

# Shaurya International School hosts Student Interaction Programme led by Vijay Bakaya

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In an endeavour to foster leadership, ignite curiosity, and empower young minds, Shaurya International School proudly hosted a transformative Student Interaction Programme led by esteemed Sh. Vijay Bakaya IAS (Retd.), a Former Member Legislative Council, Chief Secretary, Govt of J&K.

This engaging initiative was designed to provide students of Grade XI and XII, with a unique opportunity to interact directly with a distinguished civil servant, gaining invaluable insights into governance, leadership, and community service.

Throughout the programme, Sh. Vijay Bakaya captivated the audience with personal anecdotes, riveting accounts of administrative challenges, and



stirring reflections on the importance of civic engagement, role of youth in National Integration in progress.

The highlight of the event was the interactive session, during which students had the opportunity to pose thought-provoking ques-

tions to Sh. Vijaya Bakaya.

Mr. Sahil Mahajan, the Vice-Chairman of the School, moderated the interactive session. With each query, a dynamic exchange ensued, fostering critical thinking, expanding horizons, and nurturing a deeper understanding of

the role of governance in shaping society.

While speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sahil Mahajan, Vice-Chairman of the School affirmed that this Interaction Programme served as a testament to the School's unwavering commitment to holistic education and the holistic development of its students. By providing a platform for direct engagement with eminent personalities like Sh. Vijay Bakaya, the school reaffirms its dedication to nurturing well-rounded individuals equipped to navigate the complexities of the modern world.

As the echoes of inspiration continue to resonate within the halls of the School, the legacy of this transformative event will endure, igniting sparks of ambition, compassion, and civic responsibility in the hearts and minds of all who participated.

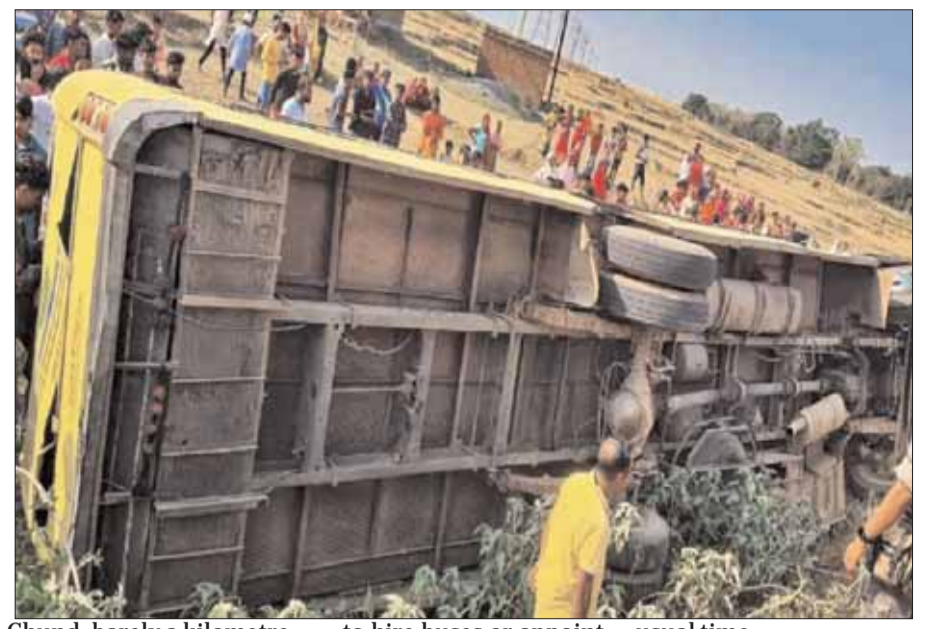
# 16 hurt after school bus carrying 30 students topples in Jharkhand's Ranchi

JAMSHEDPUR, APR 28: A school bus carrying 30 students overturned at Chund in Mandar block of Ranchi, Jharkhand, on Saturday morning, injuring 16 children.

According to police sources, the driver was speaking on the phone when the bus swerved and overturned in a field around 7.30am.

"One student had to undergo an MRI scan at RIMS in Ranchi for a head injury, while others have been discharged after medical treatment at Constant Lievens Hospital in Mandar," said Mandar police station officer-in-charge Rahul Kumar.

The police official said that the driver fled from the spot after the incident and the local villagers broke open the bus door and brought out the students who were going to St Maria School in



Chund, barely a kilometre from the site of the mishap.

Mandar MLA Shilpi Neha Tirkey, who visited the hospital and the school, said that she had written to all the schools in her constituency

to hire buses or appoint drivers after careful scrutiny of their documents.

Some parents on condition of anonymity claimed the driver was speeding the bus as it was 45 minutes delayed than the

usual time.

Jharkhand chief minister Champai Soren has expressed concern regarding the accident and directed the administration to ensure proper medical treatment of all the injured students.

## Lok Sabha Elections 2024

# Expenditure Observer Baramulla PC reviews preparations in Budgam

BUDGAM, APRIL 28: Expenditure Observer for Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency, Sita Ram Meena today reviewed preparations for the ensuing Lok Sabha Elections in Budgam.

In this regard, the Election Expenditure Observer chaired a meeting of officers at Conference Hall, Budgam. District Election Officer (DEO), Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Akshay Labroo and SSP Budgam, Nikhil Borkar were also present in the meeting.

At the outset, the Election Expenditure Observer held interaction with the District Expenditure Monitoring Team, all AROs and Nodal Officers.

He emphasized that all accounts be monitored strictly and ensure only valid expenditures are made and no illegal means are used to influence or induce voters by any contesting candidate or the party.

The Bankers were advised to ensure ECI guidelines are adhered to strictly and proper monitoring and seizures are



carried out against suspicious transactions or movement of cash.

The Election Expenditure Observer called for proper maintaining of expenditure records, truthful accounts, facilitation of candidates, legal expenditure within the permissible limit and expenditure booking by the contesting candidates as per the ECI guidelines.

While briefing the chair, the DEO Budgam deliberated upon the overall preparations to ensure level playing field for all

stakeholders to ensure free, fair and smooth conduct of elections in the district.

He said that all ECI guidelines shall be implemented in letter and spirit in the district and all efforts are made to ensure high voter turnout in the district.

The DEO also briefed the Expenditure Observer about the functioning of MCMC, monitoring all media platforms in double shift in the district, deployment of SST, FST, VVT and teams, arrangements for senior citizens, PWDs, mi-

nority and Migrant voters in the district.

SSP Budgam, briefed the chair on overall security arrangements being put up for smooth conduct of elections in the district.

Nodal Officer Election Expenditure Monitoring, Budgam, Showkat Ali Rather through a power point presentation, presented district profile and deliberated on overall preparations.

All AROs, Nodal Officers and other concerned officers also attended the meeting.

# US President Joe Biden pokes fun at Donald Trump, age critiques ahead of presidential election

WASHINGTON, APRIL 28: US President Joe Biden roasted his predecessor and political rival, Donald Trump and poked fun at his age at the annual dinner for Washington's political and media elites, saying "I am a grown man running against a six-year-old".

The White House Correspondents' Association (WHCA) dinner on Saturday night provided the platform for Biden, 81, to continue his criticism of Trump, 77, with cutting humour.

The high-profile event came against the backdrop of growing protests over Biden's handling of the Israel-Hamas war.

"Of course, the 2024 elections in full swing and, yes, age is an issue: I'm a grown man running against a 6-year-old," Biden said in a roughly 10-minute speech, referring to former President Trump, whom he called "Sleepy Don."

Speaking to an audience of nearly 3,000 journalists, celebrities and politicians, Biden added, "Age is the only thing we have in common. My vice president actually endorses me."

"Donald has had a few tough days lately. You might



call it 'stormy' weather," Biden said, an oblique reference to Stormy Daniels, a porn actress who claims she had an affair and received a hush-money payment in the days before the 2016 election, a deal at the centre of his New York trial.

The president went on to draw a contrast between his re-election campaign, which has ramped up since his State of the Union address last month, and that of Trump.

Biden and Trump have both secured the delegates they need to win their respective party nominations in the November 5 presidential race, setting a rematch of their 2020 election showdown.

After a slew of jokes targeting Trump, Biden then

took a more sombre tone to talk about his 2024 rival to the room of journalists, lawmakers and celebrities.

"The defeated former president has made no secret of his attack on our democracy. He said he wants to be a dictator on day one, and so much more. He tells supporters he is their revenge and retribution. When in God's name [have] you ever heard another president say something like that?" Biden asked, referring to Trump's recent remarks.

"We have to take this seriously. Eight years ago, you could've written off [that] it was just Trump talk, but no longer. Not after January 6," Biden said, calling on the audience to "move past the horse race numbers" and

"focus on what's actually at stake."

Comedian Colin Jost followed Biden's remarks at the dinner on Saturday with a roast of the incumbent and other political figures in the room, offering comic relief against a backdrop of congressional tensions and conflict abroad.

Demonstrators protested media coverage of the Israel-Hamas war and the administration's handling of the conflict near the Washington Hilton event space — and Biden notably didn't make direct reference to the protests or the conflict during his speech.

As journalists and celebrities entered the Washington Hilton, protesters accused them of cosigning the president's handling of the Israel-Hamas war, shouting, "Shame on you!" while urging them to speak out against the killing of journalists in Gaza.

Since Hamas' October 7 attacks, at least 97 journalists — 92 of them Palestinian — have been killed in the region, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists, a nonprofit that has been tracking the death toll.

# Hamas reviews ceasefire proposal as Rafah offensive looms

CAIRO, APRIL 27: Hamas said on Saturday it was reviewing a new Israeli proposal for a ceasefire in Gaza, as Egypt intensified efforts to broker a deal to end the months-long war and stave off a possible Israeli ground offensive into the southern Gaza city of Rafah.

Senior Hamas official Khalil al-Hayya said the Palestinian militant group was evaluating Israel's proposal, and "upon completion of its study, it will submit its response." He gave no details of Israel's offer but said it was in response to a proposal from Hamas two weeks ago. Negotiations earlier this month centered on a six-week ceasefire proposal and the release of 40 civilian and sick hostages in exchange for freeing hundreds of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

Hamas' statement came hours after a high-level Egyptian delegation wrapped up a visit to Israel where it discussed a "new vision" for a prolonged ceasefire in Gaza, according to an Egyptian official, who spoke on condition of



anonymity to freely discuss the developments.

It was not immediately clear whether Israel's latest response to Hamas on a cease-fire was directly related to Friday's visit to Tel Aviv by Egyptian mediators.

The Israeli military has massed dozens of tanks and armored vehicles in southern Israel close to Rafah and hit targets in the city in near-daily airstrikes.

Early Saturday, an Israeli airstrike hit a house in Rafah's Tel Sultan neighbourhood, killing six people, including four children, according to officials at a local hospital.

Meanwhile, students protesting the Israel-Hamas war at universities across US, some of whom have clashed with police in riot gear, dug in Saturday and vowed to keep their demonstrations going, as faculty at several schools condemned university presidents who have called in law enforcement to remove protesters.

As Columbia University continues negotiations with those at a pro-Palestinian student encampment on the New York school's campus, the univ. president's senate passed a resolution on Friday that created a task force to ex-

amine the administration's leadership, which last week called in police in an attempt to clear the protest, resulting in scuffles and more than 100 arrests.

Early Saturday, police began clearing a protest on the campus of Northeastern University in Boston. Several other education institutions witnessed protests.

In France, Paris students, inspired by Gaza solidarity encampments at campuses in the US, peacefully evacuated a campus building at a prestigious French university late on Friday after days of tensions. — Agencies

# Russian drones set hotel ablaze in Ukrainian Black Sea city

KYIV, APRIL 28: Russian drones early Sunday struck the Black Sea city of Mykolaiv, setting a hotel ablaze and damaging energy infrastructure, the local Ukrainian governor reported, while ammunition shortages continued to hobble Kyiv's troops in the more than 2-year-old war.

Vitaliy Kim, the governor of Ukraine's southern Mykolaiv province, said that Russian drones "seriously damaged" a hotel in its namesake capital, sparking a fire that was later extinguished.

Kim also reported that the strike damaged heat-generating infrastructure in the city, but gave no details. He added that there were no casualties.

Russian state agency RIA carried claims that the strike on Mykolaiv targeted a shipyard where naval drones are assembled, as well as a hotel housing "English-speaking mercenaries" who have fought for Kyiv.

The RIA report cited Sergei Lebedev, described as a coordinator of local pro-Moscow guerrillas.



His claim could not be independently verified.

Also on Sunday morning, the Russian Defence Ministry said that 17 Ukrainian drones were downed overnight over four regions in the country's southwest. Three drones were intercepted near an oil depot in Lyudynovo, an industrial town some 230 km (143 miles) north of the Ukrainian border, Gov Vladislav Shapsha said. There were no immediate reports of any casualties or damage.

Russian shelling on Saturday and overnight wounded at least seven civilians across Ukraine, according to Ukrainian offi-

cial.

The Donetsk and Kharkiv regions have seen fierce clashes in recent weeks as Russian forces seek to grind out gains along the more than 1,000-km (620-mile) front line, while ammunition shortages have increasingly hamstrung Ukraine's defences. Russian troops "will likely make significant gains in the coming weeks" while Kyiv awaits much-needed arms from a huge US aid package to reach the front, a Washington-based think tank said.

In its latest operational assessment, the Institute for the Study of War said that Moscow's forces have

opportunities to push forward around Avdiivka, the eastern city they took in late February after a gruelling, month-long fight, and threaten nearby Chasiv Yar.

Its capture would give Russia control of a hilltop from which it can attack other key cities forming the backbone of Ukraine's eastern defences.

Despite this, the institute assessed that neither of these efforts by Moscow are likely to cause Kyiv's defensive lines to collapse.

US President Joe Biden said Wednesday that he was immediately rushing badly needed weaponry to Ukraine as he signed into law a \$95 billion war aid measure that also included assistance for Israel, Taiwan and other global hot spots.

The announcement marked an end to the long, painful battle with Republicans in Congress over urgently needed assistance for Ukraine, with Biden promising on Wednesday that US weapons shipment would begin making the way into Ukraine within hours.

