych South Eastern Award for the year 2022 by the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

The Royal College of Psychiatrist's South Eastern division has declared Dr. Shah Tarfarosh as the winner of the

Trainee Innovator category for the Year 2022. Doctor Shah is an Oxford University postgraduate currently working as the Specialist Registrar at Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust in England with an impressive track record.

Taking to the micro-blogging site Twitter, the RCPsych South Eastern declared the results on Thursday. "And the winner of Trainee Innovator **More on P6**

'Not A Single Penny Spent' On RTI Awareness In JK Since Aug 2019

Umer Ahmad

SRINAGAR: In a startling revelation it has come to the fore that no awareness campaign or training workshop on the Right to Information (RTI) Act has been conducted in Jammu and Kashmir since August 2019.

This was revealed by Government of India in reply to an RTI filed by Kashmiri advocate Naveed Bukhtiyar, Coordinator J&K RTI Movement. "The reply made it evident how serious the government is in bringing transparency and accountability in J&K," Naveed told Kashmir Observer.

"It was shocking to know that government has not spent a single

penny on the awareness of RTI law in J&K since the abrogation of Article 370 when there was an urgent need for the awareness."

Notably, in August 2019, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had justified the removal of Article 370 as a necessary step "to eradicate corruption and to bring accountability" in J&K.

But RTI activists argue that if the government really wanted to end corruption in J&K, then they shouldn't have removed JK RTI Act "which was more efficient than Central RTI Act".

"Now the government is not even organizing RTI awareness programmes after implementing the Central RTI Act 2005 in J&K," Sheikh Ghulam Rasool, founding



chairperson of J&K RTI Movement, told Kashmir Observer.

"It's mandatory under Section 26 of RTI law for the government to organize awareness programmes—including cultural

events and plays—for the public as well as government officials."

It's also mandatory, Ghulam Rasool said, to translate the RTI Act in local languages.

"But since the abrogation of

OUR PEOPLE ARE MOSTLY UNEDUCATED

and there's a dire need to create awareness among them about their rights and how they can get information from the government departments, but unfortunately we're being ignored."

Article 370, government officials are not taking RTIs seriously and are instead harassing people seeking information," he said.

Seconding him, Zahid Parvaaz Chowdhary, a Gujarati Bakarwal

leader and an RTI activist, said that it's sad that the government has not conducted a single awareness programme for Gujarati and Bakarwals in J&K since the summer 2019.

"Our people are mostly uneducated and there's a dire need to create awareness among them about their rights and how they can get information from the government departments, but unfortunately we're being ignored," Zahid told Kashmir Observer.

"If the awareness programs had been conducted we could easily obtain the information we need. In absence of the awareness, the Gujaratis and Bakarwals are facing indifference in government offices."

The Central RTI Act, the Gujarati leader said, should be translated into native languages, like in Gojri, Sheena and Pashtu, for different ethnic and linguistic groups.

But due to lack of awareness about the Central RTI Act 2005, the information activists of Kashmir said, most of them are not able to file RTIs in rural areas.

"There has been a sharp decline in RTI filing among rural activists," Sheikh Mohi-ud-din, a faith-healer turned RTI activist and vice-chairperson of the J&K RTI Movement, told Kashmir Observer.

"These grassroots activists are unaware of the Central Act 2005 making them cripple to file RTIs."

As per Section 25 of the Central RTI Act 2005, **More on P6**



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2

How Sugar Affects The Brain, According To A Neuroscience Expert

Lisa Bain | Good Housekeeping

Sugar rush. Sugar high. Sugar buzz. Sugar slump. We've all heard these phrases that describe what our brains feel like when we've had too much of a sweet treat. But here's the thing about sugar and your brain: Your noggin needs it because sugar is actually its main fuel. Our brains run on glucose—it fuels our cells, including our brain cells. We're evolutionarily programmed to like sweets since they're a great energy source. And when glucose levels are low in the blood (say, if you have hypoglycemia, or sometimes if it's just been a while since you've had something to eat), brain fog sets in, you fumble for words, you forget where you put down your phone, you look for a place to curl up for a quick nap. When there's too much sugar in the system, however, that can set off some really bad stuff in your body and your brain.

What happens in your brain when you eat sugar?

"When sugar hits our tongue, it activates certain taste buds that send a signal up to the brain, including the cerebral cortex," says Nicole Avena, Ph.D., assistant professor of neuroscience at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, who wrote a book about sugar

addiction. The signal activates the brain's reward system; dopamine (a feel-good brain chemical) is released and the behavior is reinforced, which makes us want to repeat it (mmm, that's nice, give me more!). Sugar is rare among dopamine-producing foods, Avena points out. "Most of the time when we eat something new and tasty, dopamine is released the first time we taste it," she explains. "This is an evolutionary advantage to help us to pay attention to new and different tastes, in case they make us sick. If we eat something new and don't get sick, typically the dopamine response then goes away the next time—so basically we only release dopamine in response to eating new foods. However, sugar is different. It's more like what happens with a drug of abuse, where dopamine is released every single time it's consumed. Eating lots of sugar will continue to feel rewarding because the dopamine level doesn't balance out, which it does when eating healthier foods. So sugar does act a bit like a drug in our system — which is why people get hooked on sugary foods."

Your brain on too much sugar:

We used to have to forage for sweet foods — but no more, of course. Our world is filled with sugary foods; and not just the obvious donuts and super-sweetened, super-large

latte drinks. A host of surprising foods — from ketchup to salad dressing and marinara sauce — have sugar added to them. But our brains still function like sugar is a rarity. When you repeatedly activate that reward system, your brain adapts and actually rewires itself, and you end up craving more and more. Research conducted on rats turned up this finding: When they were fed high-sugar diets, the rats' brains released less of a certain chemical that helps bodies put on the brakes, so they were less able to stop eating it. Those sugar-saturated rats also weren't as good at certain memory tasks, which showed that certain brain functions in the prefrontal area and hippocampus (an important area for memory formation and retention) were impaired. Other rat-based studies showed that a high sugar diet increased inflammation in this area, which also affected short term memory.

Why sugar makes your brain crave more sugar:

You may not be aware that there's a strong connection between our gut and our brain — and sugar comes into play here as well. "When that sugary thing you've eaten hits your gut," Avena says, "it activates sugar receptors there too, which signal the brain to release insulin to deal with the extra sugar you've eaten."

To explain further: Excess sugar drives the pancreas to produce extra insulin, a hormone involved in blood sugar regulation. The insulin signals fat cells to store excessive amounts of glucose, fatty acids, and other calorie-rich substances. As a result, too few calories remain in the bloodstream, so the brain thinks it's now low on fuel (since it has those very high energy needs). So your hunger level rises quickly. And sugar is appealing then because it provides quick energy. Thus, the cycle begins again. And thus, cravings for more and more brownies or ice cream or candy.

Can you retrain your brain to crave less sugar?

Want to get your brain in line with a healthier sugar level? "Your brain can readapt when you cut back on sugar, and you won't crave it as much," says Avena. "However, it can take a while, even months, for this to happen, depending on the severity of dependence on sugar that one has." To find out more about how to start cutting back on sugar and shake off a sugar dependence, consider trying a 7-day detox plan at first. When you can successfully cut back, there's a payoff, besides a much healthier body: Just a small taste of, say, that delicious chocolate brownie will be enough of a sweet treat to satisfy you.

Public Notice

I, Shokina Banoo D/O Zahoor Din Khanji R/O Dhandal, District Doda, want to change my name from Shokina Bano to Shokina Banoo wrongly written on my BA certificate and Degree certificate. If anybody has any objection he/she may file the same in the office of Registrar cluster University Srinagar within (07) days from the date of publication of this notice, after that no objection shall be entertained.
Shokin Banoo D/O Zahoor Din Khanji
R/O Dhandal, Doda

inf

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir NOTICE



Whereas, a joint application has been received from Shri Shabir Ahamd Bhat S/o Ghulam Mohd R/O Zindar Mohalla Habba Kadal (Transferor) and Shri Owais Majeed S/O Abdul Majheed R/O Banapora Nowgam Sgr (Transferee)



for transfer of Maxi Cab carriage route Permit No 6031/ MC Covering Vehicle No JK01P-1162. Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit / vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office of the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir. Within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily News Paper Kashmir Observer. Seller and purchaser identified by the authorized representatives of M/S STWC Namely Bagh Hussain NOJK-RTOK 21297
Dated: 10/03/2022
fko
Regional Transport Office, Kashmir

University of Kashmir, Srinagar

Notice

The candidate whose particulars are given below has reported to the University that he / she has lost his/her University Certificate/s and has applied for issuance of duplicate certificate/s:
Name: Mushtaq Ahamd Laway
Parentage: Ab Aziz Laway
Residence: Ahmadabad
Registration: 19201-ANG-1987
Certificate/s lost: B.ED
Roll No/s: 1154 Session / Year 2009
Before University will consider issuance of Duplicate Certificate/s in favour of the candidate, any person having any objection shall report to the undersigned within one week from the date of issuance of this notice. The original certificate/s issued to the candidate be treated as cancelled
No: F(Duplicate/) KU)
inf Assistant Controller of Examinations (PG/UG/Prof



Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir NOTICE



Whereas, a joint application has been received from Shri M Amin Malik S/o Gh Mohammad R/O Gara Bazar Sgr (Transferor) and Shri Latief Ahamd Lone S/o Habibullah Lone R/O Rainwawari Sranagar (Transferee) for transfer of Tempo Traveller carriage route Permit No 7321/MC Covering Vehicle No JK01R-7179



Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit / vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office of the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir. Within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily News Paper Kashmir Observer. Seller and purchaser identified by the authorized representatives of M/S G.T CO Namely Hilal Ahmad
NOJK-RTOK 2167
Dated: 10/03/2022
fko
Regional Transport Office, Kashmir

Public Notice

I have lost my Aadhaar Card, Election Card, e-Shram Card and Registration Card. 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 Concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Danish Ayoub
S/o Mohd Ayoub Bhat
R/o Sugoo Handhama Shopian

ast

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The Jammu And Kashmir State Board Of School Education
BRANCH OFFICE MAGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 12th under Below mentioned particulars
Name: Rabiya Aziz D/o Ab Aziz Parray
R/o Bandgam



Details of Marks Certificate lost
Secondary School Examination (class 12th)
Roll No 2514275 Session / Year Annual 2017

Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is treated as cancelled.

Sd/ Assistant Secretary
Sub Office Magam

bmj

GOVERNMENT OF J&K
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION KULGAM

Subject:- "Construction, Testing and successful commissioning of Lift Irrigation Scheme PETH DEVSAR (Upper Qasbi Devsar)" under NABARD).

Reference:- This office E-Nit No. 20 of 2021-22 Endorsed vide No IDK/6006-15
Date:- 16/02/2022

EXTENSION NOTICE

In view of poor response and as communicated telephonically by Worthy Superintending Engineer Hyd. Circle Anantnag, the end date for bid submission is hereby extended upto 14-03-2022 till 4.00 PM. Accordingly the date of opening of technical bid online shall be 15-03-2022 at 11.00 AM.

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged as uploaded earlier.

No: 6542-51
Date: 09-03-2022

(Er Raj Kumar Samyal)
Executive Engineer,
Irrigation Division Kulgam

DIPK-19291/21

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2.	Tariq Ahmad Mugloo S/o: Ab. Gani Mugloo	Loher Senzi, Gadole	Member	B.Sc.
3.	Zahid Ahmad Tak S/o: Gh. Nabi Tak	Chatroo Kishtwar	Member	B.A
4.	Zahida Jan D/o: Gh. Nabi Naikoo	Fremoh Gadole	Member	B.A, B.ed
5.	Mariba Yousaf D/o: Mohd. Yousaf Bhat	Tangpawa Sagam	Member	B.A
6.	Ruby Jan D/o: Bashir Ahmad Wani	Sagam Kokernag	Member	M.A
7.	Mohammad Ashraf Reshi S/o: Abdul Aziz Reshi	Dellar Chatroo, Kishtwar	Chairman	Aalim
8.	Tariq Ahmad Dar S/o: Habibullah Dar	Subhanpora, Bijbehara	Member	Bsc.
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10.	Rizwana Ashiq D/o: Ashiq Hussain Wani	Dessu, Nowbugh Larnoo	Member	P.G
11.	Ubiada Asgar D/o: Asgar Ali Khan	Dodkul, Vailoo	Member	Msc. Bed
12.	Zafar Ali Saradan S/o: Bashir Ahmad Saradan	Tasspora Gadole	Member	10th

rna

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING WING BARAMULLA.

E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT NO:- 13/XEN/REW/IWMP/BLA/2021-22 DATED.08/03/2022

For And On Behalf Of Lt. Governor, J&K Ut E-Tenders (In Single Cover System) Are Invited On Item Rate Basis From Approved And Eligible Contractors Regd. With J&K State Govt. Cpwd, Railways And Other State/Central Governments For Each Of The Following Work:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc. (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Position of AAA/TS	Position of Funds
1	C/o Geomembrane Water Harvesting Tank At Mir Mohalla Nowpora Pazaalpura A	0.40	400	15days	DEE	IWMP	AAA Accorded	Allotted
2	C/o Geomembrane Water Harvesting Tank At Hapith Naar-Nowpora Pazaalpura A	0.40	200	15days	DEE	IWMP	AAA Accorded	Allotted
3	C/o Geomembrane Water Harvesting Tank At Bhat Mohalla-Nowpora Pazaalpura A	0.40	200	15days	DEE	IWMP	AAA Accorded	Allotted
4	C/o Geomembrane Water Harvesting Tank At Ward No 7 Nowpora Pazaalpura A	0.40	200	15days	DEE	IWMP	AAA Accorded	Allotted
5	C/o Geomembrane Water Harvesting Tank At Akbar Mohall Nowpora Pazaalpura A	0.40	200	15days	DEE	IWMP	AAA Accorded	Allotted
6	C/o Geomembrane Water Harvesting Tank At Boaddagi Nowpora Pazaalpura A	0.40	200	15days	DEE	IWMP	AA Accorded	Allotted
7	C/o Geomembrane Water Harvesting Tank At Banpora Kangroosa	0.40	200	15days	DEE	IWMP	AAA Accorded	Allotted
8	C/o Geomembrane Water Harvesting Tank At Khan Mohalla Kangroosa	0.40	200	15days	DEE	IWMP	AAA Accorded	Allotted
9	C/o Geomembrane Water Harvesting Tank At Awan Mohalla Kangroosa	0.40	200	15days	DEE	IWMP	AAA Accorded	Allotted
10	C/o Geomembrane Water Harvesting Tank At Lone Mohalla Kangroosa	0.40	200	15days	DEE	IWMP	AAA Accorded	Allotted
11	C/o Geomembrane Water Harvesting Tank At Cheeki Mohalla Kangroosa	0.40	200	15days	DEE	IWMP	AAA Accorded	Allotted
12	C/o Geomembrane Water Harvesting Tank At Kangroosa	0.40	200	15days	DEE	IWMP	AAA Accorded	Allotted
13	C/o Geomembrane Water Harvesting Tank At Ward No 4 Kral Bagh Pakwara	0.40	200	15days	DEE	IWMP	AAA Accorded	Allotted
14	C/o Geomembrane Water Harvesting Tank Parray Mohalla At Ward No 4 Pakwara	0.40	200	15days	DEE	IWMP	AAA Accorded	Allotted
15	C/o Geomembrane Water Harvesting Tank Nazir Ah Paray At Ward Mohalla Pakwara	0.40	200	15days	DEE	IWMP	AAA Accorded	Allotted
16	C/o Geomembrane Water Harvesting Tank Khan Mohalla At Ward No 5 Pakwara	0.40	200	15days	DEE	IWMP	AAA Accorded	Allotted
17	C/o Geomembrane Water Harvesting Tank At Hoonora Pakwara	0.40	200	15days	DEE	IWMP	AAA Accorded	Allotted

The bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the scheduled date given below.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	08/03/2022
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 09/03/2022 to 16/03/2022 up to 6:00 PM
3	Bid Submission Start date	09/03/2022
4	Bid Submission End Date	16/03/2022 up to 6:00 PM
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	Technical Bids will be opened on 17/03/2022 at 11:00 AM in the office of the Executive Engineer REW Baramulla and Financial Bid opening will be declared online.

- The tender is invited in pursuance to Chief Executive Officer, IWMP J&K office letter No: RD/IWMP/01/2019/313-375 Dated 10.02.2022.
- If the Bidder quotes his Bid exceeding the tendering cost, his bid will be automatically rejected.
- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of treasury challan/receipt under HEAD 0515 mentioning therein name of work and NIT No. (Copy enclosed) in favour of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla (Tender Inviting Authority).
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site at the office of the Executive Engineer, REW Division Baramulla.
- All The Bidders has to deposit Earnest Money (2% of Advertised cost) in shape of CDR/FDR at the time of tendering as per the Circular of Finance Department.
- The ^{1st} Lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of allotted cost of Contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 02 Days after opening of financial bid and shall be released after successful completion of DLP as per norms. The EMD of 2% of successful bidders shall be released after receipt of 3% performance security.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
 - Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
 - Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

NO: 26295-302
Dated: 08/03/2022

Executive Engineer.
REW Baramulla

DIPK-19284/21

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De-Weeding, Cleanliness Works At Dal And Nigeen Lakes Reviewed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Dheeraj Gupta on Thursday visited Dal and Nigeen Lakes to inspect progress on several de-weeding and cleanliness works being executed there.

He was accompanied by Vice Chairman, JK Lake Conservation and Management Authority (JKLCMA), Dr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat besides Superintending Engineer, Executive Engineers and other officers of JKLCMA.

Principal Secretary was apprised of several works taken up in the past year especially manual and mechanical de-weeding works in Dal and Nigeen lakes besides Tschuntikul along with proper disposal of weeds to ensure cleanliness of the lake.

He was further informed that extraction of lily pads has been done on about 2.5 square kilometer through contracting agencies and 0.25 square kilometer through departmental machinery. Besides, different indigenous de-weeding machines including weed transfer crane, self-propelled

barge, dump barge, aquatic floating grab dredger and other machines like back hoe loaders, high capacity dumpers and fuel browser have been procured.

He was also informed that aerators have been installed in front of Nishat garden besides installation of CCTV surveillance system for effective monitoring from Habak to Dalgate via Nishat has also been done under phase I. Besides, phase II of this work shall be taken up from Dalgate to Habak via NIT Srinagar in the next financial year.

Principal Secretary directed that allotment of these works be completed by the end of March 2022. He asked the officers to take up all possible measures to ensure cleanliness of the lake during the upcoming season.

Vice Chairman informed that some other works of prime importance like connecting sewerage network of houseboats of Dal Lake with STP BrariNambal dredging of Telli-Mohalla have also been taken up which are expected to be completed in the coming year.

Srinagar Airport To Serve 6.5 Million Passengers Annually

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The management of the Srinagar International Airport will act upon various suggestions forwarded by a committee to speed up security checks of passengers and vehicles at drop gates to avoid delays.

The assurance followed a meeting of the Airport Advisory Committee of the Srinagar Airport chaired by Srinagar MP Farooq Abdullah.

"The members were informed that plans for construction of a new integrated terminal building for Srinagar Airport are in an advanced stage," the management of the airport said in a statement. "The existing building will be upgraded and interlinked with the new building to provide a seamless experience."

After commissioning, the passenger area will increase from 20,226 SM to 64,360 SM, the management said. "The annual passenger capacity will increase from 2.5 Million to 6.5 Million," the statement reads, adding, "The peak hour passenger capacity will be augmented to 3,000 from existing 950." It said a state of the art modern multi-level car parking will also be constructed for parking of 1,000 vehicles.

The members of the committee were requested to point out the deficiencies in the management of the airport, suggest ways and means to improve the service standards, and advice on introduction of any new facilities to make the passenger experience more congenial and delightful.

Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir

NOTICE



Whereas, a joint application has been received from Shri Muzaffar Nazir Dar S/o Nazir Ahmad Dar R/o Harwan Sgr (Transferor) and Shri Manzoor Ahmad Sofi S/O Abdul Samad Sofi R/o HMT Near Play Ground Zainakote Sgr (Transferee) for transfer of Maxi Cab carriage route Permit No 1345/AR/2015 Covering Vehicle No JK01AA-3335 Now, therefore, it is notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit / vehicle shall be filled in writing in the office of the Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir. Within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily News Paper Kashmir Observer. Seller and purchaser identified by the authorized representatives of M/S STWCO Namely Bagh Hussain NOJK-RTOK 2075 Dated: 10/03/2022

Sd/-
Regional Transport Office,
Kashmir

از نیابت رہبر پورہ با اجلاس غلام کی الدین بحث صاحب
درخواست منجانب سلمان فاروق و فرح فاروق پیران فاروق احمد ملک ساکنان رنیر پورہ تحصیل شمن بغرض حصول۔۔۔RBA سرٹفیکٹ
اشتیہار ہرآد گاہی ہرخاص وعام۔
معاہلہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخوست سائل دفتر ہڈا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت
نہادر وچوکیدار علاقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل و ترگام کا
سکونت دار ہے۔ سائل کے دفتر طاقہ جان کی تاریخ پیش 23-10-2022 ہے
اس سائل اپنے دفتر کی تاریخ پیش متعلقہ محکمہ میں اندراج کرنے کا خواہاں ہے سائل کے
کاغذات دفتر ہڈا میں زیر کاروائی ہے۔
اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش
کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
نائب تحصیلدار fko



Security forces patrol street adjacent to Hazratbal shrine following an encounter in which a Pakistani militant was killed while his two associates escaped. KO Photo/Abidbhat

Advisor Khan Inspects Upgradation Works At City Stadiums

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan, on Wednesday visited Bakshi stadium and inspected progress on several ongoing development works being executed there.

Bakshi Stadium is one of the major stadia in Srinagar city. It is undergoing massive renovation with execution of several upgradation works by the National Project Construction Corporation Limited with an estimated cost of Rs 40.85 crore.

Taking a detailed round of the stadium, Advisor Farooq Khan stressed upon the representatives of executing agency to expedite pace of work on the project so that it is completed within the stipulated

time frame. He asked them to maintain the environs of the stadium besides ensuring a proper drainage system while executing development of this vital sports facility.

Advisor Khan also visited Sher-i-Kashmir Indoor stadium and took stock of progress on sports infrastructure development works being carried out by NPCC with an estimated cost of Rs 14.60 crore.

Taking first hand appraisal of all the renovation works being undertaken in different sections of the stadium, Advisor Farooq Khan directed the executing agency to ensure that all quality parameters are taken care of during execution of all works there.

He also took stock of other works in the stadium like heating and lighting arrangements,

seating arrangement, VIP gallery, flooring, boxing ring, basketball courts and others.

He also visited the Srinagar Sports Club (SSC) of Indoor stadium and inspected different training centres there. He visited the Yoga Centre of the club and interacted with the trainers and the trainees as well.

While interacting with the officers and representatives of executing agencies, Advisor Farooq Khan impressed upon them to expedite the pace of progress on all the ongoing works so that they are completed well within the timelines. He also asked them to establish all the required facilities in the club so that the players and trainees are groomed properly and quality players in different sports are produced.

از نیابت ہر وہ شورہ با اجلاس ارشاد احمد ملک

مضمون درخواست منجانب۔ محمد اشرف و محمد یاسین و صراہ عزیز اولادان عبدالعزیز بنجار ساکنہ ہر وہ شورہ بغرض حصول OBC سرٹفیکٹ تحت اہل آراء 126 اشتیہار ہرآد گاہی ہرخاص وعام۔

معاہلہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول

OBC سرٹفیکٹ دفتر ہڈا میں پیش کیا ہے۔ اس بارے میں عملہ فیلڈ سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کنبہ ہڈا میں گزشتہ پندرہ سالوں سے رہائش پذیر ہے سائل کی مہماندہائی ہے اور سائل کا کنبہ بدیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنبہ	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	عبدالعزیز بنجار ولد سنا ولد بنجار	61 سال	ترکھان	
02	خلیلہ بیگم زوہ عبدالعزیز	60 سال	گھریلو کام	
03	تسلیمہ جان دختر عبدالعزیز	27 سال	گھریلو کام	
04	معرفت جان دختر عبدالعزیز	20	زیر تعلیم	

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کنبہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سرٹفیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض معہ وجوہات پیش کرے۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار fko

از نیابت ہر وہ شورہ با اجلاس ارشاد احمد ملک

مضمون درخواست منجانب۔ معرفت عزیز دختر عبدالعزیز بنجار ساکنہ تزکیہ بد پورہ بغرض حصول SC سرٹفیکٹ تحت اہل آراء 126 اشتیہار ہرآد گاہی ہرخاص وعام۔

معاہلہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول SC سرٹفیکٹ دفتر ہڈا میں پیش کیا ہے۔ اس بارے میں عملہ فیلڈ سے رپورٹ طلب کیا گیا جس سے عیاں ہے کہ سائل کا کنبہ ہڈا میں گزشتہ پندرہ سالوں سے رہائش پذیر ہے سائل کی مہماندہائی ہے اور سائل کا کنبہ بدیل ہے۔

نمبر شمار	نام افراد کنبہ	عمر	پیشہ	آمدنی
01	عبدالعزیز بنجار ولد سنا ولد بنجار	61 سال	ترکھان	
02	خلیلہ بیگم زوہ عبدالعزیز	60 سال	گھریلو کام	
03	محمد یاسین بنجار پسر عبدالعزیز	30 سال	زیر تعلیم	
04	محمد اشرف پسر عبدالعزیز	33	زیر تعلیم	
05	صبرینہ عزیز دختر عبدالعزیز	25	زیر تعلیم	
06	تسلیمہ جان دختر عبدالعزیز	27	گھریلو کام	

اس کے علاوہ کوئی افراد کنبہ نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے۔ لہذا زیر بحث سرٹفیکٹ اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ سات دن کے اندر اندر اپنا اعتراض معہ وجوہات پیش کرے۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

نائب تحصیلدار mks

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

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

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



HIJRI
CALENDAR
07 Shaban
1443

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 28
ZUHR	12: 43
ASR	4: 53
Magrib	6: 37
ISHA	7: 57

This Day In History

- 502 - Ismail I crowned Shah of Persia (rules till 1524), founder of the Safavid dynasty
- 1669 - Volcano Etna in Italy erupts killing 15,000
- 1795 - Battle at Kurdla India: Mahratten beat Mogols.
- 1845 - The Flagstaff War: In New Zealand, Chiefs Hone Heke and Kawiti lead 700 M oris to chop down the British flagpole and drive settlers out of the British colonial settlement of Kororarakea because of breaches of the 1840 Treaty of Waitangi.
- 1848 - Louis-Hippolyte Lafontaine and Robert Baldwin become the first Prime Ministers of the Province of Canada to be democratically elected under a system of responsible government.
- 1864 -The Great Sheffield Flood: the largest man-made disaster ever to befall England kills over 250 people in Sheffield.
- 1897 - A meteorite enters the earth's atmosphere and explodes over New Martinsville, West Virginia. The debris causes damage but no human injuries are reported.
- 1900 - British Prime Minister Lord Salisbury rejects peace overtures from the Boer leader Paul Kruger (on 5 March) as demanding too-favourable terms
- 1915 - The British declare a blockade of all German ports
- 1917 -British forces occupy Baghdad, the capital of Mesopotamia, after Turkish forces evacuated
- 1918 - Moscow becomes capital of revolutionary Russia
- 1920 - Syria proclaims Emir Feisal king after the country has fought off French domination
- 1931 - Ready for Labour and Defence of the USSR, abbreviated as GTO, is introduced in the Soviet Union.
- 1938 - Artur Seyss-Inquart replaces Kurt von Schuschnigg as Chancellor of Austria; German troops also entered the country
- 1941 - FDR signs Lend-Lease Bill (lend money to Britain)
- 1942 - Japanese troop land on North Sumatra
- 1945 - 1,000 allied bombers harass Essen, 4,662 ton bombs
- 1953 -1st woman army doctor commissioned (FM Adams)
- 1958 -American B-47 accidentally drops nuclear bomb 15,000 ft on a family home in Mars Bluff, South Carolina; creates crater 75 ft across, bomb without its nuclear capsule
- 1960 - Pioneer 5 launched into solar orbit between Earth & Venus
- 1965 -Indonesia President Sukarno accepts qualifications of Suharto
- 1966 - Military coup led by Indonesian Gen Suharto breaks out

From KO Archives

NC Wrests Srinagar Omar Defeats Aga By 701000 Votes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The ruling National Conference today wrested the prestigious Srinagar lok sabha seat as the party nominee Omar Abdullah defeated his nearest Congress rival, Agha Syed Mehdi by a convincing margin of 70,839 votes. All other candidates, including ding Abdul Rashid Kabli, who fought elections on a BJP ticket, forfeited their deposits. In all 7 candidates were in the fray, including that of Bahujaan Samaj Party.

The formal announcement of Omar's victory was made by the returning officer Ashok Parmar, around noon today, in the lobby of convention complex and in presence of several National Conference ministers and legislators besides some party activists. However even before the official announcement was made, Omar was garlanded by his supporters and brought to the make shift podium in a small procession. His victory was greeted by the small crowd inside with clapping of hands. None of the opposition candidates was present on the occasion and all had left the counting hall much before the final round of counting was over.

Votes of four ballot boxes, from Khanyar assembly segment were not counted following the directions of the election commission in view of discrepancy between the presiding officers' diary and the actual votes found in the boxes.

The seat was won in last lok sabha election by G M Mir Magami of the Congress defeating his nearest Janata Dal rival, Farooq Andrabi. The National Conference, it may be mentioned, did not take part in the 1996 lok sabha elections.

Reacting to election results Agha Mehdi said "it is a naked fraud". Our valid objections regarding tampering of ballot boxes by the ruling National Conference leaders were overruled.

Former union home minister Mufti Mohammad Syed, who himself is contesting from Anantnag lok sabha constituency, attributed the defeat of his party candidates in Srinagar Aand Jammu to the "failure of proper party structure in the state."

(Kashmir Observer, 11 March, 1998)

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

Fight For The
Next Superpower

With every passing day, the war in Ukraine is getting messier. As Russia advances towards Kyiv, NATO is pouring weapons into Ukraine to halt its advance. But Russia has so far made significant gains in South Ukraine and is in the process of encircling Kyiv. For the invasion to be successful, Russia's effort is to gain control of Kyiv in right earnest. This will allow Moscow to topple the west-backed government of Volodymyr Zelensky and install a Russia-friendly government in Ukraine. But it has so far faced stiff resistance from the Ukrainian forces armed with a bristling array of western weaponry. In another indication that there is no easy way out of the war, the talks between Ukraine and Russia have gotten nowhere. A second attempted truce in the besieged port city of Mariupol collapsed on Sunday, with pro-Russian separatists and Ukraine's National Guard accusing each other of failing to establish a humanitarian corridor to allow civilians to flee. The number of people fleeing Russia's invasion of Ukraine has topped 1.5 million, making it Europe's "fastest-growing refugee crisis" since World War-II, according to the United Nations.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has made it clear that the military operation in Ukraine will only be halted if Russia's demands are met. Significantly, he has also likened the West's sanctions on Russia to "declaring war". Ukraine has said Russian forces are now preparing to bombard the Black Sea port city of Odessa. As things stand, it is difficult to predict where and when the war will end. Considering the west is arming Ukraine to the teeth, the strategy seems to bog down Russia in the country. Or to be more precise, make Ukraine another Afghanistan for Russia. But should that happen, it will eventually suck the US and Europe into the war and make it economically unsustainable for them to bankroll the resistance in Ukraine. The US has already spent 3 trillion dollars in Afghan war which it lost. It would become disproportionately more costly also for Russia too whose economy is much weaker. A slew of harsh sanctions is going to take a toll on Russia sooner than later. But considering Russia has thrown everything in the war, it seems in no mood to back down. The situation as it is shaping up now is taking on an existential dimension for both the west and Russia. One who blinks first will not only lose the war and global prestige but also its dominance. A loss will be more humiliating for the US-led NATO as it would effectively mean the end of the US as the world's sole police man. In one fell swoop, the geopolitical will shift from the west to east. China in alliance with Russia could emerge new global power centre. However, it is still early days yet. Things will only clear once the war in Ukraine draws to an end. And it could be months or it could be even years.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Clear Signals
On India-China Ties And
The New Global Currents

China's claim that the U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy is aiming to create "an Indo-Pacific version of NATO", as the Chinese Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, put it on March 7, is not new. Indeed, even as long as 15 years ago, during the first iteration of the now revived India, Australia, Japan, U.S. Quad, Beijing warned of an impending "Asian NATO", which, of course, never materialised. The latest statement does, however, assume significance in the current global context and amid the crisis in Ukraine. Mr. Wang, speaking in Beijing during the National People's Congress, accused the U.S. of "stoking geopolitical rivalry" by "forming exclusive clubs". He said by "strengthening the Five Eyes" intelligence alliance and "peddling the Quad, piecing together AUKUS and tightening bilateral military alliances", the U.S. was leading what he called a "five-four-three-two" formation in the region. The broader goal, he said, was "to establish an Indo-Pacific version of NATO".

In recent weeks, Beijing has repeatedly blamed NATO for the crisis in Ukraine. While claiming to stay neutral, it has moved to reaffirm ties with Russia, which Beijing on Monday described as "rock solid". When the two countries' leaders met for a summit on February 4, China backed Russia on its concerns on NATO's eastward expansion in Europe, and Russia returned the favour with both criticising the U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy. Beyond their already deep political and economic linkages, these mirrored concerns on U.S. alliances are emerging as a powerful binding glue in the China-Russia axis. New Delhi will need to consider how this will impact its close relations with Russia. By explicitly equating the Quad, which is not a military pact, with other security agreements, China now also appears to be clearly situating India as a part of the U.S. "exclusive club". New Delhi has rejected that notion. Only last month, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said "interested parties" were making a "lazy analogy of an Asian NATO" and India was not a U.S. treaty ally. Indeed, some in New Delhi have come to view Beijing's aggressive moves along the LAC in 2020 as a warning sign to deter India-U.S. relations. India's firm, and correct, response has been to hold the line, and continue deepening ties not only with the U.S. and the Quad but also other Indo-Pacific partners to underline it will not be swayed. The other message from India has been that sensitivity to concerns has to be mutual, and cannot be demanded from one side when ignored by the other; China's relations with Pakistan being a case in point. Mr. Wang did acknowledge that recent "setbacks" in ties suited neither India nor China — a view New Delhi shares. The two sides will meet on March 11 for the next round of military talks to take forward LAC disengagement. As India and China continue to seek a much-needed modus vivendi to restore ties from the lowest point in decades and ensure peace on the border, they will also need to have a broader conversation about global currents that are reshaping their bilateral relations.

The Hindu

Almost Lover

News Has Appeared That Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky Has Conceded That He Willing To Concede To The Russian Demand That His Country Will Not Seek To Become A Member Of The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation



HAPPY HOUR: US President Biden (R) meets with Ukraine President Zelensky in the Oval Office, Washington, September 2011

M. K. BHADRAKUMAR

What was the need for all that happened in the period since mid-December when Russia transmitted to Washington its demands for security guarantee? This question will haunt US president Joe Biden long after he retires from public life. The foreign policy legacy of his presidency and the reputation of this much-vaunted 80-year old politician with a half-century's record in public life, much of it supposedly in the domain of American foreign policy are in tatters — irreparable.

News has appeared that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has conceded that he willing to concede to the Russian demand that his country will not seek to become a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation! The announcement came in an interview with the ABC News where he revealed that he is no longer pressing for Ukraine's Nato membership!

In fact, Zelensky lets the cat out of the bag by casually adding, "I have cooled down regarding this question a long time ago after we understood that... Nato is not prepared to accept Ukraine."

Zelensky explains why: "The alliance is afraid of controversial things, and confrontation with Russia."

This comes after his earlier revelation that he is "open to compromise" on the sovereignty of the two breakaway republics of Lugansk and Donetsk in the eastern Donbass region and on the status of Crimea.

The ABC News reportedly telecast the interview on Monday night Eastern Time. Since then, the duo in the Biden team who piloted the Ukraine strategy, those apocalyptic "sanctions from hell" and the demonisation of Vladimir Putin through the recent months — Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Undersecretary of State Victoria Nuland — are nowhere to be seen.

That duo of East European descent in the driving seat — Blinken driving and Nuland by his side navigating him — ought to offer and explanation for all this charade playing out, which is virtually demolishing the American prestige as a superpower.

Questions are galore. Principally, if it is so easy to work out a compromise over Russia's legitimate security demands, especially regarding Ukraine's Nato membership and the alliance's further expansion, why was Biden so very stubborn in his refusal to even discuss it, given the urgency of the matter?

Can it be that Biden was acting smart to create a fait accompli for Moscow by formalising Ukraine's membership at the forthcoming Nato summit on June 29-30 in Madrid?

What's the need to destabilise the European economies and rock the world oil market at a juncture when most economies are entering on a path of post-pandemic economic recovery?

What explains this unnatural obsession on the

part of Biden over Ukraine's regime?

Why such visceral hatred on Biden's part toward Russia, something unworthy of an 80-year old world statesman?

Why is it that the economic war against Russia has become such a very personal affair for Biden, as his White House speech in Tuesday shows?

But such an ignominious end to this entire episode over Ukraine's Nato membership was entirely to be anticipated. Fundamentally, this is an existential issue for Russia. Whereas, Biden, Blinken and Nuland are dilettantes sitting 10000 kms away indulging in old neon pastimes of interfering in other countries' part of Biden over Ukraine's regime?

FUNDAMENTALLY, the problem today is that the American elite are delusional. While the rest of the world knows that in a multipolar world, the US' capacity to force its will on other countries is inexorably in decline, the American elite shut their eyes to that reality. The present ridiculous situation happened only due to this arrogance and self-deception

internal affairs, threatening them, disciplining them or punishing them for defying America's diktat.

Even after Zelensky spoke, what has been Biden's reaction? He scheduled a speech to announce that the US shall no longer import oil from Russia. Shouldn't he have heaved a sigh of relief that this war in Ukraine is petering out?

Instead, he resorted to this strange toothless measure to impress the American audience that he is still on a winning streak promoting democracy in faraway lands. Isn't such gimmick an insult to the gullible American public?

Biden took this new step after Europeans told him plainly that they are not interested in such a move against Russia, given their heavy reliance on Russian oil.

Second, Biden doesn't seem to know or has pretended otherwise that America is actually shooting at its own feet. For, Russian prices are highly competitive and American companies will now have to pay much more to source heavy grade oil suitable for their refineries.

Biden already swallowed his pride and sent a team of officials to Venezuela, a country under crippling US sanctions, to beg for oil from President Nicolas Maduro (who was on CIA hit list not too long ago for being a socialist) to replace Russian oil.

Maduro sent them back suggesting a broader mutually beneficial relationship between Venezuela and America. All this drama took place in broad daylight witnessed by the entire Western Hemisphere. Wouldn't they be laughing that America's president is a man of straw?

Biden claims he is making sure that Putin won't have money for his "war machine" if America stops buying oil from Russia. This is laughable, bordering on a lie.

The US was purchasing about 12% of Russia's total oil exports. Alright, that's a decent figure. But, it isn't as if Russia won't have any other buyers in a world market where oil price has soared to \$130 per barrel (thanks to Biden's "sanctions from hell" against Russia)?

Surely, any number of potential buyers would queue up if Russia were to offer competitive prices (as it had been doing for the US companies) to divert the extra stocks due to Biden's boycott.

At any rate, Biden can't be unaware that Russia's current budget is balanced on the belief that oil prices would be around \$40-45 per barrel. With the current level of oil price, Russia is actually making a fortune! And the funny part is, it is a gift from Biden's sanctions!

Fundamentally, the problem today is that the American elite are delusional. While the rest of the world knows that in a multipolar world, the US' capacity to force its will on other countries is inexorably in decline, the American elite shut their eyes to that reality. The present ridiculous situation happened only due to this arrogance and self-deception.

The strategic defeat that Washington has suffered will dent the US prestige worldwide, weaken its transatlantic leadership, unravel its Indo-Pacific strategy and accelerate the drain of American influence in the 21st century. Biden presidency will carry this heavy cross.

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

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Charisma In War?

As Russia keeps pounding Ukraine, palpably the world has entered a more dangerous phase. The mayhem unleashed in Ukraine has transformed the landscape of European security that is sure to have its repercussions far and wide. What started as a smart game of diplomatic

subterfuge by Vladimir Putin, has now turned into an urban siege.

Regardless of the Russian leader achieving his desire or not on the battlefield, it will result in him losing his image significantly at the global level, and his success is likely to yield very little strategic gain for Russia. Meanwhile, Ukrainian president

Volodymyr Zelenskyy has won the hearts of the people world over for his perseverance and tenacity amidst the raging war.

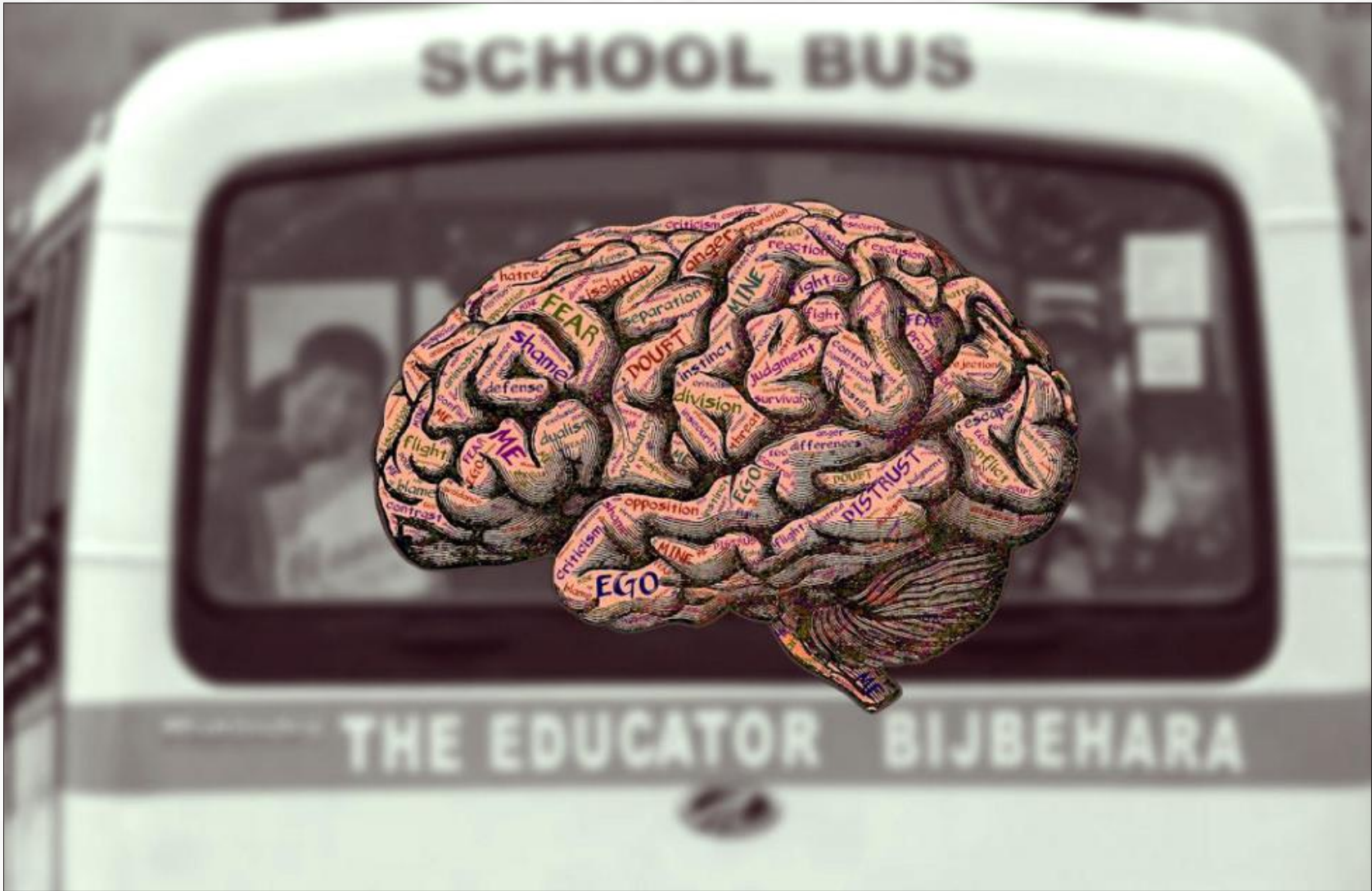
Not only has he emerged as a charismatic leader at a time of national crisis, but he has also galvanized a large part of the world in his support. With his speeches and social

media posts, challenging Russia, Zelenskyy has ignited a renewed sense of nationalism amongst Ukrainians that will make Russia find it difficult to forcefully occupy or place a pliant government in Kyiv.

RANGANATHAN SIVAKUMAR



Why Don't We Have Mental Health Education In School Curriculum?



Wasim Kakroo

School days are an indelible part of your life, whether you liked it or hated it. Our school days effectively formed us into the adults we are today, even if we are unaware of it at the time and it's no surprise, given that school is the centre of every school going child's life. It is here that students learn about themselves, their passions, likes and dislikes, as well as their strengths and flaws. The school and its surroundings have a significant impact on how students develop.

Aside from academics, schools are locations where children learn to connect with one another, develop social skills, and create their first relationships outside of the home. The world within a school's walls is vastly different from the one outside.

School is the place where a child/adolescent learns not only the academic skills but also the various other skills such as establishing and maintaining the friendships, taking part in various co/extra-curricular activities, such as playing various sports and taking part in various stage based activities such as anchoring the various programs, debates and seminars. Thus school can become and in fact should become a means of holistic (social, psychological, emotional, physical and academic) development of a child/adolescent.

What is the Importance of school in post COVID-19 era:

The importance of school as a source of child's holistic development has increased manifold owing to the state of stagnancy imposed in the lives of children by COVID-19 lockdowns and SOPs that the children/adolescents had to follow and are still following while the world is slowly and steadily trying to come back to normalcy owing to decline in the COVID-19 related infections and deaths worldwide. The disturbances that happened in the past three years (including the post article 370 abrogation era, as well as two years since the break out of COVID-19 pandemic back in 2020) have impacted the various areas of a child's life very significantly. One of the most important areas that got the worst hit by these medico-political disturbances has been the psycho-socio-emotional domains of a child's life. In general the mental health and psycho-social well being of children and adolescents took a back stage in the aftermath of these impactful events.

COVID-19 has exacerbated youth's mental health difficulties, which were already on the rise prior to the pandemic, with social isolation and pressure to perform in a remote learning environment that was rampant across all these years. Research says that the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of children and adolescents is "of great concern," and is leading to an increase in anxiety, depression, sleep and eating disorders, as well as disturbed social relationships. According to the research, this pandemic may continue to have significant long-term harmful implications on children's and adolescent's mental

health compared to adults even after the pandemic is gone from the world.

Looking at the unprecedented amount of impact COVID-19 have left on the impressionable young minds of children and adolescents, the school administrators and teachers have an added responsibility to take care of the mental health needs of children and adolescents in addition to catering to their academic needs, especially now when the children are coming back to school slowly and steadily. But this issue is more than what meets the eye. The school administrators and teachers might themselves be experiencing the trauma caused by COVID-19 deaths worldwide. The situation is complicated by the fact that both the administrators as well as teachers may not know what are the various mental health needs of children and adolescents and how exactly such needs can be fulfilled.

Some of the common indicators (such as being cranky and irritable most of the time, picking fights with other children in the classroom or at the playground, lack of focus and concentration etc.) that teachers used to spot students who are having mental health issues may or may not be available in post COVID era. They may be replaced by some more complex pathological behaviors, difficult to understand by a teacher with zero or sub average understanding of various mental health issues, as is the case with most of our teachers in both private as well as govt. schools. Some teachers may be unable to read the covered faces of their students. As a result, teachers may have a difficulty in knowing about how students are doing or the extent to which they are struggling, especially when it comes to psycho-socio-emotional issues.

What is the importance of introducing mental health education in school curriculum?

Now, keeping in view the complexity of the situation created by COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative that the educators and policy makers take it as a responsibility upon themselves to consider introducing mental health education in the school curriculum so that it helps school administrators, teachers as well as parents to know about the various aspects of mental health of children and adolescents. Here are some of the benefits of introducing mental health education

in school curriculum:

1. Mental health education means teaching children various aspects of mental health and ways to have and maintain positive mental health. It is important that children and adolescents understand the concept of self-care and recognize their responsibility for their own mental health. Furthermore, the concept that mental health is an intrinsic element of overall health and well-being can be emphasized through mental health education.
2. Mental health education should begin in elementary school to facilitate optimal growth and development. Children develop their first friendships during this time, and teenagers shape their self-worth and self-esteem. Youth face a variety of obstacles as they grow up, including exclusion from groups, bullying, conflict, and low self-esteem. Mental health education can address these issues and provide them with the tools they need to deal with them. Students' mental health can be considerably improved via a collaborative effort involving mental health specialists (including school counselors, clinical psychologists, psychiatrists, special educators, remedial educationists etc.) parents, and teachers, establishing the stage for a healthier and happier future.
3. Mental health education also aims to increase understanding of the various mental health issues and teach children, parents, and teachers how to spot mental health disorders in themselves and others. When mental health issues go misdiagnosed or untreated, it can lead to unhealthy coping strategies and have a severe impact on a child's capacity to learn and thrive. Through mental health education, children can be taught strategies to manage mental health issues, in addition to a better understanding of the importance of mental health. They may be exposed to strategies and tools for dealing with mental health issues, allowing them to build problem-solving skills.
4. Students may be more likely to grasp the concept of self-care and well-being. They may be encouraged to take responsibility for their own health and recognize that their health is in

ONE OF THE most important areas that got the worst hit by these medico-political disturbances has been the psycho-socio-emotional domains of a child's life. In general the mental health and psycho-social well being of children and adolescents took a back stage in the aftermath of these impactful events

5. Children may become more experienced in recognizing mental illnesses and the symptoms that accompany them. As a result, they can be more proactive in detecting problems early on. Early intervention can make all the difference in their world. Prior to the onset of any major mental illness, small changes in behaviour and thinking are expected. Teachers, relatives, friends, and even the students themselves can spot these early warning signs if they know what to look for. Mood swings, anxiousness, withdrawal, and a drop in academic performance are just a few of the warning symptoms. The severity of mental illness can be reduced with early intervention. It may also help to postpone or even prevent the onset of a serious mental disorder.
6. Mental health awareness can help students live longer and healthier lives. Suicide, substance abuse and self-harm among teenagers are very serious problems and they are increasing day by day. Suicide is the second highest cause of death among young people aged 15 to 24. Enhancing knowledge of the signs and symptoms of depression and other mental illnesses can assist students in recognising these problems and seeking assistance before it is too late. School can literally save lives by including mental health education and information on how and where to get help.
7. Stigma can be reduced with the introduction of mental health education. The term "stigma" refers to a mark of shame that sets someone apart. These individuals are stereotyped and defined by their sickness. Blame, humiliation, hopelessness, and pain can all stem from negative views toward stereotyped groups. We begin to mainstream mental illness conversations and the stigma around it dissipates when we educate our youth about mental illnesses. Fear and anxiety associated with mental health issues can be de-stigmatized through mental health education. We can try to mainstream mental illnesses and foster talks about the stigma related to them through education in order to eliminate the fear once and for all.

Conclusion

School-based mental health education can have a big impact on a child's current and future mental health. It can also help to develop resilience by raising mental health awareness. The advantages of this form of education are incalculable.

Schools can help students develop self-confidence and self-esteem, which can lead to better mental health. It is critical that children learn about the importance of mental health, how to recognize indicators of mental illness, and how to get help for any mental health issues.

To summarize, the prevalence of mental illnesses in children and adolescents has been rising with each generation. COVID-19 pandemic has increased their prevalence manifold and hence it has become a new challenge to deal with, in the post COVID era. We, as a society, must do everything we can, to protect our younger generations from the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic and introducing mental health education in the school curriculum is the first step towards securing the future of our younger generations.

The author is an RCI licensed clinical psychologist (alumni of Govt. Medical College Srinagar) and can be reached for help at 8825067196

CJI Ramana Strongly Proposes Reservation For Girls In Legal Education

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India (CJI) N V Ramana on Thursday strongly proposed reservation for girls in legal education to enrich the pool of talent saying data proves that such provision has yielded encouraging results in appointing women judicial officers at the district level.

The CJI said Telangana with 52 per cent, Assam with 46 per cent, Andhra Pradesh with 45 per cent, Odisha with 42 per cent and Rajasthan with 40 per cent women among judicial officers have done well with reservation for women.

I strongly feel that the policy of providing reservation to women needs to be replicated at all levels and in all the states, Justice Ramana said in a speech delivered in a programme hosted at the Supreme Court to commemorate the first ever International Day of Women Judges'.

He stated that at an event organised by women advocates in Delhi, he had borrowed from Karl Marx and said, Women of the world, unite; You have nothing to lose but your chains.



That call of mine was sought to be projected as instigating a revolution. If giving women their due share is a revolution, I would be very happy to be branded as a revolutionary. I whole heartedly welcome such a revolution, he said.

The CJI said that at present there are four women judges in the apex court, which is the highest ever in its history, and in the near future, India will be witnessing the first ever female CJI.

But, I think, we are still far away from ensuring at least 50 per cent representation of women in our

judiciary. The legal profession still remains male dominated, with severe under-representation of women, he said.

Besides the CJI, the four sitting women judges of the apex court – Justices Indira Banerjee, Hima Kohli, B V Nagarathna and Bela M Trivedi – also addressed the event.

Justice Ramana said the recognition of March 10 as International Day of Women Judges' is an important step to create awareness and mobilise political will.

I am a strong proponent of affirmative action. To enrich the

pool of talent, I strongly propose reservation for girls in legal education. The data proves such a provision has yielded encouraging results in appointing women judicial officers at the district level, he said.

The CJI said it is imperative for the justice delivery system to be in the forefront of progressive change.

After I assumed the office of Chief Justice of India, we have so far filled 9 vacancies in the Supreme Court out of which 3 vacancies were filled with women, he said, while thanking the other members of the Supreme Court Collegium Justices U U Lalit, A M Khanwilkar, D Y Chandrachud and L N Rao.

He said for the high court, the Collegium has recommended 192 candidates so far, out of which, 37, that is 19 per cent, were women.

This is certainly an improvement over the percentage of incumbent women judges in high courts which stands at 11.8 per cent. Unfortunately, so far only 17 of the 37 women recommended to high courts were appointed. Others are still pending with the government, he said.

Delhi Court Directs No Coercive Action Against Spicejet CMD In Cheating Case

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: A Delhi court has granted interim protection from arrest to Spicejet promoter Ajay Singh in connection with an alleged cheating case over the transfer of shares of the company.

Additional Sessions Judge Vineeta Goyal also directed Singh, Chairman and Managing Director of Spicejet, against whom a non-bailable warrant was issued on January 15, to join the investigation and sought a status report from the Delhi Police on his anticipatory bail plea in the case.

Considering the totality of facts and circumstances, the accused is directed to join the investigation on March 11, 2022 (Friday) at 1.00 PM and further as and when called by IO, the court said in its order passed on March 9.

List this application on March 28, at 2 PM. Till then, no coercive action be taken against the applicant/accused, it added.

The complainant Preeti Nanda has alleged that Singh had executed a share purchase agreement for selling shares



of Spicejet, pursuant to which Rs 10 lakh were transferred to his account by her and the accused provided a duly executed 'Delivery Instruction Slip' for crediting the complainant's account with 10 lakh shares.

The complainant, represented by senior advocate Vikas Pahwa, has alleged that it was subsequently found that the delivery instruction slip was invalid and outdated.

Seeking anticipatory bail, Singh told the court that he has been falsely implicated and no offence under Section 420 (cheating) IPC was made out.

He claimed that the transfer of shares was subject to the

outcome of a pending dispute between him and the erstwhile owner of the company.

Singh, represented by lawyer N Hariharan, also said that his bonafide could be seen from the fact that he had requested the complainant to not undertake steps under the agreement until the confirmation of the outcome of the dispute.

Apart from communicating the entire facts to the complainant, the sum of Rs 10 lakh was also refunded to the complainant, it was said.

Singh stated that he was ready and willing to join the investigation, which he was unable to do earlier on account of the pandemic.

Delhi police, represented by additional public prosecutor Anil Kumar, opposed the anticipatory bail plea and claimed that the accused had dishonest intentions from the very beginning and did not join the investigation when called by the investigating officer.

It also said that there are four other cases registered against the accused of the alleged commission of an offence under section 420 IPC.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

BJP Sweeps

Zee News-DESIGNBOXED, India News, News 24 Today's Chanakya and Republic P-MARQ -- predicted 240-plus seats for the BJP in Uttar Pradesh, earmarking an average seat of the party with its allies in the state at 241 out of the total of 403 seats.

The exit polls also found Akhilesh Yadav's Samajwadi Party (SP) finishing second with 142 seats on an average.

India Today- Axis My India predicted 288 to 326 seats for the BJP, while News 24 Today's Chanakya gave the party 294 seats. India TV -Ground Zero Research had given the party between 182 to 220 seats.

Currently, the BJP is leading in 253 seats and SP in 114 seats.

Another big victory for the exit polls came in Punjab, where the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) left all others behind in a landslide win, something that was predicted by most pollsters who said that the party would in fact bag the most number of seats in the state.

On an average, the exit polls gave 63 seats to AAP and 28 to the Congress. On Thursday, AAP is set to claim 92 seats, while the Congress 18 seats.

India Today- Axis My India's prediction of one to four seats for the BJP in Punjab and 76 to 90 seats for AAP emerged as the clear winner in the pollsters race in the state.

News 24 Today's Chanakya polls gave 100 seats to AAP and 10 seats to the Congress.

For Uttarakhand, most exit polls predicted a close contest between the BJP and Congress with 35 and 32 seats, respectively out of a total of 70 seats. The mandate (till early evening) on Thursday showed 47 seats for the BJP and 19 for the Congress.

In Goa, the exit polls predicted a hung assembly with 16 seats each for the BJP and the Congress. The results, however, have shown a clear win for the saffron party with 20 seats and Congress 11 seats.

In Manipur, where the poll results showed a big victory for the BJP with 29 seats, the exit polls predicted a 30-seat mandate for them.

All pollsters got the arithmetic right for the state.

BJP Credits Win

political landscape.

The BJP raced towards a second straight win in politically crucial Uttar Pradesh with significant margin and strongly dominated the score chart in Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa.

Lauding BJP workers for ensuring an early Holi for the BJP by making it victorious in four states, Modi said, "It is a day of zest and festivities and this enthusiasm is for India's democracy."

The election results highlight people's stamp of strong approval for the party's pro-poor and proactive governance model, he said amid cheering party workers and supporters at the party's headquarter here.

Those who look at UP through prism of caste insult it, Modi said, adding that the people of state repeatedly voted for politics of development since 2014.

UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said people have buried the politics of caste and religion by ensuring the victory of BJP and its allies in Uttar Pradesh under Modi's leadership.

Addressing party workers at the state headquarters after the splendid poll performance, he said the "misleading" campaign run by the Opposition have been set aside by the people who reposed faith in the good governance of the BJP.

Asserting that the BJP's "grand victory" in Uttar Pradesh is the result of the people's faith in Prime Minister Modi's welfare programmes for villages, the

poor and farmers, Union home minister Amit Shah also said the people in the state have put their stamp on Yogi Adityanath's good governance and an administration free from fear and corruption.

In a series of tweets, the senior BJP leader expressed his gratitude to the people of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa for reposing their faith in the BJP.

Lauding Modi, BJP chief J P Nadda said, "the prime minister has ushered in politics of 'report card, development and people's empowerment, replacing politics of nepotism, corruption, crime, casteism, communalism and regionalism'".

He also praised Yogi Adityanath for bringing what he described as rule of law in the state.

Union minister Anurag Thakur, a BJP co-in-charge for the UP polls, said Modi's image and governance coupled with effective implementation of his welfare policies by the party-ruled states have delivered victory.

Several BJP leaders also lauded the UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for effectively implementing welfare policies and providing efficient and clean governance.

After the defeat in assembly polls in five states, the Congress said the election results are contrary to the party's expectations.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said the party humbly accepts the people's verdict in the assembly polls and will learn from it.

"Humbly accept the people's verdict. Best wishes to those who have won the mandate. My gratitude to all Congress workers and volunteers for their hard work and dedication. We will learn from this and keep working for the interests of the people of India," Gandhi said on Twitter.

Addressing a press conference at the party's headquarter here, Congress general secretary and chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the party may have lost elections but not its courage and will continue to fight till it emerges victorious.

He also said the Congress will reinvent and return with a new strategy and will always stand with the people, raising their issues, including inflation, unemployment and the "sinking" economy, with the same responsibility.

"We will introspect on the causes of defeat, work on the organisation and will try to do better in future. We are definitely disappointed but not demoralised. We have only lost the election, not courage. We are not going anywhere - we will keep fighting until we win. We will reinvent and return and will come back with a new strategy," Surjewala told reporters.

Hailing the AAP's performance in Punjab as a "revolution", party national convener Arvind Kejriwal said with their huge mandate, the people have said that Kejriwal is not a terrorist.

While addressing AAP leaders and workers at the party headquarter here, the Delhi Chief Minister also asked them to practice politics of love and said the coming days belong to India.

Aam Aadmi Party chief ministerial candidate Bhagwant Mann Punjab said the oath-taking ceremony of the new cabinet will be held at Khatkar Kalan, the ancestral village of legendary freedom fighter Bhagat Singh in Nawanshahr district.

The thrust areas for his government, he said, would be improving the condition of schools, health infrastructure, bringing back industry, making agriculture profitable, providing security to women and improving sports infrastructure.

Reacting to poll results, outgoing

Punjab chief minister Charanjit Channi said, "I humbly accept the verdict of the people of Punjab and Congratulate @AamAadmiParty and their elected CM @BhagwantMann Ji for the victory. I hope they will deliver on the expectations of people."

State Congress chief Navjot Sidhu said the party humbly accepts the mandate of the people of the state. "The voice of the people is the voice of God . Humbly accept the mandate of the people of Punjab . Congratulations to Aap !!!" he said in a tweet.

Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal said his party accepts the mandate given by the people with humility. Sukhbir also congratulated the Aam Aadmi Party.

Swaraj India president and former AAP leader Yogendra Yadav termed the Arvind Kejriwal-led party's performance in Punjab as "spectacular and extraordinary", but said it's more "an indictment" of the "entire political establishment" rather than the success of a party in the electoral battle.

Courts To Resume

wearing of masks, frequent use of hand sanitizer and maintaining safe distancing norms are mandatory for all the entrants into the Court premises," the order reads, adding, "Entry of witness(s) and accused person(s) shall be permitted in District and Subordinate Courts provided they are fully vaccinated and subject to strict compliance of SOPs pertaining to the containment of Covid-19 infection."

Entry of litigants in the Court premises, the court said, shall be permitted to only fully vaccinated persons from the outer gate of the Court Complex. "Judicial custody remands shall be given only through video conferencing as far as permissible." The modified guidelines will come into effect from March 14, the order added. (GNS)

NIA Takes

anti-terror probe agency was informally assisting newly constituted State Investigation Agency (SIA) and local police in the investigation of the case."

They said that NIA will also investigate the role of groups operating from other countries including Pakistan as it has the mandate to carry out investigations abroad.

A team of NIA, a central probe agency created after the 2008 Mumbai attack, has taken over maximum terror related cases in Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, a low-intensity Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast took place at vegetable market Salathia Chowk in Udhampur district on Wednesday afternoon.

One person was killed while 14 others sustained injuries in the blast.

Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu region, Mukesh Singh said that preliminary investigations reveal that it was a low-intensity IED. "One person was killed while 14 others sustained injuries, who all are stable," he said.

Two of the injured are reportedly having serious injuries and being referred to Government Medical College Jammu.

Soon after the explosion took place, senior officers of police, CRPF and army rushed to the spot and the area of incident was cordoned for examination of evidence.

"Sniffer dogs, bomb squad were also called on spot for necessary operation, area sanitization and examination," the officials said. "Samples collected from the blast site have been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL)," officials said.

J&K Adds 35

registered the highest eight new cases of Coronavirus, Srinagar 7, and two each in Baramulla, Bandipora and Kulgam. The five districts of Pulwama, Kupwara, Anantnag, Ganderbal and Shopian detected no new cases of Covid-19.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu reported a maximum of 13 fresh cases of virus while one in Ramban. No new cases of infection were reported from eight other districts of Udhampur, Rajouri, Doda, Kathua, Samba, Kishtwar, Poonch and Reasi.

"Moreover, 54 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 29 from Jammu Division and 25 from Kashmir Division," they said.

Also, the officials said that the death toll due to the pandemic remained unchanged at 4749 in J&K-2326 in Jammu and 2423 in Kashmir, as no fresh fatality was reported during the last 24 hours.

Gunshots Resonate

of Police (JGP), Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said one of the militants was a Pakistani and termed his killing a "big success".

"We were monitoring him. His aim was to attack the shrine guard and snatch his weapon. He fired at the police party, which retaliated. In the firing, the Pakistani militant was killed," Kumar told reporters outside the shrine complex.

The slain militant was identified as Manzoor alias Haider alias Hamza. He was affiliated with proscribed outfit LeT, the IGP said.

"He was an associate of top LeT/TRF commander Mehran. His killing is a big success," he said.

Kumar said Manzoor was active in Srinagar for the past six months. He was involved in several killings. A video in which he talked about attacking senior officials had gone viral.

On the two militants who fled, the IGP said, "We are tracking them. We hope to neutralise them soon."

Kumar said the militants were trying to use religious places to take shelter and stir emotions to create a law and order issue.

"His (the Pakistani militant's) aim was to enter the mosque, engage with the government forces, spread news and stir religious sentiments of the people and create a law and order problem. But we will not let them (militants) succeed in that," he said.

Meanwhile, a police spokesperson in a handout issued here this evening said that the timely action of a small police party who were tracking the trio led to the elimination of Haider.

"As per police records, he said, the killed militant was a close associate of militant commander Mehran of LeT and involved in several "terror crime cases including civilian atrocities".

The spokesperson said that cases under relevant sections of law have been registered and investigation has been initiated.

Militants Injure

and Kashmir Bank guard posted at TP branch Murran Chowk Pulwama at around 3.55 pm.

"Terrorists fired upon and injured a bank guard in Murran Chowk area. They also snatched his 12 bore rifle," a police spokesman said.

The guard was identified as Abdul Hameed Wani, a resident of Tahab.

Wani was shifted to hospital where his condition is stated to be stable, the spokesman said.

The area has been cordoned off and search in the area is in progress, he

said.

A case has been registered and investigation is in progress.

Two Militants

army's 55 RR and the personnel of CRPF 182 battalion launched a cordon and search operation in Naina Batpora area of the district on Thursday morning, a police spokesperson said.

During the search operation, he said, the presence of militants holed up in a separate structure nearby a local Mosque got ascertained. The hiding militants, he said, were given ample opportunities to surrender and repeated appeals were made to them, instead, they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party leading to an encounter.

"Keeping in view the sanctity of Mosque, the joint team exercised maximum restraint to ensure no damage to it and two Army personnel sustained splinter injuries during the encounter. Both the injured were evacuated to hospital where their condition is stated to be stable," the spokesperson said.

In the ensuing encounter, he said, 2 LeT militants were killed and their bodies were recovered from the site of the encounter.

Police identified the killed militants as Shahid Ahmed Khan of Batpora, Pulwama and Fayaz Sheikh of Shahpora, Ganderbal.

"As per police records both the killed terrorists were categorized terrorists and were wanted by law in many terror crime cases," the spokesperson said.

Missing Soldier's

low and in case it gets switched off, he will get in touch with her, the officials said.

He was posted in Jammu.

Malla was in the news four years ago when his role was investigated for allegedly driving his company commander Major Leetul Gogoi and a local girl to a hotel here, officials said.

Major Gogoi, who was in the centre of the 2017 "human shield" controversy, suffered the ignominy of reduction in seniority and exit from Kashmir for "fraternising" with a local woman in 2018.

A court martial had held Gogoi and his driver Malla guilty on two counts -- "fraternising" with a local woman in spite of instructions to the contrary and "being away from the place of duty while in operational area".

Kashmiri Doctor

of the Year 2022 is... @DrShahTarfaroosh-a Specialist Registrar at Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust @OxfordHealthNHS- a wonderful achievement. #RCPsychSEAWards," while declaring the results, the prestigious psychiatry college had said in its official twitter account.

Dr Shah Tarfaroosh was nominated for the "Trainee Innovator of the Year 2022" award along with two other nominees comprising Dr Alexander Patrick and Dr Emma New.

Notably, last year, Dr Shah Tarfaroosh had developed impressive quality improvement projects, including animations showing real life experiences of children and families using services for neurodevelopmental conditions.

In October 2021, Dr Shah was interviewed by the BBC for his work on the Autism and ADHD animation project.

Pertinently, the Royal College of Psychiatry had also nominated Dr Shah Tarfaroosh for four other awards including "Trainee peer of the year" and "Higher trainee of the year" besides being selected as Finalist for three awards.

While declaring the wonderful news on his twitter account, Dr Shah

Tarfaroosh wrote, "I am honoured & humbled to win the 'Innovator of the year 2022 award', besides being Nominated for 4 awards & selected as Finalist for 3 awards. Thanks to the family, friends, colleagues (esp. who nominated me), @OxfordHealthNHS, @rcpsychSE & our patients-who Motivate us to Innovate."

It is pertinent to mention here that the Royal College of Psychiatrists is the biggest and one of the most prestigious foundations of mental health Doctors in the world. The RCPsych Awards mark the highest levels of achievement in psychiatry alongwith awards for medical students and foundation doctors.

'Not A Single Penny

there's a legal requirement for all public authorities to file a quarterly report before the commission.

However, according to the 2020-2021 annual report released by Chief Information Commission (CIC) office, out of 40 public authorities in J&K, only seven—including Animal and Sheep Husbandry department, Civil Aviation department, Horticulture department, Industries & Commerce department, Law department, Rural Development department and Social Welfare department—have submitted their quarterly returns to the CIC for the assessment of their performance.

"Since it's quite clear that the government is nowhere serious to protect or strengthen this law," Naveed Bukhtiyar said, "it's time for all activists and leaders to join hands to save the revolutionary law from dying."

'PIA' Marked

confiscated it, the officials said.

Such balloons have been found floating frequently along the International Border and the Line of Control. (PTI)

Cop Found Dead

ceiling of the rented room of his friend, also a policeman, in ward number 7 in Rajouri district, official sources said Thursday. Ahmed was presently posted at DPL Rajouri.

SSP Rajouri Mohammad Aslam Choudhary told a local news agency GNS that the investigations are underway and all angles including suicide is being investigated.

Soldier Killed After

Sarkulli on Thursday afternoon, while on way from Machil border area of the district. In the accident, reports said, five soldiers sustained injuries and were removed to the army's 168 Military Hospital in Drugmulla for treatment.

However, one among the injured, reports said, was declared dead on arrival by the doctors there.

Fire Damages

of March 9-10, officials said. They said that the cause of the fire is believed to be a short circuit.

Meanwhile, the District Magistrate, Shopian, Sachin Kumar Vaishya along with SSP Shopian, Amrit Paul Singh today visited the spot, an official spokesperson said.

Vaishya, he said, ordered an inquiry into the incident to establish the cause of the fire.

"Forensic team has also collected the samples of the gutted temple and police are investigating the cause of fire and lodged an FIR in this regard," the spokesperson said, adding "Vaishya said that those found guilty shall not be spared but brought to book."

Meanwhile, the District Magistrate has directed Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Zainapora for immediate restoration of the gutted temple.

Edu System Needs To Update For Future Industry Trends: Kansal



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department, Rohit Kansal presided over the on-going Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship academic module of Sankalp at Hotel Asia today.

The twelve-day programme, from March 7 to March 19, has been conducted by the Indian Institute of Management, IIM Jammu.

MGN Fellowship is a two-year programme which combines classroom sessions at IIM with an intensive field immersion at the district level to strengthen the district skill administration and the District Skill Committees (DSCs).

Speaking at the occasion, the Principal Secretary underlined the need to reap benefits of demographic dividend of India in the form its vast young population.

He stressed on the need to successfully convert it into a talented workforce through modern education.

Elaborating education sector, the Principal Secretary said that the sector needs to be updated to be more gainful and employment oriented. 'Reorientation of our education system towards skill development is the need of the hour. We need to prepare better skilled workforce through education', he said.

The Principal Secretary called for aligning skill and education being imparted by universities

with workplace opportunities of the future.

He said that the system need to upgrade itself to cater to the upcoming Industry 4.0 trends.

Kansal shared his ideas on a plethora of subjects, including doubling of farmers income, efficient delivery of public services and social welfare schemes etc. He called upon the fellows to act as crusaders of change and give recommendations to government for institutionalisation of their novel initiatives. He suggested that the fellows take inputs from local stakeholders while proposing any development for the latter.

The Principal Secretary also shared lessons from the success of Back to Village programmes and hailed its grounds-up approach.

IIM faculty would teach course content under each course module that is consistent with 40 contact days; along with off-campus mentoring, field experience, and workshops that should form an integral part of the learning. Fellows from J&K, West Bengal, Ladakh, Chandigarh and Puducherry are participating in the programme.

The programme has been designed by the initiative of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India, and implemented in collaboration with State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs).

Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Co-Program Director, MGNF was also present at the occasion.

Landslide Blocks Highway, Hundreds Of Vehicles Stranded



Press Trust Of India

BANIHAL: A major landslide in Ramban district on Thursday has forced the closure of the 272 km-long Jammu-Srinagar national highway, leaving hundreds of vehicles stranded, officials said.

The landslide struck the highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with the rest of the country, at Nachlana near Samroli, the officials said.

Men and machinery from road clearance agencies are working on clearing the highway, they said.

"No fresh traffic was allowed either from Jammu or Srinagar in view of the closure of the highway," the officials said.

The people are requested not to travel on the highway till the clearance work is completed, they said.

BJP Workers In J&K Celebrate Party's Win In Assembly Polls

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Dancing to the beats of dolaks, jubilant BJP workers celebrated the party's impressive show in four of the five states where elections were held recently.

The party's chief for Jammu and Kashmir Ravinder Raina said it will cross the 50-plus mark in the Assembly elections in the union territory and will

register a landslide victory to form its government here.

Hundreds of workers and leaders assembled at the party's state headquarters in Trikuta Nagar and danced to the dolak beats. They raised pro-BJP and pro-Modi slogans, and chanted Bharat Mata Ki Jai' amid shouts of Ab ki bar 50 ke paar, making their intentions clear.

It clearly shows the victory of the developmental agenda

of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. People voted for the BJP for peace, security and development, Raina told reporters here.

In Srinagar, former legislator and senior BJP leader Surinder Ambardar led the victory march with the party workers dancing in celebration.

The BJP workers also danced and exchanged sweets in Kathua, Samba, Udhampur, Kishtwar, Katra, Reasi and Rajouri districts.

J&K Has Suffered Most Under BJP Regime: Congress

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir has suffered the most under the BJP regime, senior Congress leader and MP Rajni Patil alleged Thursday, asserting that in run-up to the assembly elections, the Congress will intensify its ideological fight against the saffron party and its policies towards the union territory.

Patil said the Congress has always stood for secularism and unity in diversity and taken care of each and every section of society equally, while the BJP "believes in division and polarisation" for vote bank politics.

"Jammu and Kashmir has suffered the most under BJP regime and the people's anger is writ large against the policies of the central government and the UT administration," Patil told a rally here.

Patil, who in charge of J&K Congress, further said, The ideological fight against the BJP and its policies towards Jammu and Kashmir shall be intensified in the run up to the assembly elections.

Accompanied by J&K Congress chief G A Mir, Patil welcomed leaders and over 100 other prominent people into the party.

She said the Congress provid-

ed able leadership to the country right since independence and former prime minister Manmohan Singh is example of simplicity, honesty, integrity above all capability.

The economic policies of Congress especially Dr Singh's took the nation to great heights and brought out 27 crore BPL families while the BJP pushed down 323 crore people to the BPL category. The poor and common people are suffering a lot due to price hike and unemployed youth without jobs", she added.

She said that Jammu and Kashmir suffered the most under BJP rule and it lost statehood.

TRANSFORMING J&K

NEP-2020: A Way For Transforming Educational Scenario Of Country

Observer News Service

JAMMU: National Education Policy (NEP) was approved by the Union Cabinet on July 28th, 2020 in order to transform the educational scenario of the country.

After a gap of 34 years, the government consolidated feedback from 2.5 lakh village-level stakeholders to two national parliamentary level committees, over more than 50 months of consultations and workshops and at the end NEP was framed.

The J&K UT administration has also taken a leap in the implementation of NEP-2020. The J&K government is mainly focusing on skilling and employability of students, besides promotion of local languages and culture. Vocational courses, co-curriculum activities and student exchange programmes will be made an integral part of the education system under NEP.

The Higher Education Department has started taking initiatives for implementation NEP-2020 For equitable access, gender parity and to uplift Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs), the JKHEd has taken several initiatives and executed several state and centrally sponsored schemes.

Lieutenant Governor's Sustainable Development Fellowship (LGSDF) is started in 2021 to provide a platform for highly motivated young professionals to contribute towards strategic planning and implementation of development policies and initiatives in the union territory

Under AICTE-Pragati scheme



124 students have been benefited and the number is increasing year by year.

Under PMSSS scheme 4488 students were granted scholarship last year to pursue undergraduate studies outside the Jammu and Kashmir. AICTE-Saksham scholarship scheme is also successfully executed for physically disabled students.

The Department is offering several programmes at the UG and PG level to promote the Indian rich knowledge in Arts, Music, Sanskrit, Linguistics, Urdu, Punjabi, Dogri and Environmental Sciences. For skill enhancement and employability, the department of higher Education has identified 16 degree colleges to start B.Vocational from next academic session.

To boost research and innovation and integration of technology, several Research and Innovation centers, innovation & Incubation Centers, Browse Centers, Smart/Digital have been established in degree colleges. Moreover, the process has also being initiated for establishing Centers for invention innovation, incubation & training (CIITs) in 14 different colleges

under PPP mode.

For improving the quality of teaching and learning, the department has taken several initiatives for NAAC accreditation of Degree colleges in UT of Jammu and Kashmir. A target of 100 colleges has been set to get NAAC accredited by December, 2022.

To address, "access including online and Open and Distance Learning (ODL) education", and "Transforming education through integration of technology", the JK Higher education is going to launch "JK e-Governance system" for networking all degree colleges on single platform, to support monitoring of Institutes, online Learning and Teaching, online submission of documents.

Under NEP-2020, the Higher Education Department of J&K is mainly focusing on establishing a more holistic and multidisciplinary education in UT of J&K besides introduction of B.Vocational courses (Bachelor of Vocational Education), Introduction of Honours/PhD Programmes in GDCs as well as establishment of Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) in HEIs also forms the core objective of HED under NEP-2020.

Pole Directs Holding Gram Sabhas In April To Settle FRA Cases



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole chaired a meeting here on Thursday regarding conservation of forests with the officers of Forest Department.

The meeting was attended by Chief Conservator Forest Kashmir; Conservator of Forest Srinagar; Conservator of Forest South; Conservator of Forest North and Additional Commissioner (R) Srinagar in person while all ACRs and DFOs of Kashmir division attended the meeting virtually.

On the Occasion, Div Com directed concerned officers to issue notices to encroachers who have grabbed Forest land.

He also said that Gram Sabhas shall be held on the Forest Rights Act (FRA) to settle the

cases of eligible persons. In this regard, he also issued directions for DCs to make preparatory work for the successful conduct of Gram Sabhas.

The Div Com directed officers for preparation of a detailed list of Forest Rights Act Cases under segregated four categories including approved list, rejected list, non applicants belonging to apparently tribal community and non tribal community besides under process cases.

He also directed concerned officers to identify and prepare a complete list of government employees who have encroached and grabbed Forest land.

Meanwhile, Div Com directed ACRs of all districts to retrieve government land including Kahcharai and hand it over to the Social Forestry Department to create a land bank for Forest land diversion.

International Conference On Inter-Faith Dialogue At IUST



Observer News Service

AWANTIPORA: Underlining the significance of interfaith dialogue and communal harmony, One-Day International Conference on "Islam and Interfaith Dialogue: Challenges and Prospects" was organized by the Department of Islamic Studies, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) Thursday.

The conference aims to equip the scholars and students with an understanding of overcoming various challenges faced by humanity in the contemporary times, especially concerning communalism, racism, extremism, discrimination etc. The Inaugural Session was presided by Vice Chancellor, IUST Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, who was also the Chief Guest on this occasion.

While congratulating the department for identifying a relevant theme for scholarly deliberations, Prof. Romshoo noted the strength of harboring inter-faith dialogue and exchanges for the overall well-being of the society.

He also called on students and scholars to focus on the inter-disciplinarity while researching in this area as that would help establish cross-cultural linkages and possibilities of achieving brotherhood at every level.

The Keynote Address was delivered by Prof. Sayyid Atif Rizwan, Director of Catholic-Mus-

lim Studies Programme with Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, USA.

He brought to the limelight the meaning of the interfaith dialogue from an Islamic perspective and drew parallels between Islam and Christianity. Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Malik, recollected instances of the Muslim patronage of non-Muslim scholarship in the medieval times which resulted in the creation and preservation of a treasure-trove of knowledge.

Earlier, Head, Department of Islamic Studies, Dr. Afroz Ahmad Bisati presented the Welcome Address, besides introducing the theme of the Conference in which over 40 participants presented their research papers on the diverse aspects of the theme during four technical sessions held in blended form. The inaugural Session was moderated by Dr. Showkat Hussain, Senior faculty member of the department.

During the closing Session, Prof. Obaidullah Fahad, Professor of Islamic Studies at Aligarh Muslim University presented the Valedictory Address in presence of Dean Academic Affairs, IUST, Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Malik and Director of Center of Spiritual Studies Prof. Hamidullah Marazi. Dr. Riyaz anchored the session and Dr. Ali Mohammad proposed the vote of thanks.

Principal Secretary Reviews Development Works In Budgam



Observer News Service

BUDGAM: Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD), Dheeraj Gupta on Thursday visited Budgam and chaired a meeting of district officers to review progress on development works being executed in the district.

Principal Secretary took a detailed review of targets achieved under District Capex besides assessing allocations received under centrally and state sponsored schemes. He also took stock of development works taken in hand and completed in the district till date.

Principal Secretary, who is also In-charge Administrative Secretary for Budgam district, called for effective execution of all development works by the executing agencies across the district.

He stressed on proper cleanliness and sanitation across all urban and rural areas while emphasizing efficient garbage collection, segregation and its proper disposal in all areas.

Exhorting successful implementation of PMAY Housing scheme, he instructed the concerned to ensure that all left over beneficiaries are covered and payment is released in time.

He asked the district administration to make sure that the concerned elected representatives and other stakeholders are completely involved in planning and execution of all development works in a particular village or urban area.

District Development Commissioner, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza, presented detailed progress and targets achieved under different schemes in the district.

SKIMS Celebrates World Kidney Day

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Department of Nephrology Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences celebrated

World Kidney Day on Thursday to raise awareness on kidney health with focus on this year's theme 'Kidney Health For All': Bridge The Knowledge Gap To Better Kidney Care.

On the occasion the book "Apne Gurdun ko Bachaye" Urdu Translated done by Consultant Imtiyaz Ahmad Department of Nephrology was also released.

Director SKIMS & Ex-officio Secretary to Govt. Prof. Parvaiz A Koul in his address congratulated the department for being the frontrunner in Kidney healthcare delivery services in and outside UT of J&K.

He said the department is not only providing excellent patient care services but is playing a phenomenal role in creating and raising awareness about kidney health. At academic front start of Doctoral Program recently in Nephrology and Technician Courses in haemodialysis is major milestone achieved by the department.

"CKD continues to be major area of concern and policy planners need to refocus and prioritise this area. The awareness at community level is critical to address the knowledge gap that contributes to rise in chronic

kidney diseases", he added.

Dean Medical Faculty Prof. Tariq A Gojwari complimented the organising team for these educative programs



and said such programs are critical in raising awareness among general masses. Prof. Mohammad Ashraf Bhat HOD in his address highlighted the activities and achievements of the Nephrology department SKIMS.

During the program the experts deliberated on various issues pertaining to Kidney health and made presentations on various topics including Kidney Involvement in Diabetes Mellitus, Awareness about Kidney Diseases and Hypertension and Kidney diseases.

Besides, scientific presentations there was also panel discussion in which many faculty members participated including Prof. Mohd. Ashraf Bhat HOD Nephrology, Prof. Salim Wani HOD Urology SKIMS, Prof. Shariq Masoodi Endocrinology, Prof. Muzaffar Maqsood Department of Nephrology.

The program was attended by Faculty, Students, Faculty from other academic Institutions and other guests and staff members of the Institute.

14 Students Injured In Anantnag Accident

Observer News Service

ANANTNAG: At least 15 students sustained injuries after a private school vehicle of an Army Goodwill School turned turtle in South Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Sources said that a rented private Tata-minibus (JK03-9706) of Army Goodwill School High Ground Anantnag was on its way to drop the students at their respective destinations when the driver lost control over the vehicle and it turned turtle near Kadipora High Ground area of the district.

Locals said that instead of rescuing the students, the driver and

the conductor fled away from the spot. The students were shifted to the hospital for treatment.

A doctor at District Hospital Anantnag told a local news agency KNT that 15 students who were brought to the hospital are being treated. He said some of the students were discharged from the hospital after being given first aid to them while others are still being treated.

The doctor said that all the students are stable.

Some of the parents said that they had requested school authorities to change the old model vehicles, but nothing was done.

Unvaccinated Novak Djokovic Says He Is Out Of Indian Wells, Miami

Agencies

Novak Djokovic said that he will not be able to compete at the hard-court tennis tournaments in Indian Wells, California, or Miami because he is unvaccinated and can't travel to the United States.

The 20-time Grand Slam champion tweeted Wednesday that the Centers for Disease Control "confirmed the regulations won't be changing so I won't be able to play in the U.S."

Djokovic, who recently dropped to No. 2 in the ATP rankings, has played in only one tournament so far in 2022 because he has not received any shots to protect against COVID-19. He was deported from Australia in January and was not allowed to try to defend his title at Melbourne Park.

Rafael Nadal wound up winning the Australian Open for his 21st major trophy, breaking a tie with Djokovic and Roger Federer for the most claimed by a man in the history of tennis.

Djokovic is a 34-year-old from Serbia who said in April 2020, as the coronavirus pandemic raged, that he was opposed to needing to be vaccinated to travel. In June of that year, with professional tennis on hiatus, he organized a series of exhibition matches in Serbia and Croatia with no rules requiring social distancing or masking, a tour that was called off after some players, including Djokovic, got COVID-19.

His name was put in the draw for the BNP Paribas Open in California on Tuesday, even though his status was up in the air because the U.S. has been requiring foreign visitors to be vaccinated



to enter the country. In addition, the tournament had previously announced that everyone on-site at Indian Wells would need to be fully inoculated.

"While I was automatically listed in the (at)BNPPARIBASOPEN and (at)MiamiOpen draw," Djokovic wrote Wednesday, "I knew it would be unlikely I'd be able to travel."

Indian Wells is under way this week; the Miami Open starts on March 21.

"We understood from the beginning that Novak's participation at the Miami Open was determinant on his entry into the United States, which we knew would be a long shot," said James Blake, the tournament director in Miami. "We have an incredibly deep and talented player field, and look forward to hosting a great event."

Chris Widmaier, a spokesman for the U.S. Tennis Association, which runs the U.S. Open, said the organization would have no comment other than to note that the event follows government guidelines. The American Grand Slam tournament is scheduled to begin on Aug. 29.

Shane Warne's Body Arrives In Melbourne

Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: Late Australian spin legend Shane Warne's body arrived at his home city Melbourne from Bangkok in a private jet on Thursday, almost a week after his shock death due to a suspected heart attack. Warne's body was flown to Melbourne in a coffin wrapped in the Australian flag. The private jet landed at around 8:30pm local time. He will be given a state funeral on March 30 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

"A private jet carrying the

Australian cricket legend's body touched down at Essendon Fields Airport in Melbourne at around 8.30pm on Thursday night. The charter flight was moved into a private hangar," 'new.com.au' reported.

"Fans and friends, including Warne's personal assistant Helen Nolan, were at the airport to greet the private plane," the report added.

Warne, who is credited with reviving the art of leg-spin bowling by taking 708 wickets in 145 Tests in an illustrious career spanning 15 years, died at the age of 52 in Koh Samui,

Thailand on March 4.

The news of his death sent shock waves across the cricket fraternity.

Following his demise, Warne's body had been taken to the mainland city of Surat Thani and then to the capital city of Bangkok.

An autopsy confirmed he died of natural causes following a suspected heart attack and there was no foul play involved.

His family will hold a private funeral before the public service, which is expected to have an attendance of over one lakh people.

We Did Not Want To Play Into Australia's Hands: PCB Chief On Pitch Criticism



Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD: PCB Chairman Ramiz Raja on Wednesday defended the use of a flat track for the first Test, saying they did not want play into Australia's hands by preparing a track that would assist pace and bounce.

The series-opener ended in a high scoring dull draw on Tuesday. The Rawalpindi track, where just 14 wickets fell in five days with 1,187 runs scored by both teams, drew criticism from some former players, critics and fans alike.

"I understand fans' frustration and a result would have been good but this is a three-match series. We need to remember that there is a lot of cricket to come," Ramiz said in a video message released by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

"Just for the heck of it, we don't want to prepare a fast and bouncy pitch and play into Australia's hands."

He conceded that the Pindi pitch was not a good advertisement for Test cricket but backed the track.

"You must understand Pakistan team had limited resources for the Test and our bowling line up was disturbed as well with

Faheem and Hasan not available and Yasir Shah also unfit," he said.

He said the pitch was prepared accordingly.

"I am totally for having better pitches in Pakistan but I took charge in September and the season had already started. Remember one requires at least five to six months to prepare a pitch.

"When the season finishes you will see that we are bringing in soil from Australia and we are experimenting here with soil experts. We will redo 50-60 pitches all over Pakistan as soon as our season ends in March-April," he said.

Former batter Inzamam-ul-haq said it felt rather weird to see a Test match ending in a high scoring draw.

"Nowadays if a Test is drawn it feels strange and I can't remember the last time we had a test where so many runs were scored and the pitch was flat.

"You knew it was going to be a draw from the first day. I am hopeful, the pitch will undoubtedly be more sporting (in next Test). You help spinners by making a turning pitch. You take advantage of the home field advantage, but don't make a dead pitch," he said.

Badminton Rolling Trophy 2022 Begins At GCW, Srinagar



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The third edition of Inter-College Badminton Rolling Trophy (Women), 2022, organised by Govt. College for Women, M.A. Road, Srinagar commenced on Thursday, here.

The tournament is being organised by the Physical Education Department of GCW from March 10 to 18, 2022.

Additional Commissioner, Kashmir Qazi Sarwar was the Chief Guest on the occasion while Dean Academic Affairs, Cluster University Srinagar was the Guest of Honour. Dean of various faculties of Cluster University, Principals from constituent colleges of the university and Sports Secretary, Cluster University were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Qazi Sarwar appreciated the efforts of the college in organising various sports events regularly. He showed pleasure in restarting sports activities in the college to help students to overcome the stress of the pandemic period.

While interacting with the players, he extended best wishes to the competing teams and laid emphasis on observance of Covid Appropriate Behaviour.

Earlier, welcoming the guests, Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Nasreen Aman stressed on the importance of sports activities for holistic development of students. She said active participation in sports is not only beneficial for physical fitness but also mental well-being of the youth.

The inaugural event was moderated by Prof. Momina while Prof. Rajou Kumar presented a Vote of Thanks. Members of the Sports Committee and other faculty members were also present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, the first mixed-doubles match of the tournament was played between AAAM Degree College Bemina and IASE M.A. Road in which the Bemina college team emerged as the winner.

Fifteen matches are being played at the college's Multipurpose Hall with 16 teams from different colleges competing for the coveted trophy.

ADDC Kulgam Flags-Off Athletes To Jammu For UT Level Sports Competitions



Observer News Service

KULGAM: The Additional District Developmental Commissioner, (ADDC) Kulgam, Reyaz Ahmad Sofi on Thursday flagged off 46 players including 36 Boys and 10 girls of various age groups to Jammu for participating in multifarious sports activities in Jammu province.

Present on the occasion were Tehsildar head quarter Kulgam, Ali Mohd Bhat, DYSSO Kulgam, Ghulam Hassan and officials of YSS department and parents of these players.

DYSSO Kulgam, Ghulam Hassan informed that these players are going to take part in UT level competitions for Kabaddi, Volleyball and Kho Kho games in Jammu province.

Chess Player Anwesh Upadhyaya Returns Home From War-Torn Ukraine

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: Indian chess player Anwesh Upadhyaya has finally returned home along with his fiancée Viktoriia Ivanova, after being struck in war-torn Ukraine following Russia's invasion nearly two weeks ago.

The former national rapid champion, who like several of his compatriots was stuck in Ukraine after the war started, overcame several hurdles before managing to safely return to his hometown Bhubaneswar on Wednesday night.

"Yeah....happy that we managed to escape and reach India after the struggles. But Ukraine will be on the mind always," said Anwesh, who is now looking to begin a new life in India.

After an anxious wait of two weeks, Anwesh, an International Master, managed to flee from Kyiv and reach Lviv, en route to India via Poland.

Anwesh parents — Netaji and Jayashree — are happy that he has finally returned back after overcoming the traumatic experience.

"We are very happy to have Anwesh back home. He re-



turned late on Wednesday night. It was an anxious wait and we were keeping our fingers crossed. These are tough times and somehow he has managed to come back," Netaji told PTI from Bhubaneswar.

Anwesh's fiancée — Viktoriia — a full-time chef before the pandemic rendered her jobless, was working as a logistics manager for an e-commerce platform in Kyiv.

Her parents had wanted her to remain in Ukraine but the Indian IM felt it was better for them to stick together and hence the duo chose to take the

risk and get out of the war-ravaged European nation.

The 30-year old Anwesh was serving as a doctor at a Kyiv hospital, doing his apprenticeship in gastroenterology when Russia launched the military operation. Anwesh had moved to Ukraine in 2012 to pursue medicine and also take part in tournaments.

He had earlier planned to return to India in March but with Russia launching military operations on February 24, all commercial flights from Ukraine were suspended, resulting in uncertainty for foreign citizens.

EXPLAINER: What Sanctions Mean For Roman Abramovich, Chelsea

Agencies

LONDON: The decision to sanction Roman Abramovich and freeze his assets has left Chelsea to continue playing only with the approval of the British government under special conditions.

The 55-year-old Abramovich is among seven wealthy Russians punished by Boris Johnson's administration on Thursday over their close links to the Kremlin, with Russia's war on Ukraine into a third week.

HOW IMPORTANT IS ABRAMOVICH TO CHELSEA?

Abramovich transformed Chelsea after stunning English football in 2003 by launching the most expensive takeover of an English club.

"I just saw this incredible game and that I wanted to be a part of that in one way or another," Abramovich said in a rare interview with Forbes last year.

The flow of investment — before European football introduced Financial Fair Play spending control rules — quickly allowed an upgrade of the squad that produced a first English championship title in 55 years in 2005.

Abramovich was the first of the mega-rich owners to enter English football, starting a trend that has continued with Manchester City benefiting from Abu Dhabi investment since 2008 and Newcastle tapping into Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund since last year.

Chelsea has won five Premier League titles under Abramovich along with two Champions League titles, the latest last year. Victory in the Club World Cup last month completed the set of major honours.

The success has been funded by around 1.5 billion pounds (\$2 billion) of loans to the club that Abramovich said he didn't want repaid when putting the club up for sale last week.

WHY SANCTION ABRAMOVICH?

Abramovich has used legal means to try to publicly distance himself from benefiting



from an association with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The British government thinks otherwise, saying Abramovich has obtained "a financial benefit or other material benefit from Putin and the government of Russia," including tax breaks, the sale of shares at favorable rates, and contracts in the buildup to Russia hosting the 2018 World Cup.

Abramovich "is or has been involved in destabilizing Ukraine" via Evraz, a steel manufacturing and mining company which he effectively controls and has potentially supplied the Russia military, the government said.

His fortune was made in oil and aluminium following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. In 2005, Russian state-owned energy giant Gazprom paid \$13 billion for the Sibneft oil company controlled by Abramovich. It allowed Putin's Kremlin to recapture state influence in the lucrative energy industry.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT ON CHELSEA?

The sanctions could have immediately forced Chelsea to stop running as a business, and preventing its teams from completing their seasons. Instead, a special license has been issued to allow it to continue operating, subject to heavy restrictions.

Only fans already with tickets — mainly season ticket holders — can attend matches, shutting out away fans from games. The club's shop had to close on Thursday morning. Staff at the hotel built onto Stamford Bridge said they were under orders to no longer accept new reservations or sell food and drink.

Only 500,000 pounds (\$657,000) can be spent on staging each match at Stamford Bridge, including on security and catering. A maximum of 20,000 pounds can be spent on travel to matches. Chelsea plays in France at Lille in the Champions League next week.

Player recruitment is also prohibited under the terms of the government license that runs through May 31. There are players with contracts expiring at the end of the season in June and the sanctions create uncertainty over whether Cesar Azpilicueta, Toni Rudiger and Andreas Christensen could be offered new deals.

CAN CHELSEA STILL BE SOLD?

As calls grew in the British parliament for Abramovich to be sanctioned, Chelsea was put up for sale.

"I have instructed my team to set up a charitable foundation where all net proceeds from the sale will be donated," Abramovich said. "The foundation will be for the benefit of all victims of the war in Ukraine."

It gave the impression of being an entity that Abramovich would be involved with. The foundation could have benefited Russian victims, too.

Chelsea sought potential bidders to register their interest by next week. But now the government has oversight of the process.

"While the current license does not permit the sale of the club at this time, the government is open to a sale of the club and would consider an application for a new license to allow for a sale," the government said. "Proceeds from any sale could not go to the sanctioned individual while he is subject to sanctions."

Benzema Still Reigns In Madrid After Spoiling Mbappé Party



Agencies

MADRID: There was a time when Karim Benzema was jeered by Real Madrid fans for not tapping all his talent, for not scoring enough goals, for not rising to the challenge.

Even though he had quieted most of his critics in recent years, nobody can ever again doubt the France striker after he etched his name into the club's long Champions League lore.

Benzema scored a hat trick in just 18 minutes on Wednesday night to oust a stunned Paris Saint-Germain and keep the Spanish club in contention for both the European Cup and Spanish league title.

For a game and a half, Kylian Mbappé was leading PSG toward a commanding win with a stellar two-goal display that showed why both rivals so desperately want soccer's brightest star on their squad next season.

That was until Benzema led Madrid roaring back in a whirlwind second-half rally for a 3-2

aggregate victory.

"We lost the first leg and we were 1-0 down at halftime today, but the strength of the fans drove us on," Benzema said. "We gave it everything we had out on the pitch until the end."

PSG was left yet again with only the French league to play for after another European failure despite the efforts of its Qatari owners to assemble the most talented attack in the world with Lionel Messi added last summer to play alongside Mbappé and Neymar. The defeat came five years after PSG suffered a shocking second-leg collapse at Camp Nou when Barcelona made history with a 6-1 victory.

Led by Benzema, Madrid has now gained some huge momentum as it seeks a double of a potential 14th European Cup and bids to reclaim the Spanish league title.

Next up for Madrid is the humble Mallorca, which will welcome the Spanish leaders in the domestic competition on Monday.

Giroud Delivers In Big Games As AC Milan Chases Title

Agencies

MILAN: Two vital games, three goals, six points. Olivier Giroud is keeping AC Milan very much in the title race.

Giroud has scored 11 goals in all competitions since joining Milan from Chelsea in the offseason but it is his ability to do it in big matches that could prove to be the difference for the Rossoneri.

The Milan forward netted two in a 2-1 victory against defending champion Inter Milan at the

beginning of February and did it again last weekend with the only goal in a 1-0 win at Napoli that sent his team two points clear at the top of Serie A.

"I try to do my job. When I'm in the area I always try to be in the right place at the right time," Giroud said.

Milan plays mid-table Empoli on Saturday and will be looking to preserve its advantage over Inter, which has played a match less. Napoli is only three points behind the Rossoneri.