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P7 STATE

CMOs DIRECTED TO ENSURE URGENT **SURGERIES ARE DONE AFTER RAT**

District Health Services Kashmir (DHSK) on Wednesday asked Chief Medical Officers, Medical superintendents, Block Medical Officers and other Incharge Administrators of the

"A CRIME OF POWER", HAWAL ACID ATTACK CASE IS A WARNING

Gendered and generalized violence against women is not new. The interwoven nature of gender based violence and permissive societal mechanism, exacerbate, historically, pre-existing patterns of discrimination



PO8 SPORTS

SAUDI ARABIA ROLE IN TRANSFER MARKET REVIVAL IN PANDEMIC

For a government in turmoil, there's little to celebrate in the corridors of power in London. Except, perhaps, the financial heft of England's soccer clubs and their



C Quote

The measure of a man is what he does with power

- Plato

NEWS DIGEST

Searches Carried Out In Uptown City

SRINAGAR: The government forces on Wednesday carried out a random search operation in Gawkadal area of the uptown city. Police and CRPF personnel from 132 Battalion arrived in Gawkadal area on Wednesday and started a search operation, More on P6

Two Detained Under PSA In Samba

SAMBA: Two notorious criminals were detained on Wednesday under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) for their alleged criminal activities in the Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. Yogeshwar Singh alias "Jaibu" and Shiv Raj Singh More on P6

Minibus Skids On Snow, 10 Injured

SRINAGAR: Ten persons were injured, two of them critically, when a minibus they were travelling in met with an accident in Mandi area in Poonch district on Wednesday. A police official said that the mini bus (JK12-1419) skidded off the road due to snowfall in the Swajian area More on P6

Ladakh Sees 165 **New Corona Cases**

LEH: The COVID-19 death toll in Ladakh has climbed to 225 following a fatality in Leh, while 165 fresh cases pushed the overall tally to 26,021 of recuperated, officials said. The number of active cases in Ladakh stand at 1,104 which includes 724 cases in Leh district and 381 More on P6



Contact Circulation Incharge: Irshad Ahmad: 7006276927

Stalker, 2 Aides Held Over Acid **Attack On Woman**



Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: Three men were arrested in connection with the acid attack on a woman in the Hawal area here, police said on Wednesday.

A 24-year-old woman suffered burn injuries after acid was thrown at her on Tuesday evening.

Police officials said field investigations and technical analysis led the policemen to prime accused Sajid Altaf Rather, a resident of Dalgate

During questioning, the accused revealed that he had been stalking the woman after she rejected his engagement

here, who was arrested.

proposal, they said. Rather had kept a note of the timings of the victim's move-

ment from home to her workplace and back, the officials said. The accused worked in a

medical shop and on Tuesday evening took a break from work and went on a scooter towards the place More on P6

Uncertainty Over Victim's Eyesight

he acid attack victim from Srinagar is unlikely to regain her eyesight, doctors treating her at the Srinagar's Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) hospital Srinagar Wednesday said, adding that "no conclusion can be, however, drawn at this point of time." Medical Superintendent of SMHS, Dr. Kanwaljeet Singh said that the victim's eyes have suffered damage in cornea and it cannot be stated whether she can regain her eyesight. The 24-year-old girl was attacked with acid at Wantpora area of Hawal in Srinagar on Tuesday evening, sending shock waves across Jammu and Kashmir. The attack was widely condemned by every section of More on P6

3-Day Wet Spell Begins In J&K

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: The weather department has predicted widespread rain or snow over the next three days in Kashmir, even as the higher reaches of Valley, including the famous ski resort of Gulmarg received fresh spell of snowfall on Wednesday while plains were lashed by rains dipping the day temperature sharply.

According to reports, fresh snowfall was witnessed in Gulmarg, Tangmarg and other higher reaches of the Valley on Wednesday while the plains were also lashed by rains.

Meanwhile, the minimum temperature across Kashmir dropped below the freezing point as the Meteorological Department predicted widespread rain or snow over the next three days, officials said on Wednesday.

Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 1.9 degrees Celsius nearly four degrees down from 1.8 degrees Celsius the previous night, they said.

The famous ski-resort of Gulmarg, in north Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 8.0 degrees Celsius up from minus 9.0 degrees Celsius the previous night.

Pahalgam tourist resort in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 6.1 degrees Celsius almost the same as the previous night, they said.

Officials said Qazigund recorded a minimum of minus 2.8 degrees Celsius down from the previous night's minus 0.3 degrees Celsius. More on P6

Govt Transfers 2318 Kanal Land For Housing Colonies



Observer News Service

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday approved transfer of over 2000 kanal land in the twin districts of Srinagar and Budgam for construction of housing colonies.

The decision to transfer land measuring 2318 kanal 8 Marla at 17 locations in seven villages in Srinagar and Budgam districts, free of cost in favour of Housing Urban Development Department, was taken in

the Administrative Council (AC) meeting which was held under the chairmanship of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, an official spokesperson said Wednesday.

The land, he said, has been transferred for construction of housing colonies to meet the increased appetite for housing in Srinagar city and give a push to the housing sector.

"The construction of the Housing Colony Project will play a very important role in the economic, industrial, social, More on P6

50% Waiver Of Passenger Tax Approved

n a significant move, the Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday approved the waiver/exemption of fifty percent of passenger tax chargeable on various vehicles from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021. The decision in this regard was taken during the Administrative Council (AC), meeting More on P6

Created In DISCOMs, 9 **In JKTPO**

64 New Posts Jammu: The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the strengthening of Corporations under More on P6

More Sainik Schools Likely To Come Up In J&K

ammu and Kashmir is likely to have more Sainik Schools reports, the Ministry of Defence has sought cooperation from the Jammu and Kashmir government in supporting and arranging maximum publicity and sensitizing More on P6

Gol Made Strategic Mistake, Brought China-Pak Together: Rahul



Trans Asia News

NEW DELHI: Congress leader and MP Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday launched a blistering attack on the BJP led government, accusing it of bringing China and Pakistan" together and making a "huge strategic mistake" in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking during the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's address, Gandhi also accused the government of "destroying the voice of the union of states"

through instruments like the 'Election Commission, judiciary, and Pegasus spyware".

The Congress leader said the single biggest strategic goal of India's foreign policy has been to keep Pakistan and China separate, but the Modi government has undone it.

"China has a clear vision and I can clearly see without any confusion in my mind that China has a plan. The plan has been put in place in Doklam and Ladakh. Do not underestimate what we are facing. This is a very, very More on P6

Militant Involved In **Shooting ASI Killed: Police**

SRINAGAR: Hizb-ul-Mujahideen militant involved in Tuesday's attack on a policeman in south Kashmir's Shopian district, was killed in an encounter with government forces, police said Wednesday.

Police, army and the personnel of CRPF 178 battalion launched a joint cordon and search operation in Nadigam hamlet of the district on Wednesday morning after receiving specific input about the presence of militants in the village, a police During the search opera-

tion, he said, as the joint search party proceeded towards the suspected spot, the hiding militant fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party.
The fire was retaliated effec-

tively leading to an encounter. In the ensuing encounter, the police spokesperson said a militant was killed and his body was retrieved from the site of the encounter. He identified the killed militant as Umar Ishfaq Malik alias Musa of Bongam Shopian. More on P6

IGP Calls For Intensified Anti-Militancy **Ops**

he Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Vijay Kumar on Wednesday asked government forces to intensify anti-militancy operations in Handwara police district and take necessary

'439 Militants, **109 Forces Men Killed Since** Aug 2019'

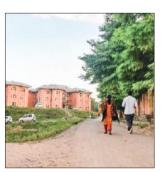
As many as 439 militants and 109 forces personnel were killed in 541 militancy related incidents in Jammu and Kashmir since Article 370 was repealed on August 5, 2019, Union Minister Nitvanand Rai said on Wednesday. Replying More on P6

1700 KPs Given Jobs Since **Art-370 Revocation: Govt**

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Nearly 1,700 Kashmiri Pandits were appointed in various government departments by the Jammu and Kashmir administration since August 5, 2019 when Article 370 was abrogated and the erstwhile state was bifurcated into union territories, the Rajya Sabha was informed on Wednesday. Union Minister of State for

Home Nityanand Rai said as per the data provided by the government of Jammu and Kashmir, 44,684 Kashmiri migrant families were registered with the Office of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner



(Migrants), Jammu, comprising 1,54,712 individuals.

In order to rehabilitate Kashmiri migrant families, the government of Jammu and Kashmir has appointed 1,697 such persons since August 5, 2019 and **More on P6**

J&K Logs 2304 New Cases, 9 Corona Deaths

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir witnessed a slight dip in daily Coronavirus cases on Wednesday, as 2304 more people tested positive for the virus while nine others succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory

during the last 24 hours. According to the officials, Kashmir Valley registered 1308 fresh cases of novel Coronavirus while the remaining 996 were detected in the various districts of Jammu division on Wednesday, taking the total number of people infected by the virus so far in J&K to 440480.

In the Valley, officials said,

Srinagar reported the highest 439 new cases of virus, Baramulla 190, Budgam 167, Kupwara 131, Kulgam 112, Anantnag 84, Bandipora 57, Ganderbal 53, Pulwama 41 and Shopian 34.

In the winter capital, officials said, Jammu registered a maximum of 443 new cases of Coronavirus, Udhampur 128. Doda 104, Ramban 84, Samba 56, Kishtwar 54, Reasi 39, Rajouri 37, Kathua 36 and Poonch 15.

"Moreover, 5024 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 1433 from Jammu Division and 3591 from Kashmir Division," the officials said.

Also, the officials More on P6





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Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)

No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Kashmir Observer Thursday | 03-02-2022

The Jammu and Kashmir New Campus Bemina Srinagar Notice for Com **State Board Of School Education**

Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost his/her qualification certificate/s pertaining to HSE -II (12th) respectively, as per below mentioned

Roll No: 209252 Class: 12th Year & Session; 2007 Annual Registration No: 04NKM-204086 Name: Farooq Ahamd Chopan Father's Name: Ab Salam Chopan Mother's Name: Aasha Date of Birth: - 20-02-1991

Residenc:- Gagiend Kallan Budgam



According the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification Certificate, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice. (Besides the above referred "Qualification Certificate bearing S. No: 714149 " be treated as "CANCELLED") No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)B/KD/2022

Dated 02-02-2022 **Assistant Secretary** Certificates, KD.

Public Notice

The Parentage of my Son namely Mohammad Essa has been wrongly recorded in school records which needs to be corrected. The actual details are as under: Name: Mohammad Essa

Parentage: Sheikh Abdul Hamid R/o: Nalabal Nowshara Srinagar

In this regard if anybody having any objection may file the same in R.P School Alamdar Colony Lal Bazar Sgr within Seven days . After that no objection shall be entertained

Sheikh Abdul Hamid F/o Mohammad Essa

R/O Nalabal Nowshara Srinagar

Office of The Regional **Transport Officer Kashmir**

Notice



Whereas, a joint application has been received from Shri Showkat Ahamd Mir S/O Gh Mohd R/o KK Mohalla Sgr (Transferor) and Noor Mohammad S/O Ghulam Mohammad Beigh R/O Bulbul Lankar SR Gunj Sgr (Transferee) for

transfer of Auto Passenger carriage route Permit No 7823/Star Covering Vehicle No JK01H- 4529

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 STW Co Namely Bagh Hussain

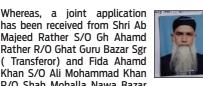
NO: JK/RTOK /598 Dated: 02/02/2022 Pko

Regional Transport Office,

Office of The Regional **Transport Officer Kashmir**



has been received from Shri Ab Majeed Rather S/O Gh Ahamd Rather R/O Ghat Guru Bazar Sgr (Transferor) and Fida Ahamd Khan S/O Ali Mohammad Khan R/O Shah Mohalla Nawa Bazar



(Transferee) for transfer of Maxi Cab carriage route Permit No 4139MC Covering Vehicle No JK01J- 4034

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 STW Co Namely Bagh Hussain

NO: JK/RTOK /569 Dated: 02/02/2022

Sd/-Regional Transport Office, Kashmir

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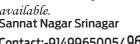
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The Jammu And Kashmir State **Board Of School Education**

SUB-OFFICE BUDGAM

The candidates whose photograph is published in this notice is claiming to have lost the original marks certificate of 11th, 12th under Below mentioned particulars

Name: Faroog Ahamd Chopan Father's Name: Ab Salam Chopan Mother's Name: Aasha **Gagiend Kallan Budgam**

Details of Marks Certificate lost Higher Secondary School Examination (class 11th) Session / Year Bi-Annual 2006

Higher Secondary School Examination (class 12th) Session / Year Annual 2007 Roll No 229252 Now the candidate has applied for Duplicate Marks Card. Anybody (if) having any objection may file the some before undersigned with (07) Seven days from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card is teated as cancelled. Sd/ Assistant Secretary Sub Office Budgam

The Jammu and Kashmir **State Board Of School Education**

New Campus Bemina Srinagar Notice for General Public

The applicant/candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost his/her DOB certificate/s pertaining to Class 10th respectively, as per below mentioned details:-Roll No: 227445

Year & Session; 2006 Bi- Annual Registration No: 04NKM-204086 Name: Farooq Ahamd Chopan Father's Name: Ab Salam Chopan Mother's Name: Aasha Date of Birth:- 20-02-1991



Residenc:- Gagiend Kallan Budgam According the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate DOB Certificate, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.

(Besides the above referred "DOB Certificate bearing S. No: 3304311" be treated as "CANCELLED") No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)B/KD/2022 Dated 02-02-2022 Assistant Secretary

Certificates, KD.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Name has been wrongly written in my Driving License bearing DL No: JK122000000211 as Abdul Saleem Ganie While my correct Name is Abdul Salam Ganie which needs immediate correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/he objection in ARTO Office Kulgam within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Abdul Salam Ganie S/O Abdul Rehman Ganie R/o Guree Bijbehar

RNA

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR **BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION** NEW CAMPUS, BEMINA, SRINAGAR.

ATTENTION PLEASE.

The candidate whose photograph is above reports that he /she has lost his/ her qualification certificate/s having the following description:-

ROLL NO	1160230
CLASS	10TH
YEAR & SESSION	ANNUAL REG=
	2018-2019
REGISTRATION NO	N18401720030
NAME	TAMJEEDA
	YOUSUF
FATHERS NAME	MOHAMMAD
	YOUSUF BHAT
MOTHERS NAME	NISHATA AKHTER
DATE OF BIRTH	02-02-2005
RESIDENCE	GUND-FATHPORA



Now the candidate has, applied for issuance of DUPLICATE OUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE/S. Before the case will be processed under rules, if somehody have any kind of objection in this regard he/she shall approach the office of the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publishing of this notice after expiring date no objection shall be entertained.

(Besides, the losted "QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE", bearing Serial No /s 19ARKAM 5004929 is /are be treated as "CAN-CELLED").

No: - F (Certs-I-DQC)B/KD/28 Dated: - 02-02-2022

RNA

Assistant Secretary

TESLA RECALL

'Full Self-Driving' **Software Runs Stop Signs**

Agencies

¬esla is recalling nearly 54,000 cars and SUVs because their "Full Self-Driving" software lets them roll through stop signs without coming to a complete halt. Documents posted Tuesday by US safety regulators say that Tesla will disable the feature with an over-theinternet software update. The "rolling stop" feature allows vehicles to go through intersections with all-way stop signs at up to 5.6 miles per hour. The documents say Tesla agreed to the recall after two meetings with officials from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Tesla knows of no crashes or injuries caused by feature.

The recall covers Model S sedans and X SUVs from 2016 through 2022, as well as 2017 to 2022 Model 3 sedans and 2020 through 2022 Model Y SUVs. Selected Tesla drivers are "beta testing" the "Full Self-Driving" software. The company says the cars cannot drive themselves and drivers must be ready to take action at all times. A firmware release to disable the rolling stops is expected to be sent out in

early February. Safety advocates com-

plain that Tesla should $\frac{1}{10}$ not be allowed to test the vehicles on public roads with untrained drivers, and that the Tesla software can malfunction, exposing other motorists and pedestrians to danger. Most of the other auto companies with similar software test with trained human safety drivers.

Tesla introduced the "rolling stop" feature in a software update that was sent out to the testing owners on October 20. NHTSA met with Tesla on January 10 and 19 to discuss how the software operates, the documents said. On January 20, the company agreed to disable the rolling stops with the software update. Owners will get required notification letters on March 28.

The "rolling stop" feature let the Teslas go through all-way stop signs as long as the owner enabled the function. The vehicles have to be traveling below 5.6 mph while approaching the intersection, and no "relevant" moving cars, pedestrians or bicyclists can be detected nearby. All roads leading to the intersection had to have speed limits of 30 mph or less, the documents said. The Teslas would then be allowed to go through the intersection at 0.1 mph to 5.6 mph without coming to a complete stop. (AP)

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR **BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The candidate whose photograph is published in the daily newspaper is claiming to have lost his original marks card of class 11th issued by board of school education with the following particulars. NAME:- TAMJEEDA YOUSUF

SESSION A/R2019 YEAR 2020

Assistant Secretary Sub-Office Anantnag

SUB-OFFICE ANANTNAG

PARANTAGE: - MOHAMMAD YOUSUF BHAT MOTHERS NAME :- NISHATA AKHTER **REGISTRATION NO:-N18401720030** R/O:- GUND-FATEHPORA (192210) ROLL NO: - 21114246

Now the candidate has applied for its duplicate anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before the office of the undersigned within seven days (07) from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card of the candidates is treated as cancelle Sd/=

Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir

Dr Kawaldeep Kour W/o Gurbinder Pal Singh R/o Fatehpora Khawajbagh Baramulla

DIPK-17380/21

Subject: - Notice.

Whereas, you were undergoing Registrarship in Gynecology at GMC Baramulla and after being relieved from GMC Baramulla you joined in this office on 13-03-2021.

Whereas, after joining you submitted another application in this office wherein you applied for one year study leave for undergoing course in Laproscopic Surgery at world Laproscopic Hospital Gurgaon.

Whereas, your request with full details was submitted to Administrative Department vide this office letter No: - Est/3/1-133/3847 dated: - 31-03-2021, besides Administrative department was also informed with the fact you had left W.e.f 01-04-2021 vide this office letter No:- Est/3/1-133/4197 dated:- 03-05-2021.

Whereas, Administrative Department vide letter No: -HME-HD/ G/8/2021-02-e-office dated: - 02-12-2021 has directed this office to initiate disciplinary proceedings against you for pursuing the training course outside U.T without obtaining prior permission of the competent authority.

Now, therefore you are directed to showcase as to why you left for course without bothering to have prior permission from competent authority, you reply should reach this office within seven days from the date of issuance of this notice, besides you are directed to report back in this directorate within same time period, failing which it shall be presumed that you are not interested to serve the department anymore and action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against you for resorting to unauthorized absence.

> Sd/ **Director Health Services** Kashmir

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR **BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION**

SUB-OFFICE ANANTNAG

PUBLIC NOTICE

The candidate whose photograph is published in the daily newspaper is claiming to have lost his original marks card of class 10th issued by board of school education with the following particulars. NAME:- TAMJEEDA YOUSUF

PARANTAGE: - MOHAMMAD YOUSUF BHAT MOTHERS NAME: - NISHATA AKHTER REGISTRATION NO:-N18401720030 R/O:- GUND-FATEHPORA (192210)

Sd/=

ROLL NO:- 1160230 SESSION A/R2018 YEAR 2019

Now the candidate has applied for its duplicate anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before the office of the undersigned within seven days (07) from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card of the candidates is treated as cancelled.

Assistant Secretary Sub-Office Anantnas

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR **BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION**

SUB-OFFICE ANANTNAG

PUBLIC NOTICE

The candidate whose photograph is published in the daily news paper is claiming to have lost his original marks card of class 10th issued by board of school education with the following particulars. NAME:- FIZA YOUSUF

PARANTAGE: - MOHAMMAD YOUSUF BHAT MOTHERS NAME: - NISHATA AKHTER REGISTRATION NO:-1901010001130016 R/O:- GUND-FATEHPORA (192210)

ROLL NO:-1103242

SESSION A/R2019 YEAR 2020 Now the candidate has applied for its duplicate anybody (if) having any objection may file the same before the office of the undersigned within seven days (07) from the date of publication of this notice. Besides, the original marks card of the candidates is treated as cancelled.

RNA

Assistant Secretary Sub-Office Anantnag

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER, J&K, JAMMU/SRINAGAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

Jammu and Kashmir Motor Vehicles Department (JKMVD) intends to apply uniform color coding and distinguished graphic design, glimpse of Art, Culture & Heritage of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on the existing operational fleets of Mini Buses plying on the city routes of Jammu/Srinagar. Accordingly General Public is requested to communicate their design with regard to color coding of Mini buses in the Srinagar / Jammu City on mail ID tptcommissionerjk@gmail.com and jktccampsgr@gmail.com. Besides the hard copy of the same be submitted by hand to Additional Transport Commissioner, J&K Old Secretariat Srinagar and Joint Transport Commissioner, J&K Rail Head Complex, Jammu within a period of Seven (07) days from the date of the publication of this notice. The concerned person whose design/graphics are selected shall be given appreciation letter by the Competent Authority.

DIPK-17449/21 No. TC/JK/MV/40-45

Sd/-Pardeep Kumar, KAS Transport Commissioner, J&K Dated: 03 .01.2022

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'World Wetland Day'

Don't Treat Wetlands As Wastelands: Div Com Appeals People

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR:-- Wetlands not wasteland, wetlands are natural wealth lands, wrote Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on a pledge wall to save and protect Hokersar wetland and send a loud and clear message about preservation and protection of all wetlands.

Kashmir has a chain of wetlands supporting vast biodiversity most of which circumvent Srinagar and Budgam with huge potential of tourism and employment generation, said Div Com while visiting Hokersar wetland on the occasion of World Wetlands Day celebrated by the Department of Wildlife Protection, J&K.

Besides Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, the Pledge wall was signed by Regional Wildlife Warden Kashmir; Officers of Deptt of Wildlife Protection, president, NPWWF, NGO; Wetland Mitras and civil society members.

Div Com underlined the responsibility of people for the protection of wetlands and said that encroachments shall be dealt with strict action.

He said wetlands are biological hot spots and play pivotal roles in the conservation of nature. "Our wetlands attract aves from Siberia and other cold places which presents beautiful views for bird lovers", Pole said.

Div Com visits

roads, drainage

Observer News Service

system

terior roads.

Noorbagh; inspects

SRINAGAR:-- The Divisional

Commissioner (Div Com)

Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole

on Wednesday visited SDA

Colony Noorbagh, Srinagar to

take cognizance of the difficul-

ties faced by the rehabilitated

families due to defunct drain-

age system and injindated in-

VC Srinagar Development Au-

thority; Joint Commissioner

SMC; UEED officers and other

officers from allied depart-

was apprised by the residents

about the difficulties faced by

them due to the defunct drain-

age system which has led to

become difficult for people to

commute through these in-

undated roads which adds to

issued on spot directions for

redressal of grievances faced

department to expedite con-

struction of the sewage treat-

ment plant and make it func-

tional by March, 2022.

The locals said that it has

On the Occasion, Div Com

He directed the concerned

inundation of roads.

their hardships.

by residents.

He was accompanied by

On the occasion, Div Com



Wildlife department celebrates 'World Wetland Day' at Hokersar

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: On the occasion of 'World Wetland Day' celebrated every year on 2nd of February, an inaugural function was organized on Wednesday by the Department of Wildlife Protection J&K Government, Wetlands Division Kashmir at Hokersar Wetland Conservation Reserve which is a famous Ramsar Site of Jammu & Kashmir.

On the occasion, the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir was the Chief Guest.

The main aim of the function was to focus on the international theme 'Wetland Action for people and Nature' to highlight the importance of actions, to ensure conservation and sustainable use of valley wetlands.

A Signature campaign on the Wall of pledge to save and protect Hokersar Wetland Conservation Reserve was inaugurated by the Chief Guest by signing on the wall. The wall of pledge was also signed by Rashid Yahya Nagash, Conservator of Forests, Wildlife/ Regional Wildlife Warden, Kashmir Region Srinagar; Ifshan Deewan (Wildlife Warden, Wetlands Division Kashmir); Assistant District Development Commissioner-Budgam; Nazir Benazir, Chairman, National Society for protection of water resources, forest & Wetlands; Dr Sheikh Ghulam Rasool, Founder & Chairman of School for Rural Development & Environment(SRDE), Wildlife Mitra's, Youth clubs, Civil Societies, local community members, school going children and other dignitaries.

Further Essay Writing/

Kashaf Rashid

D/o Rashid Ahmad Kawos

The Government has prepared a detailed plan to promote wetlands including Wular, Hokersar, Hygam, Shalbugh and other places, he said. Meanwhile, he appealed to people residing on the banks of wetlands not to treat wetlands as wastelands but get involved in protection of these natural resources. Instead, he asked them to create watch towers which would attract tourists and generate income

Pole informed that Hokersar wetland used to have low water level but efforts have been made to increase the water level and further added that Irrigation and Flood Control Department will raise the water level which would be instrumental to attract more birds as well as tourists.

Div Com said that the Wildlife Department is creating awareness and training the people residing around wetlands to create legally permissible tourism infrastructure of watch towers on their own land to earn livelihood.

While speaking with the media regarding the action taken by the government for conservation and restoration of wetlands, he said that last year Khushalsar and Gilsar were taken for restoration and today more than seventy percent area has been restored.

He said restoration of other wetlands and water channels will be taken soon and results will be visible on ground.

ازدفتر نائب تخصيلدار كلنتره

NOTICE

I have applied for renewal of my Passport under number

M5290959 issued on 10-03-2015. My name has been mentioned

as Kashaf Rashid Kawos while as per my Date of Birth Certificate

my name is Kashaf Rashid. Now i want to correct the same. Any-

one having any objection may submit to the Passport Office Sri-

objection will be entertained after the said time.

R/o 49, Exchange Road, Lal Chowk Srinagar 190001

nagar within seven days from the publication of this notice. No

درخواست منجانب فاروق احمد بث ولد محمه سلطان بث ساكنه بارزوش مخصيل كريري

اشتہار بمرادآ گاہی ہرخاص وعام

معامله مندرجة عنوان الصدر ميس درخوست سائل دفتر بذاميس زيركاروائي بياس نسبت

پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عہاں

ہوتا ہے کہ سائل سائلہ بارزوش میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ مسلمنہ کی سالانہ آمدنی

فاروق احمد بث و سربره 48 زمینداری 6000 آمدنی نسیمهٔ بیگم زوجه 25 گھریلوکام زینت فاروق وختر 21 زیلتایم اوفر فاروق وختر 18 زیلتایم

رین اسکےعلاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کمیہ نہیں بتلایا گیاہے ۔ سرٹفیکیٹ زیر بحث اجرء کرنے

اندر پیش کریں۔میعادگز رنے کے بعد کوئی عذریااعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگاہ

میں اگرکسی شخص یااشخاص کوکوئی عذریااعتراض ہوتو وہ اپناعذریااعتراض ساتھ یوم کے

بمراد حصول RBA سر تفديك تجق وخرزينت فاروق تحت سي ار

72000 ہے کمنیہ بذیل افراد پر شمل ہے

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: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS



HIGHWAY STATUS



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



1443

PRAYERS FAJR 6:03 **ZUHR** 12:44 **ASR** 4:22 6:04 Magrib **ISHA** 7:26

This Day In History

- 1488 Bartolomeu Dias discovers Mosselbaai (Angra dos Vaque-
- 1509 The Battle of Diu, naval battle at port of Diu, India between Portugal and the Ottoman
- Empire, establishes Portugese trading control
- 1783 Spain recognizes US independence
- 1807 A British military force, under Brigadier-General Sir Samuel Auchmuty captures the city of Montevideo in the Battle of Montevideo, then part of the Spanish Empire now capital of Uruguay (Napoleonic Wars)
- 1815 World&39's first commercial cheese factory established, in Switzerland.
- 1830 The sovereignty of Greece confirmed in a London Protocol 1834 - Wake Forest University is established in North Carolina
- 1860 Thomas Clemson takes office as 1st US superintendent of
- 1865 Hampton Roads Peace Conference, Lincoln & Emp; Stephens reach an impasse 1867 - Prince Mutsuhito, 14, becomes Emperor Meiji of Japan
- 1870 US state of Iowa ratifies the 15th Amendment of the United States Constitution allowing suffrage for all races & Dour
- 1876 Albert Spalding with \$800 starts sporting goods co, manu-
- facturing 1st official baseball, 1915 - Turkish & Derman army reach Suez Canal
- 1924 Switzerland claims the inaugural Olympic bobsleigh gold
- medal at the Chamonix Games, ahead of Great Britain and Bel-1928 - Paleoanthropologist Davidson Black reports his findings
- on the ancient human fossils found at Zhoukoudian, China in the journal Nature and declares them to be a new species he names "Sinanthropus pekinensis"; (now known "Homo erectus")
- 1944 World War II: United States troops capture the Marshall
- 1945 Almost 1,000 Flying Fortresses drop 3,000 tons of bombs 1962 - US President John F. Kennedy bans all trade with Cuba ex-
- cept for food & drugs 1965 - Orbiting Solar Observatory 2 launches into Earth orbit
- (552/636 km) 1971 - OPEC mandates "total embargo" against any company that
- rejects 55 percent tax rate 1978 - Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat and US President Jim-
- my Carter discuss the Middle
- East peace process in Washington, D.C.
- 1994 President Bill Clinton lifts US trade embargo against Viet-
- 1994 STS-60 (Discovery) launches into orbit 1995 - STS 63 (Discovery 19), launches into orbit
- 1999 In Jammu and Kashmir the political party Democratic Janata Dal (Jammu and Kashmir) is revived.
- 2007 A Baghdad market bombing kills at least 135 people and injures a further 339.
- 2013 33 people are killed by a suicide bombing by an explosivepacked truck in Kirkuk, Iraq
- 2016 US President Barack Obama visits his first US mosque the

Islamic Society of Baltimore mosque in Maryland

From KO Archives

Hurriyat team headed for Kumbh

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR - Two senior leaders of the All Party Hurriyat Conference will leave for the Kumbh in Uttar Pradesh on Friday for talks with Swami Adhyokshanada Dev Tirathjee, a rival claimant to the seat of Shankarncharya of Pun and various other prominent Hindu religious leaders.

The decision to send two executive members of the Hurriyat to Kumhh was taken after the top leadership of the conglomerate held detailed talks with Pandit N K Sharma, political advisor to former prune minister P V Narasimha Rao. Sharma will accompany the Hurriyat delegation, which is likely to include Mirwaiz Omer Farooq, relugious head and Syed Ali Shah Gilani

In case Geelani is unable to go due to poor health, Abdul Ghani Lone will accompany the Mirwaiz, Sharma said. During their stay, the Hurriyat leaders will brief the religious leaders on the security and political situation in the state.

The Hurriyat leaders recently held talks with former law minister Ram Jethmalani, who is taking an active role in Kashmir affairs these days. The visit is primarily a goodwill one to explain to them that the Hurriyat wants a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir problem. Jethmalani also had several meetings with the Hurriyat leaders, which was also arranged by Pandit Sharma. Jethmalani met Home Minister Lai Krishna Advani and Swami Adhyokshananda before talking to the Hurriyat leaders. (KASHMIR OBSERVER, 03 February, 2001)

Intensify Anti-Encroachment Drive In City: CS Revenue

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR:- Commissioner Secretary Revenue, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, on Wednesday had a detailed review of revenue matters pertaining to Srinagar district during a meeting held with senior revenue officials of the

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad briefed the meeting about functioning and achievements of Revenue Department in the district.

Commissioner Secretary appreciated the Srinagar administration for taking various public centric measures besides retrieving hundreds of Kanals of state land by launching massive anti-encroachment drives. He laid stress on effective implementation of IEC activities under various schemes in the district and efficient record keeping management of all revenue records.

Commissioner Secretary also directed the district revenue officers to follow the instruction with added zeal and dedication and complete the target within 15 days. He directed the department to expedite the updation process of Jamabandies and scanning of revenue records as per the targets. He directed the officers to update all revenue records especially Jamabandies in a mission

mode to ensure that the digitization is completed in a time bound manner. He said performance of Revenue Officers will be strictly monitored on the parameters of updation of revenue records and purification of records preceding digitisation.

While reviewing progress on reval of encroachments on state/ kahchari land, Commissioner Secretary directed all the Tehsildars to intensify the anti-encroachment drive so that all identified encroached state/kahcharie land is retrieved. He also directed for immediate completion of encroachment removal operation launched in Chatterhama and other areas to retrieve all encroached land from the land grabbers.

On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar gave a brief overview of the district saying that the administration has started several Information Technology enabled services which are helping in delivering public centric services in an effective and transparent

manner. DC said under the Digital India Land Record Modernization Programme (DILRMP), the Revenue department has scanned voluminous revenue records and placed them in the public domain under 'Apni Zameen Apni Nigrani' for people's

MMU Expresses Concern Over The Deteriorating Social Situation

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) Jammu Kashmir, headed by the incarcerated Mirwaiz-e-Kashmir Dr Moulvi Muhammad Umar Farooq who continues to be under arbitrary house arrest for the last two-and-a-half years, has expressed grave concern over the deteriorating social situation in J&K, especially in the Valley.

The MMU in a statement said, "Our society as a whole is deteriorating at every level. Rising incidence of misbehaviour, rampant use of drug addiction, rising suicide rate, traumatic events of domestic violence, intolerance among children and youth, and promotion of waywardness are a matter of grave concern for every sensible and conscious citizen."

Terming the acid attack on a girl at Osmania Colony, Wantpora, Hawal in Srinagar as extremely shameful and unfortunate: the MMU condemned the incident in strong words and demanded that those involved should be immediately brought to book and the culprit(s) should be severely pun-

The occurrence of such incidents in the Muslim-majority region, which is known as the Valley of Saints, calls for introspection

for all of us, the MMU said. The Muttahida Majlis-e-Ulema urged the leaders of religious, and educational institutions, scholars, preachers and imams, as well as members of civil society, conscious citizens to call on parents to keep an eye on children and strive for their better upbringing in order to ensure a peaceful social life and a dignified society, besides inculcating Islamic and moral values among the children so that such tragic incidents can be prevented.

The MMU underscored the need for a positive and constructive role at individual levels in bringing out a comprehensive social reform and in this regard, it has urged people to come forward to save Kashmiri society from various social problems.

درخواست منجانب غلام نبي چويان ولدغلام رسول چويان ساكنه كلنتر و تحصيل كريري بمراد حصول legal heir سرُنشيك بايت Pony Wala License بحق خود استهار بمرادا کابی هرحاس وعام معامله مندرجه عنوان الصدر میں درخوست سائل دفتر بذامیس زیرکاروائی ہےاس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ نقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عہاں ہوتاہے کہ سائل اساکلہ کا غلام رسول چوپان مورخہ2020-08-26 کوفوت

ہو چاہے سائل اپنے والد کی پونی والدلائس اپنے نام کرنا چاہتا ہے متوافی کنہمہ بذیل افراد پر شتمتل ہے محموري الرحول المجموري المرمتواني 34 فلام نبي چويان پسرمتواني 38 حسينة يگم وختر متواني 30 فسيم وختر متواني 30

یں میں اس کے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کمہنہیں ہتلایا گیاہے سرٹفیکیٹ زیر بحث اجرءکرنے میں اگر کشی خض یا اشخاص کوکوئی عذریا اعتراض ہوتو وہ اپناعذریا اعتراض ساتھ یوم کے ا ندر پیش کریں۔میعادگز رنے کے بعد کوئی عذریااعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگاہ۔

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OBSERVER 1

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KO VIEW

Ray Of Hope?

ndia has recently agreed to engage in talks with Pakistan on upgrading the 1974 joint protocol on religious pilgrimages to allow air travel as well as increase the number of shrines pilgrims from both countries. In response to a question the spokesperson for the ministry of external affairs Arindam Bagchi said that India also hoped to secure clearances to transport food aid to Afghanistan over the land route to Pakistan, which is otherwise closed.

Earlier, Pakistan government had sent a proposal from the Pakistan Hindu Council (PHC) to allow a group of 170 pilgrims to fly directly from Karachi and Lahore to places of worship in India. Bagchi said there was "an interest on both sides" to expand the agreed list of shrines and mode of travel adding that India "a positive approach" on this matter and was willing to engage the Pakistani side. The government, he said, also hoped that the restrictions due to ongoing COVID-19 wave could be utilised to hold discussions under the bilateral protocol to facilitate "early exchange of visits to all shrines of interest to pilgrims".

This is a positive development and it is important that the talks on the mutual visits of pilgrims are held rightaway. This could get back the two countries some engagement and which if the situation remains favourable could be built upon to start a formal dialogue. Under the existing circumstances that remains a distant hope though. The governments of both the countries are in no mood to give up their rigid approach on the issues dividing them.

In India, the ongoing crucial state elections, especially the one in Uttar Pradesh, hardly give a hope that the two countries will be in a position to engage anytime soon. However, more than a dialogue to resolve their long festering issues including Kashmir, a reduction in the current bitterness in their relationship is important. Over the past seven years the ties between the two countries have teetered between indifference and confrontation which at times has threatened to tip over into hostilities. The two surgical strikes carried out by New Delhi and Pakistani response to the second is one such example of what an antagonistic relationship could result into. One hopes the exchange of pilgrims would create conditions for the fresh engagement between the two nations. Only a sustainable dialogue geared to address the long-standing issues will lead to a durable peace and prosperity in the region.

OTHER OPINON

Blissful Ignorance

he finance minister and her ministry have betrayed, once again, their lack of understanding of the Indian economy or the conditions under which most Indians are living today. Despite attempts to 'talk up' the supposed recovery, the economy is weak and most people are hurting.

India has seen one of the biggest increases in the number of poor and hungry people in the world in recent years. The data on employment are horrific, especially for a country that was supposed to gain from a demographic dividend. Private investment is sluggish despite the massive and repeated incentives being thrown the way of some big corporates. Public spending during the pandemic has been miserly and very inadequate, making India an outlier even among other middle-income countries. This has deprived most Indians of their basic socioeconomic rights and essential public services during a period of health crisis and economic devastation.

A major underlying problem is the lack of domestic demand, which was already weak before the pandemic hit as mass consumption had been falling. This reflects the most fundamental conditions of employment and livelihood: micro, small and medium enterprises that employ the bulk of the Indian workforce are collapsing; agriculturalists continue to suffer; hardly any new jobs are being created for the tens of millions of young people who have gone through tertiary education in the hope of bettering their prospects. Meanwhile, both public health and education services have been battered, pointing to a worrying trajectory for the future.

If the finance ministry were seriously concerned about all of this, we would have had a very different budget — one that would focus on reviving the MSMEs, addressing the concerns of farmers, significantly expanding the rural employment guarantee programme and beginning a national urban public employment programme, dramatically increasing outlays in health and education to enable wider social recovery from the pandemic and make up for the years of severe neglect. We have got none of this. The areas that remain crucial for people's well-being and livelihood and, by extension, for the regeneration of mass demand remain massively underfunded with some critical sectors even receiving lower allocations than before.

The most egregious and appalling indication of this is the reduced allocation to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. This is by law meant to be a demand-driven scheme under which the Central government is duty-bound to provide whatever funds are required by the demand for work. Yet, the Centre has starved it of funds even as the pandemic persisted and people had no other means of generating income. Each year, the programme finds itself in a deficit as the allocated budget is insufficient to cover even the money already spent by states and is less than the amount that would have been required. In 2020-21, some increase in the allocation was inevitable because of the severity of the lockdown-induced crisis, but even this was inadequate for the requirement.

Telegraph India

"A Crime Of Power", Hawal Acid Attack Case Is A Warning

Gendered And Generalised Violence Against Women In Kashmir Needs Immediate Attention



"THERE IS BOUND TO BE AN AWAKENING in every society. Sometimes, as a jolt, sometimes as a result of efforts of well-meaning sections of the population. However, a society that is in denial about the existence of its obnoxious practices remains subservient, both to power structures and to self-Inflicted suppression"

Ayshia Zehgeer

S E BEHIND EVERY

grave crime, there is a supply of myriad factors that ensure its recurrence Mainstreaming and normalizing conversations that antagonize women and show them in bad light, therefore, insidiously informs a population's collective motivation to carry out such crimes and rationalise them.

endered and generalized violence against women is not new. The interwoven nature of gender based violence and permissive societal mechanism, exacerbate, historically, pre-existing patterns of discrimination against women. The abhorrent acid attack on a 24-year-old woman in Srinagar, effectively, brings to the fore the uncomfortable but omnipresent reality, marking the existence of patriarchal blueprints in our society. An attack aimed at dismembering and disfiguring a woman's face, which according to the popular construct, is an important constituent of her identity.

In 2013, sweeping and potent changes were made to the criminal laws of the country. These changes were necessitated by public outcry, following Nirbhaya gang-rape case in Delhi. The changes based on the Justice Varma Committee report made acid-attack and attempt to throw acid, specific offences, under Sections 326A and 326B, of the IPC, respectively. The punishment for voluntarily causing permanent or partial damage is imprisonment not less than 10 years, which may extend to life imprisonment and fine. A victim compensation scheme envisaged under sec 357A and 357B Crpc provides for compensation to the survivors of acid attacks. The law on paper therefore, might seem sufficient. However, long drawn trial procedures continue to mar the efficiency of law and the deterrent effect of the severity of the punishment is lost. The victim is put to trial and not the accused. The delay in trials has rendered the conviction rate as low as 2 percent. Therefore, time bound completion of investigation and trial, in cases like these, remains the only imperative means by which the certainty of punishment can be ensured.

Acid attacks and the motives behind them are varied; however, underpinnings remain the same — a sense of entitlement, superiority and power. A crime aimed at, socially isolating, invisibiliz-ing and physically maiming women can, therefore, not be dismissed as a social malady or acts of individual aberration. It requires a deeper enquiry into the existing structures of the society that grant tacit approval to such acts and are complicit in making women vulnerable. An evidence of this fact is that countries ranking lowest in gender-gap index have the highest number of reported cases against women, especially crimes like acid attacks.

Behind every grave crime, there is a supply of myriad factors that ensure its recurrence. Mainstreaming and normalizing conversations that antagonize women and show them in bad light, therefore, insidiously informs a population's collective motivation to carry out such crimes and rationalise them.

crimes and rationalise them. Managers of social and religious thought have especially taken upon themselves to devise rules and norms of permissible conduct for women within the patriarchal construct. All interpretations of social customs and misinterpretations of religious scriptures are, therefore, handmaids of one thought that aim at confining women as an adjunct or vestige of the misogy-nist structure. This, then, is the efficacy of a system that sidelines women from public-discussions, decision making and public forums.

This renders women susceptible to crimes.

The fear of reprisal and stigmatization for breaching the accepted norms pushes women into silence. Women, therefore already, the pall-bearers of a society's shame, are expected either to conform or to remain silent. Any outcry is seen as a possible affront to the institutions. All this and more, cumulatively, makes women vulnerable to crimes. Institutionally, a woman's formal complaint is first dismissed as trivial and then either disposed of with no redressal or delayed without relief. The brick and mortar of any robust institution facilitating protection of women, is the sensitivity of those that run it. However, our institutions continue to reel under the same regressive thought process that runs through our society.

There is bound to be an awakening in every society. Sometimes, as a jolt, sometimes as a result of efforts of well-meaning sections of the population. However, a societv that is in denial about the existence of its obnoxious practices remains subservient, both to power structures and to self-Inflicted suppression. Opening up of public spaces to women for voicing their concerns, a calibrated institutional and judicial approach to providing safe spaces for women to an end to the usage of pulpits of social and religious institutions for marginalizing a gender, are as emergent as our current feeling of rage.

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

> The author is a Lawyer in J&K High Court



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

MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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Respecting Women Online

OVID-19 has pushed people to the digital universe, now, more than ever. This, however, does not mean that this proliferation has been entirely positive. With more people on the internet, it has also become a vulnerable space. It is especially true for women.

or women. Women face a number of issues online. Stalking, trolling, harassment and blackmailing — to name a few.

Trolling, out of all these, is often brushed under the carpet and is trivialised. This trivialisation of trolling helps no one and is absolutely unacceptable. In a country like India, there is every chance that digital abuse can translate into physical

harm. Women are already in danger

here and add to that the access that internet gives to possible offenders. Therefore, we must find ways

Therefore, we must find ways to collaboratively call out abusive handles and ensure the safety of women on the internet. Additionally, vocal women need to be supported and protected because they're always at the receiving end of hate. Moreover, those who aren't

aware of how to use internet safely, should also be educated.

Students should be taught provisions under law for digital offences from the school level itself. It is imperative to have an all-hands-on-deck approach to ensure that we give a safe internet to women.

Ameera Shah

Being A Woman Geologist In Kashmir



Asyia Qadir

CHANGE your decision of doing masters in geology, go for any other subject or prepare for civil service examination," one of my geology teachers told me when I was selected in Applied Geology for the Masters programme at Kashmir University. Was it my gender or the increasing trend of Civil service exams or the lack of jobs in Applied Geology in Kashmir which made him say so? The question linguity.

I didn't change my decision because my love for geology was unfathomable. The first thing which I came to know in the university from a teacher was that Geology is the subject of economically MOST OF THE PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT GEOLOGY IS THE SUBJECT OF MEN.
"I think you cannot climb up a glacier with the men, work on something else," said a teacher to me when I wished to study climate change vis a vis glaciers

underprivileged students. Only the students from poverty stricken families opt for geology and the students from well off families engage in Computer Sciences or in other technical courses. May be the attire of the students had pushed him to conclude so.

Field work and outdoor activities are the requisite in geology. Data collection from the field is an important component of the geology. While on field work, geologists are exposed to a threat of wild animals and other dangers of remote locations. Despite setbacks the geologists toil in the field until the job

In the strife torn parts of the world, the data acquisition from the field is tough row to hoe for female geologists. For instance, in Kashmir, female geologists with gung-ho attitude find it difficult to reach the field as anything can happen from encounters to protests at any time. In such volatile atmosphere, reaching home late is another difficulty which the female geologists face. They are also subject to conservative outlooks of the society. "Yh che kour, emis

kya baalan khasun" (She is a girl, she should not climb up the mountains) is the remark which I heard from a group of women when I was doing field work. Such things are rife in Kashmir, if you are a female and you venture out to do something which usually girls do not do like the field work, lots of eyeballs stare at you and many casual remarks are made.

Most of the people believe that geology is the subject of men. "I think you cannot climb up a glacier with the men, work on something else," said a teacher

to me when I wished to study climate change vis a vis glaciers. The words whirled round and round my head for a couple of days. Because of my gender, I was barred to research on my favourite portion of Earth Sciences. According to UNESCO data, women represent less than 30% in research. Women in Science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) are published less, paid less for their research and do not advance as far as men in their careers.

Since time immemorial, women geologists have faced hardships travelling to their locations or working in the field. In the beginning of the 19th century, women from the upper class were prevented by their families to join the Earth Science field as it required outdoor activities. Women from lower classes used to engage in this field like, Marry Anning from Lyme Regis, United Kingdom. She discovered a number of fossils but was often not credited for her work. Because of her gender, she was barred from Geological Society of London. Etheldred Benett, a spinster from England was the first female geologist who has extensively worked on Paleontology. She was an avid fossil collector who devoted her life to Earth Sciences. Despite belonging to a wealthy family she engaged in the Geo Science research. Like many other women geologists she also faced discrimination both overt and covert.

Recently the two women scientists, Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jeniffer Doudna were awarded the Nobel Prize 2020 in Chemistry for developing the tools to edit DNA. This reflects that women are doing well in the research. Their research may inspire many young girls to follow the scientific path. The only female faculty member at Applied Geology department in Kashmir University, Dr. Sarah Qazi, has won the young scientist award in hydrogeology research in the year 2018. She has an experience of ten years in hydrogeology (sub surface water study) as a researcher and has authored a number of papers. She followed her dream of research, evened all the odds and stepped into the male dominated field, Earth Sciences.

The author can be reached at asyiaq90@gmail.com

What Is The Best Mask For Covid-19? A Mechanical Engineer Explains The Science After 2 Years Of Testing Masks In His Lab

Christian L'Orange

he Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has changed its guidelines about masks and respirators a number of times over the past two years and gave its most recent update on Jan. 14, 2022. The update states that cloth face coverings offer the least protection from the coronavirus compared with surgical masks or N95-style masks. Christian L'Orange is a mechanical engineer who has been testing the performance of masks for the state of Colorado since the beginning of the pandemic. He explains the new CDC guidelines and the science of what makes for a good mask.

1. What changed in the CDC guidelines?

The CDC currently recommends that you "wear the most protective mask you can that fits well and that you will wear consistently." The question, then, is what type of mask offers the best protection for you – by filtering the air you breathe in – and for those around you – by filtering the air you breathe out?

The CDC's updated guidelines clearly lay out the hierarchy of protection: "Loosely woven cloth products provide the least protection, layered finely woven products offer more protection, well-fitting disposable surgical masks and KN95s offer even more protection, and well-fitting NIOSH-approved respirators (including N95s) offer the highest level of protection."

From a performance standpoint, the N95 and KN95 masks are the best option. While supply chain limitations led to the CDC recommending people not wear N95s early in the pandemic, today they are easily obtainable and should be your first choice if you want the most protection.

The biggest change in the new guidelines has to do with cloth masks. Previous guidance from the CDC had said that some cloth masks could offer ac-



ceptable levels of protection. The new guidance still acknowledges that cloth masks can offer a small amount of protection but places them at the very bottom of the bunch.

2. What's the difference between N95, surgical and cloth mask materials?

The effectiveness of a mask – how much protection a mask provides the wearer – is a combination of two major elements. First, there's the ability of the material to capture particles. The second factor is the fraction of inhaled or exhaled air leaking out from around the mask – essentially, how well a

Most mask materials can be thought of as a tangled net of small fibers. Particles passing through a mask are stopped when they physically touch one of those fibers. N95s, KN95s and surgical masks are purpose-built to be effective at removing particles from air.

Their fibers are typically made from melt-blown plastics, often polypropylene, and the strands are tiny – often less than four thousandths of an inch (10 micrometers) in diameter – or approximately one third the width of a human hair. These small fibers create a large amount of surface area within the mask for filtering and collecting particles. Although the specific construction and thickness of the materials used in N95, KN95 and surgical masks can vary, the filter media used are often quite similar.

These fibers are very tightly packed together so the gaps a particle must navigate through are very small. This results in a high probability that particles will end up touching and sticking to a fiber as they pass through a mask. These polypropylene materials also often have a static charge that can help attract and catch particles.

Cloth masks are typically made of common woven materials such as cot-

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF A MASK — how much protection a mask provides the wearer — is a combination of two major elements. First, there's the ability of the material to capture particles. The second factor is the fraction of inhaled or exhaled air leaking out from around the mask — essentially, how well a mask fits

ton or polyester. The fibers are often large and less densely packed together, meaning particles can easily pass through the material. Adding more layers can help, but stacking layers has a diminishing return and the performance of a cloth mask, even with multiple layers, will still typically not match that of surgical mask or N95.

3. How much does fit matter for masks?

Fit is the other major component in how effective a mask is. Even if the materials used in a mask were perfect and it removed all particles from the air that passed through it, a mask can offer protection only if it doesn't leak.

When you breathe in and out, air will always take the path of least resistance. If there are any gaps between a mask and someone's face, a substantial fraction of every breath will seep out through those gaps and the mask will provide relatively little protection.

Many cloth mask designs simply do not seal well. They are not stiff enough to push against the face, there are gaps where the mask doesn't even come in contact with the face and it is not possible to cinch them tightly enough against the skin to form a decent seal.

But leaking is a concern for all masks. Although the materials used in surgical masks are quite effective, they often bunch and fold on the sides. These gaps provide an easy route for air and particles to leak out. Knotting and tucking surgical masks or wearing a cloth mask over a surgical mask can both significantly reduce leakage.

N95 masks aren't immune to this problem either; if the nose clip isn't securely pushed against your face, the mask is leaking. What makes N95s unique is that a specific requirement of the N95 certification process is making sure the masks can form a good seal.

4. What is different about omicron?

The mechanics of how masks function is likely no different for omicron than any other variant. The difference is that the omicron variant is more easily transmitted than previous variants. This high level of infectiousness makes wearing good-quality masks and wearing them correctly to limit the chances of catching or spreading the coronavi-

rus that much more critical. Unfortunately, the attributes that make for a good mask are the very things that make masks uncomfortable and not very stylish. If your cloth mask is comfy and light and feels like you are wearing nothing at all, it probably isn't doing much to keep you and others safe from the coronavirus. The protection offered by a high-quality, wellfitting N95 or KN95 is the best. Surgical masks can be very effective at filtering out particles, but getting them to fit correctly can be tricky and makes the overall protection they will provide you questionable. If you have other options, cloth masks should be a last choice.

The author is Assistant Research Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Colorado State University. The article is being reproduced by arrangements with The Conversation

Biden Sending More Troops To Europe Amid Ukraine Tension

is sending about 2,000 US-based troops to Poland and Germany and shifting 1,000 soldiers from Germany to Romania as demonstrations of American commitments to allies on NATO's eastern flank amid fears of a possible Russian military invasion of Ukraine, the Pentagon said Wednesday.

In announcing the moves, Pentagon press secretary John Kirby said the US forces will not enter Ukraine and will move to their new positions in coming days under US command.

These are not permanent moves, he said, stressing that the purpose is to reassure allies at a time of heightened tension over Russia's unusual buildup of military forces along Ukraine's border. Kirby said the Russian buildup has continued, even in the last 24 hours.

These troops are not going to fight in Ukraine, Kirby said, referring to the soldiers being sent from the United States to Germany and Poland, and those being shifted from Germany to Romania.

Of the 2,000 deploying from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, about 1,700 are members of fantry brigade, who will go to Poland. The other 300 are with the 18th Airborne Corps and will deploy to Germany as what the Pentagon called a joint task force-capable headquarters.

Poland's Defence Minister Mariusz Blaszczak wrote on Twitter that the US deployment to his country is a strong signal of solidarity in response to the situation in Ukraine . The 1,000 US troops going to Romania are members of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment based at Vilseck, Germany. They will augment the approximately 900 US troops already in Romania, Kirby said.

The cavalry deployment's purpose is to deter aggression and enhance our defensive capabilities in frontline allied states during this period of elevated risk , the Pentagon said in a separate written statement.

It's important that we send a strong signal to Mr Putin and to the world of the US commitment to NATO, Kirby said.

The spokesman said France has decided it, too, will send reinforcements troop Romania under NATO command. other European NATO countries are considering adding forces on NATO's eastern flank.

NATO has been beefing up its defences around allies in eastern Europe since late last year. Denmark, for example, said it was sending a frigate and F-16 warplanes to Lithuania, and Spain was sending four fighter jets to Bulgaria and three ships to the Black Sea to join NATO naval forces.

The Netherlands plans to send two F-35 fighter aircraft to Bulgaria in April and is putting a ship and land-based units on standby for NATO's Response Force.

Biden has said he will not put American troops in Ukraine to fight any Russian incursion, although the United States is supplying Ukraine with weapons to defend itself and seeking to reassure allies in Eastern Europe that Washington will fulfil its treaty obligation to defend them in the event they are attacked. Ukraine is not a NATO member and therefore the US has no treaty obligation to come to its defence.

The military moves come amid stalled talks with Russia over its military buildup at Ukraine's

growing fears across Europe that Russian President Vladimir Putin is poised to invade Ukraine.

Smaller NATO countries on the alliance's eastern flank worry they could be next, although Russia has said it has no intention of initiating conflict and is willing to continue diplomatic efforts.

Biden had said recently that he intended to provide additional US forces to NATO allies in Eastern Europe as reassurance of an American commitment to treaty allies.

The Pentagon also has put about 8,500 US-based troops on higher alert for possible deployment to Europe as additional reassurance to allies, and officials have indicated the possibility that additional units could be placed on higher alert soon. The US already has between 75,000 and 80,000 troops in Europe as permanently stationed forces and as part of regular rotations in places such as Poland.

Washington and Moscow have been at loggerheads over Ukraine, with little sign of a diplomatic path forward. Kirby on Wednesday confirmed the validity of a document reported by

a Spanish newspaper that indicated the United States could be willing to enter into an agreement with Russia to ease tensions over missile deployments in Europe if Moscow steps back from the brink in Ukraine.

The daily El Pais published two documents that Kirby confirmed were written replies from the United States and NATO last week to Russia's proposals for a new security arrangement in Europe. The US State department declined to comment on them.

In reference to the second document, NATO said that it never comments on alleged leaks . But the text closely reflects statements made to the media last week by NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg as he laid out the 30-nation military organisation's position on Russia's demands.

The US document, marked as a confidential non-paper, said the United States would be willing to discuss in consultation with its NATO partners a transparency mechanism to confirm the absences of Tomahawk cruise missiles at Aegis Ashore sites in Romania and Poland.

Budget Successfully Managed To Balance Fiscal Retreat And Support For Economy: Barua

SRINAGAR: Chief Economist, HDFC Bank, Abheek Barua while reacting over the Budget said that the 2022-23 Budget has somewhat successfully managed to balance fiscal retreat and support for economic recovery. The budget deserves a somewhat favorable verdict. It has a game plan premised on credible numbers, and not being tempted to "over-consolidate"

He said the underlying macro-economic strategy behind this budget is one of pump priming the economy through public investments, hoping that economic buoyancy would crowd-in private sector capex. The aim is to kick-start the investment cycle with multiplier effects on employment and income in turn addressing fragile consumption growth and uneven recovery. Thus, instead of redistributive direct fiscal support, an investment-led growth remains the government's economic management mantra.

He said there are also some direct measures to address the worst affected sectors by the pandemic. The extension of the credit guarantee scheme (ECLGS-- that gives a government back-stop to bank loans to the medium and small-scale sector) by a year and an increase in the guaranteed amount earmarked for the hospitality sector (INR 50,000 cr) is a welcome move.

"Atmanirbhar Bharat amidst global supply chain disruptions: The budget tilts further in the direction of self-reliance, offering tariff protection to capital goods that feed a range of sectors from coal mining to power to footwear, textiles, and food processing. This is accompanied by commitments of higher government procurement from local producers in areas like defence. This is important as inter-regional trade has been shrinking (apart from trade with China) since the Great Financial Crisis. Differences in the incidence of Covid and in containment strategies has further exposed the fragility of globalized supply chains."

Abheek Barua said the introduction of a Central Bank Digital Currency, an electronic fiat currency was widely anticipated. However, it could have a significant impact on banks – on their deposit base for instance – and needs careful attention both from bankers and policy makers.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

Stalker, 2 Aides

where the victim used to work. He was accompanied by one Momin Nazir Sheikh, they said.

"The accused followed the victim on her way back home in the evening (of Tuesday) and threw acid on her. The accused then fled and went back to the shop," the officials said.

They added Sheikh was also arrested when more evidence in the case came forth.

The two-wheeler used in the commission of the heinous crime was also seized by police, the officials said.

The accused duo revealed that they had purchased the acid from one of Rather's acquaintances Mohd Saleem, who worked as a motor mechanic at a shop, they said.

Saleem has also been arrested for questioning, the officials said, adding the shop from where the acid was purchased, in violation of the Supreme Court directions, has been sealed.

Uncertainty Over

the society.

However, police on Wednesdav stated that the main accused among three persons were arrested in this regard and a two-wheeler used in commission of crime has also been seized.

Police have also said that a shop, where the accused had bought the acid, has also been sealed.

Meanwhile, the victim at present is undergoing treatment at SMHS hospital as she has suffered grievous injuries on her face and eyes in the attack.

Moreover, police issued an advisory, appealing people to refrain from posting or sharing the pictures of the acid attack victim on social media platforms.

"It has come to notice that some social media users and page admin are uploading photographs of yesterday's acid attack victim on social media platforms. These people are advised to refrain from posting and sharing such content. Anybody found involved in this act will be strictly dealt with under law. Police have taken cognizance of the matter," the police advisory reads.—(KNO)

3-Day Wet

The nearby south Kashmir town of Kokernag recorded a low of minus 2.6 degrees Celsius, they said, adding the mercury in north Kashmir's Kupwara settled at a low of minus 2.2 degrees

Celsius. The MeT Office has said there is a possibility of rain or snow "at fairly widespread to widespread places" for two days from Wednesday and at scattered places on Friday.

Kashmir is currently under the influence of a 20-day-long 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold) which began on Monday after the Chilla-i-Kalan -the 40-day harshest winter period

Chilla-i-Kalan, which had begun on December 21 last year -- is a period when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies, including the famous Dal Lake here, as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley.

The chances of snowfall are the most frequent and maximum during this period and most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive heavy to very heavy snowfall.

However, the 'Chilla-i-Kalan' this year was not harsh like the last year and there was less snowfall during the

After the end of 'Chillai-Khurd' (small cold), a 10-day-long

'Chillai-Bachha' (baby cold) follows. However, both these periods are considered less harsh. (With PTI inputs)

Govt Transfers

and cultural development of Jammu and Kashmir. It will provide direct employment to skilled/unskilled labour as well as indirect employment to local vendors and youth, besides ensuring the development of local areas to meet the rising housing demand," the official spokesperson said.

Accordingly, he said that the Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) and J&K Housing Board (JKHB) have been assigned the task of finalizing the type designs and other modalities of these projects with a special focus on developing affordable housing on these land

The official spokesperson said that recently during the Real Estate Summit-2022, decisions were taken to develop housing stocks in both the capital cities of Srinagar and Jammu.

LG's Advisors Farooq Khan and Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Chief Secretary Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta and Principal Secretary to the LG Nitishwar Kumar. attended the meeting.

50% Waiver Of

chaired by Lieutenant Governor, Manoi Sinha, an official spokesperson said Wednesday.

The decision, he said, will address the genuine demand of the operators of commercial transport who have suffered losses on account of COVID-19 induced nation-wide lockdown and restrictions leading to non-operationalization of the public

"For owners of commercial vehicles, who have already deposited the passenger tax for aforesaid period in full, the excess amount paid thereof by them shall be adjusted against the liability accrued or accruable in the next financial year i.e for the time period of 1st April, 2021 to 31st March, 2022," the official spokesperson added.

64 New Posts

the administrative control of the Power Development Department by creating various posts in view of the unbundling of the Department.

AC sanctioned the creation of 64 posts at various levels in the J&K Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (9), J&K Power Corporation Ltd. (16), Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Ltd. (18), and Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Ltd. (21), an official spokesperson said.

He said that these newly created posts include Managing Directors, Executive Directors, Law Officers, Administrative Officers, Secretaries, Account Officers, Public Relations Officers, etc.

"Further, the Power Development Department was directed to notify respective Recruitment Rules at the earliest to speed up recruitment against the new posts," he added.

Additionally, the official spokesperson said that AC also approved the creation of 9 posts under different categories in the J&K Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO), Department of Industries and Commerce.

He said the posts include Managing Director, Financial Advisor/CAO, General Manager (GM) Operations and Administration, Manager (Branding & Marketing/ Exports), Company Secretary, Assistant Manager (Branding & Marketing), Assistant Manager (Exports), Accountant, and

Personal Assistant. "The Jammu & Kashmir Trade

Promotion Organization is the nodal agency for investment promotion in the Union territory by engaging with various national and international stakeholders and serves as the reference point of the J&K administration. The newly created posts will serve the manpower need of the organization to efficiently address investment-related issues towards boosting industry-led employment generation in Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

More Sainik Schools

all schools, educational bodies in this regard. According to the official statement to Jammu and Kashmir School Education Department, the Ministry of Defence has said that the Government of India (GoI) has approved an initiative for setting up of 100 new Sainik Schools under Sainik Schools Society of Ministry of Defence on affiliation basis through partnership of states, NGOs and Private

"Sainik Schools have not only brought good quality value based education within reach of the aspiring parents and children but also have created glorious history of students from humble background reaching highest echelons in the Military Leadership, Administrative Services, Indicial Services and other walks of life such as science, technology and entrepreneurs," it reads.

It further states that the initiative is expected to meet growing demand for Sainik Schools, providing effective physical, psycho-social, spiritual, intellectual, emotional and cognitive development and qualitatively improving the youth entering the various walks of life.

"These schools will be affiliated to Sainik Schools Society of Ministry of Defence to create a system that combines academic rigour with a degree of discipline and provide increased focus on value-based education which will enable the children to develop pride in the rich culture and heritage of the nation," reads the communication.

The joint secretary for Ministry of Defence has told the authorities of Jammu and Kashmir that "Communication has been made by the Sainik Schools Society through email to the District Magistrate and District Collectors in your domain."

"I therefore solicit your cooperation and support in arranging maximum publicity and sensitizing all schools, educational bodies in State Governments, NGOs, Private Sector in your domain to come forward and derive the benefits of this novel initiative of the GoI," the Ministry of Defence

Gol Made Strategic

serious threat to the Indian nation," Gandhi said.

"...and if you haven't realised what the Chinese and Pakistanis are planning, look at the weapons they are buying, look at their activity, look at who they are talking to... I am clearly saying in Parliament that we have made a massive blunder and we need to make sure that we can defend ourselves against the Chinese," the Congress leader added

In his fiery speech Gandhi said that the country has been surrounded by adversaries on all sides and is isolated in the region. India is now "at risk be, Gandhi said.

from outside and inside", and that is a "very dangerous place" for a nation to He claimed that India didn't have a guest for Republic Day this year

because the country is "completely

isolated and surrounded". "We are surrounded in Sri Lanka, Nepal, Afghanistan and China," he said, calling it "the single biggest crime against the people of India".

On Gandhi's remarks, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar asked if China and Pakistan were "distant"

Gandhi also accused the Modi government of using the judiciary, the Election Commission and Pegasus spyware as "instruments to destroy the voice of the union of states". Accusing the BJP of weakening

India, Congress leader targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying the "idea of a king is back". There are now two distinct India's,

he said, one of the rich and the other of the poor. "The gap between the two is growing," he said. Gandhi tore into the government over unemployment and said it was

because of "your flawed vision that

two Indias are being created." "You keep talking about Make in India, Make in India. Make in India is not possible anymore. You have destroved 'Made in India'. You need to support small and medium industries, otherwise 'Make in India' is not possible. Small and medium industries are

the only ones who can create jobs".

Candhi once again alleged that onl a handful of industrialists are benefiting because of the BJP government. "One person gets every port in India, every airport, tower, transmission, mining, green energy, gas distribution, edible oil. Everywhere there is (Gautam) Adani ji. The entire wealth of the country is going to a chosen

Gandhi also accused the ruling BJP of bringing back the idea of a "king of

"You will never ever in your life rule over the people of Tamil Nadu. No matter what fantasies you have, you will never ever rule over the people of a state of India," he said as he illustrated his point on cooperative federalism, "conversation and negotiation".

"That is the only way India has been ruled. You can look at Ashoka, Maurya, the country has always been ruled by conversation and negotiation," he said.

"My great grandfather was jailed for 15 years while he was building this thing. My grandmother was shot 32 times. My father was blown to bits. So I understand a little bit about what this country is. You are fiddling with something very, very dangerous. I am advising you to stop. Because if you don't stop you will create a problem. The problem has already started in the Northeast, in Tamil Nadu - it's not visible to you right now - Jammu and Kashmir," Gandhi said.

It demonstrated "a complete lack of understanding of history", he said, calling it a clash between the idea of a Union of States versus the idea of a we smashed that idea of a king in

1947. Now the idea of a king has come back. A king, a shahenshah. A ruler of rulers, a master of masters..." The BJP attacked Rahul Gandhi over

the speech, accusing him of making a "directionless, confused speech" without any understanding of India's history. "He is a confused leader. He should

know the history before commenting on China. He is talking about PM Modi as a king -- he himself got a chance in politics because he is from the Gandhi family. Modi earned his place by working hard," said Union Minister Prahlad Joshi.

Militant Involved

Malik, a categorized militant, he said, was active since 2020 and was involved in several cases including attacks on security forces and civilian atrocities.

The police spokesperson also claimed that Malik was involved in Tuesday's attack on ASI Shabir Ahmad at Amishijipora Shopian while he was returning back from a nearby mosque after offering prayers. Malik, he said. was also instrumental in motivating the gullible youth to join militant folds and other criminal activities.

"Besides, he was also providing logistic and other support to the active terrorists in the area before joining the terror ranks. Incriminating materials, arms & ammunition were recovered from the site of the encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation," he said.

"In this regard, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation has been initiated. People are requested to cooperate with Police till the area at the encounter site is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any," he added.

Meanwhile, an army spokesperson said that the encounter raged on after the soldiers apprehended an OCW who revealed the location of the hiding militants in an orchard near the

He also said that the operation began at 3:00 am Wednesday and concluded in the afternoon with the killing of Malik, who was active in the area since November 12, 2020.

IGP Calls For

measures under law against the militant associates.

Kumar made these remarks on Wednesday while chairing a joint security review meeting of senior officers of Police and CAPFs at Handwara in north Kashmir's Kupwara district, a police spokesperson said.

On the occasion, he said, SSP Handwara Sandeep Gupta briefed the chairing officer about the prevailing security scenario, recent trend of infiltration, existing security grid, operational aspects and other measures being adopted to counter the challenges in the police district.

"IGP Kashmir while interacting with the officers urged upon them to strengthen the general security grid and ensure great synergy and coordination among the agencies working on ground," he said.

According to the police spokesperson, Kumar also reiterated the need to adopt proactive measures to enhance the anti-militancy grid by generating specific intelligence and intensify anti-militant operations in their areas and to take all proactive steps for maintaining peace and stability in the district.

"He also emphasized upon the officers to keep strict vigil over the terrorist associates and take all necessary measures under law against them," the police spokesperson said.

Moreover, he said that IGP Kashmir also expressed serious concern about the different modules of "narco-terrorism" and directed the officers to ensure strict action against criminals involved in it.

439 Militants,

to a written question in Raiva Sabha. Rai said 98 civilians were also killed in these incidents and private properties worth about Rs 5.3 crore were damaged since then.

"During these incidents, no significant public property has been damaged," he added. (PTI)

1700 KPs Given

selected an additional 1,140 persons in this regard, he said replying to a written question.

J&K Logs 2304

said that nine more people, five in Jammu and four in Kashmir died of Covid-19 related complications during the last 24 hours, raising the death toll in the pandemic to 4692 in J&K-2294 in Jammu and 2398 in Kashmir Vallev.

The officials further added that no new cases of Mucormycosis were reported today, thus the total number of confirmed casesremains51 across J&K.

Searches Carried

a local news agency KNT reported. During the search operation, the report said, pedestrians were frisked while vehicles were also stopped and

The report said the search party didn't find anything objectionable and no arrests were made during the

Two Detained

alias "Raiu" both residents of Vijaypur tehsil, were detained under PSA on the orders issued by District Magistrate Samba, a police spokesman said. "Both the accused are notorious criminals and are continuously involved in number of criminal activities. They have become a threat to the public peace and tranquillity, thereby forcing authorities to detain them under PSA," the spokesman said.

He said many cases including those related to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act stand registered against the accused at police station Vijaypur.

Given their repeated involvement in criminal and drug smuggling activities, dossiers were prepared by Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba and forwarded to District Magistrate Samba who formally issued the orders of their detention under PSA, the spokesman said.

He said the detention warrants were executed by the police team of Police Station Vijaypur.

While Yogeshwar has been lodged in district Jail Amphalla in Jammu, the other accused was shifted to District Jail Kathua, the spokesman said.

PSA is an administrative law that allows detention without charge or trial for up to two years in some cases.

Minibus Skids

of Mandi this morning. Ten persons were injured, two of them critically. They have been hospitalized, he said,

as per news agency GNS. Locals blamed administration for the accident due to non-clearance of the snow.

Ladakh Sees 165

cases in Kargil district, they said. Of the 165 fresh cases from the Union territory, 77 such cases were reported from Leh district and 88 from Kargil district, they said.

The union territory has recorded 225 Covid-related deaths -- 166 in Leh and 59 in Kargil -- since the outbreak of the pandemic last year, they

As many as 147 patients were cured and discharged from hospitals in Ladakh on Tuesday. Of these, 99 were discharged in Leh and 48 in Kargil, they said. (PTI)

Govt Disengages 135 Daily Wagers Due To Funds Crunch

Auqib Javeed

SRINAGAR: Over 135 daily wagers working with the Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH) for the last twelve years, have been disengaged by the government due to paucity of funds.

A group of labourers told Kashmir Observer that they have been working with Director Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH) for decades as daily wagers and were disengaged by the department few days ago without any notice.

time? Questioned Aadil Ahmad, a labourer.

He said the department suddenly issued an order on February 1 that they have been disengaged.

The agitated workers held a protest outside the main campus of CITH at Kralpora Rangreth.

They were joined by Chairman RTI Movement Raja Muzaffar Bhat. Bhat in a statement said that "More than a dozen among these labourers are experts in horticulture activities who have set up ultra high density apple, pear, peach, walnut and almond plantations in

the area," he said. Bhat further added that the state land belonging to villages of Kralpora and Wathoora was provided by J&K Govt in 1994 to Ministry of Agriculture Govt of India

villages and other areas who work on mere Rs 300 to 400 per day are being thrown out by the CITH.

"This is complete injustice,"

Bhat said. Om Chand Sharma, director of the department told Kashmir Observer that due to lack of funds they have reduced the size of labourers. He, however, said that they have raised the issue with the higher authorities and as soon as the funds will be released, they will be hired again.

"See, they have been hired through an outsourced agency "Where will we go this not by the department but due to a crunch of funds, we couldn't use their services but we have written to higher officials regarding the issue. I am hopeful they will release the funds in the next fiscal year," Sharma told Kashmir Observer.

Sharma, however said that he has no idea who the funds will be released.

CITH is a research institute with headquarters in many hilly states of the country including in Srinagar.

However, the labourers told Kashmir Observer that they were told that work will be provided only for six days.

"Six days of work will fetch us just a few bucks, what will we do?

The daily wagers threatened that if their demands weren't met, (ICAR) and the locals from these they would intensify the protest.

Govt Assures All Help For Cultivation Of Land Along IB In Kathua



Press Trust Of India

IAMMU: A senior government official on Wednesday assured all help including provision of agriculture machinery to farmers on priority basis to enable years. them to cultivate land along the international border in Kathua

district of Jammu and Kashmir. Production and Farmers Welfare, on 150 acre of border land was Navin K Choudhary gave the as- completed involving farmers of surance during a tour of Kathua to inspect on ground activities dwan, Chak Changa and Londi. being undertaken by agriculture

and allied departments. While inspecting the border of their land uncultivated along the Indo-Pak border due to cross ority basis," he said. border firing.

civil administration, Border Security Forces (BSF) to achieve a long period.

breakthrough in this respect.

As a result, the farming community came forward and a wheat sowing operation was started during Rabi 2021-22 on zero line after a period of 19

An additional support of seed, fertilizers and tractors was also made available to the farm-Principal Secretary, Agriculture ers and cultivation of wheat border villages including Chan-

"We are looking forward to cover the entire area which was lying fallow beyond fencing at wheat sowing on 150 acres of zero line by next cropping sealand at Hiranagar sector, Choud- son and all help including proharv said the farmers of this vision of agriculture machinery area used to keep large acreage and other inputs will be made available to the farmers on pri-

During his visit, the Principal He said that this year, due to Secretary also interacted with government policy, a series of farmers who expressed satisfaccollective efforts were initiated tion over this initiative by the by the agriculture department, government that enabled them to cultivate their land after a

SCERT, UNICEF India Launch Capacity Building Programs For Teachers

Observer News Service

JAMMU: The State Council of ing teachers through a host of pro-Education Research and Training (SCERT) in collaboration with UNICEF and Tata Institute of Social Science (TISS) Mumbai, launched a series of capacity building pro- the initiatives taken up by the grams for teachers of Jammu and Kashmir here on Tuesday.

Around 300 participants from all the 20 districts of the Union to make the education more in-Territory comprising teachers and faculty members of District Institutes of Education and Training (DIET) and SCERT participated in the program titled "Constructive Teaching and Learning with Technology", the first in the series.

The module, supported by UNICEF India, has been developed and implemented by the Centre of Excellence in Teacher Education (CETE), TISS.

The CETE, which was inaugurated in November, last year, is first-of-its-kind in India, aiming to become a catalyst in transforming teacher development.

Professor Mythili Ramchand from CETE introduced the course and explained its key components to the participants. While inaugurating the pro-

Veena Pandita said the SCERT has been in the forefront of empowerfessional development programs. Contemporary times, she said, mandated that a teacher should be tech savvy as she highlighted SCERT since its inception in 2020.

"It's our prime duty to exploit the technology at hand to hilt clusive, accessible and constructive," Professor Pandita asserted. She added that "Educationists, as mandated in the right to education, are reimagining learning so that every student enjoys its fruits regardless of his/her gender, social status or background".

Dr. Amina Charania, who is an Associate Professor at the CETE, said "The role of technology in constructing meaningful learning experiences for students is paramount,".

"Exploring various technological applications while critically evaluating their use and role in meaningful learning creates a perfect environment for blend-

ed learning", she added. The course, she informed, would cover five units to be conducted online on TISSx (web gram, Director SCERT, Professor platform of TISS).

CMOs Directed To Ensure Urgent Surgeries Are Done After RAT

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Wednesday asked Chief Medical Officers, Medical superinand other Incharge Administrato ensure that all the medical and surgical procedures of utbasis of RAT test reports of the circular issued by DHSK. patients, after following the CO-VID SOPs properly as per WHO

District Health of authorities that the medical Services Kashmir (DHSK) on and other surgical procedures, cal Officers and other Incharge which otherwise need immediate attention, are getting stitutions to ensure that all the tendents, Block Medical Officers delayed at the level of District medical and surgical procedures Hospitals, Sub District Hospitors of the health institutions tals and other health institu- the basis of RAT test reports of tions due to non availability of the patients, after following the RTPCR test reports, which has COVID SOPs properly as per WHO most urgency are done on the been viewed seriously," reads a

hereby impressed upon all the This has come into the notice Chief Medical Officers, Medical superintendents, Block Medi-Administrators of the health inof utmost urgency are done on guidelines," it reads, adding, "This circular is issued in the interest "In order to provide better & of better patient care in view of timely patient care services, it is surge in COVID-19 cases." (GNS)

Two-Way Traffic On Highway Today

Commuters Asked To Check Status Before Undertaking Journey

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu-Srinagar highway, the only surface link connecting Kashmir valley with the outside world, shall remain open for both way traffic on Thursday but commuters have been asked to check status of the thoroughfare before travel in view of the inclement weather, officials said.

"Commuters are advised not to travel on Jammu-Srinagar highway (NH-44) without confirming the status of road from TCU Jammu/ Ramban & Srinagar in view of inclement weather prediction issued by met department," a traffic department official said.

"However, on 03-02-2022, subject to fair weather and better road conditions LMVs(passenger)/priboth sides on Jammu-Srinagar highway viz Jammu towards Srinagar and vice-versa," he said, adding, "TCU Jammu/Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the traffic."



will be at 0800 hours to 1200 hours, from Jakheni (Udhampur) at 0900 hours to 1300 hours and from Navyug Tunnel (Qazigund side) 0900 hours to 1300 hours "(subject to change depending on the road position then)" He said vate cars shall be allowed from no vehicle shall be allowed before

and after cut off timings. Regarding HMVs/Load carriers, he said, "subject to fair weather and better road conditions, they shall be allowed from NAVYUG He said cut off for LMVs/private cars from Nagrota (Jammu) situation on highway." He said TCU ment official said. (GNS)

Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the highway. Meanwhile, Mughal Road, connecting Shopian with Poonch and Rajouri districts, remained closed for vehicular movement in view of

snow accumulation at Peer Ki Gali. Also, Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumri road remained shut for vehicular movement in view of snow accumulation on Zoji la axis and has been closed till further orders. Kishtwar-Sinthan road also Tunnel (Qazigund side) towards remained closed in view of snow accumulation, the traffic depart-

Jama'at Distances Itself From Bosnia **Conference On Kashmir**

mi Jammu and Kashmir on ed to the territory of Jammu and Wednesday refuted allegations that the banned organisation too were restricted thereto and or its associate members were involved in the conduct or promotion of the Conference held in Bosnia on Kashmir.

Addressing a press conference here, the former Jel Presi- no nexus or association with the dent, Dr Fayaz, said that the Jama'at," Fayaz said. allegations being circulated on parnamed Dis information that Jama'at and its associated organizations were involved in the conduct or promotion of any conference in Bosnia are totally baseless as the organization is not functional due to ban and it manently outside Jammu and refused to take any questions. has no associate organizations anywhere in the world nor any representatives.

organization or representative person settled abroad cannot tant outfits.—(KNO)

of the Jama'at is quite against the facts and is hereby chal-Jama'at-e-Isla- lenged. The Jama'at was restrict-Kashmir only and its activities after it was banned in February, 2019, it stopped all its activities and functions. Some names shown in the report have attended the conference and have

said that he wants to make it ticularly reported by an entity amply clear that any member migrating to any place outside the territorial jurisdiction of Jammu and Kashmir ceases to be a member of the Jama'at as per the party constitution.

Kashmir cannot claim to be a member of the Jama'at and the the Centre announced ban on organization cannot be held "Any organization or individ- responsible for any activities citing reasons that the outfit ual claiming to be an associate done by such persons as any was in "close touch" with mili-

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Good governance

is the process of how public

institutions conduct public

affairs and manage public

son said Wednesday.

resources for development.

"The concept of Good Gov-

tion, Equity, Effectiveness and

Efficiency, Accountability and

Strategic vision form the core

of good governance," he said.

siveness, Consensus orienta- under Good Governance.

have the membership of the Jama'at," Fayaz said.

"Nobody has taken any verbal or written consent from any erstwhile leader or functionary of the Jama'at to speak in any conference and at present due to the ban, it is quite out of question to get such consent." he added.

He said that all gueries raised about the participation of Jama'at in the conference Russell Tribunal on Kashmir held at The former Jel President also Sarajevo Bosnia openly or tacitly are not justified at al

"Jama'at before the ban was a socio- religious organisation working for the betterment of the humanity at large in accordance with the divine guidance of Islam for seeking the pleasure "So any person residing per- of Allah," he said. He, however,

Pertinently, on March 2, 2019, Jama'at for a period of five years

Cong Threatens Stir Over Downgrading Of Security Of Its Leaders

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Expressing serious concern over downgrading of limited and we will not stay silent including former ministers and legislators, Jammu and Kashmir Congress president G A Mir on Wednesday demanded an immediate review of the decision to facilitate a level-playing field to the opposition parties.

He threatened to launch an agitation on the issue, alleging that while ordinary political activists of the parties created overnight by the government or affiliated with the ruling party are enjoying adequate security, government accommodation and free movement, Congress leaders especially in Kashmir are only allowed to move out of their homes once in a week to meet the public.

Congress is about 137-yearafter independence to take the country to new heights. But today the government in power is withdrawing our security deliberately to stop us from meeting the public or raising the public issues, Mir told reporters here.

The Congress leader said the security of senior party funcincluding tionaries former (PCC) presidents and former Members of Parliament was downgraded, exposing them to the danger of terror attacks.

However, he said the party would not be cowed down by such measures and will continue to stand by the people.

Mir said he was deprived of one-room government accommodation both in Srinagar and Jammu but we did not raise the sures as it is living in the hearts issue even as ordinary workers of the ruling party (BJP) and those parties which were created overnight by the government were provided adequate security and government bungalows at prime locations.

Now by withdrawing and downgrading the security of our leaders, the government has crossed the security of senior party leaders as the lives of our party leaders are in danger we request the Lt Governor (Manoj Sinha) to stop differentiating people on the basis of their party affiliation, he said.

He accused officers involved in providing security to the political activists of taking unilateral and wrong decisions purely on partisan bias.

Congress party always tried to play the role of a constructive and vibrant opposition as we do not believe in negative politics, Mir said, adding the party despite the August 2019 development when the erstwhile state of J&K was bifurcated into union territories adopted a democratic way of protest to become the voice of the public.

He said the Congress does not old political party which has a believe in disturbing law and history of sacrifice before and order or be campaigners for disturbance

After August 2019 development, the government is saying that everything is alright in J&K. The ground situation is that our district presidents in the valley are only allowed to move out of their homes once in a week to attend public functions. In case of inclement weather or weeklegislators, ministers, former end lockdown, then they have Pradesh Congress Committee to cancel all the programmes of that day as well, he said.

On the other hand, he said the government's created stooges are free to meet the public all the seven days of the week. They are enjoying security and accommodation but the people are wise enough and they will decide their fate (during elections).

He said the Congress cannot be pushed back by such meaof the public.

We request the Lt Governor to review the security of all our leaders otherwise we have no option but to flood the roads with our activists and supporters, he said.

BYJU'S 'Education For All' Brings Tech-**Driven Learning Solutions To Students In Uri**

Observer News Service

equal opportunity to learn, BYJU'S 'Education for All' initiative is offering students of Army Goodwill

BYJU'S vision of providing a con- humble backgrounds and are ducive learning environment facing challenges to continue for students regardless of their their education due to the lack geographical location and inter- of proper coaching facilities in net accessibility, a spokesperson Uri," the spokesperson said. said Wednesday.

the students will be able to access er internet connectivity and the the content regardless of band- rough terrain makes it difficult width constraints. The learning content on the tablet is enabled on SD Cards which even work on unavailability of quality learnlow to no bandwidth areas.

He further said that BYJU'S strongly believes that every child **SRINAGAR:** With the aim to emmust get equal access to quality power and provide children an education irrespective of their socio-economic background, location, and proficiency.

"Supporting the noble cause School, Uri free tablets and access of Lt. Col. Naval Sharma, BYJU'S to BYJU'S high-quality and tech- Education For All is offering learning programs for IEE and This effort further enables NEET aspirants who come from

Additionally, he said, the lack With this initiative, he said, of infrastructures such as propfor educational institutions to reach there, which leads to the ing opportunities.

Kashmiri Woman Gets New Lease Of Life, Undergoes **Heart Transplant Surgery In TN**

Press Trust Of India

CHENNAI: A heart transplant surgery was successfully performed by a hospital here on a 33-year-old underprivileged woman hailing from Kashmir.

The Kashmiri woman, who was suffering for 10 years from Restrictive cardiomyopathy, a condition where the chambers of the heart becomes stiff over time was identified by Aishwarya Trust, which funded her transplant treatment cost at MGM Healthcare, a press release said.

She was on medical management with worsening heart failure symptoms and required early heart transplantation. She registered herself with the Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu.

On December 31, 2021 she was admitted to the hospital here with signs of severe heart failure for which she was treated. Days ago, heart of a braindead person from Tiruchirappalli was rushed to Chennai and a 'high-risk heart transplantation' was performed. Post surgery, she was soon shifted to

Transplant ICU in a stable condition. She was removed from the ventilator and at present she is recovering from the surgery, doctors at MGM Healthcare said.



TRANSFORMING J&K

Good Governance: 'Hallmark Of The Present J&K Administration'

resources and guarantee the realization of human rights in a manner essentially free of abuse and corruption and of law, an official spokesperserve the people. Three in-He said it is the power exerpromote good governance: the state, private sector and cised for the management of a

ernance mainly revolves on ment and it is also essential the concept of responsibility for sound economic policies. of governments and govern-In the recent years, he said, ing bodies to meet the ne-Good Governance has been the cessities of the masses as ophallmark of Jammu and Kashposed to select groups in the mir Administration. Several resociety. Participation, Rule of markable initiatives have been Law, Transparency, Responlaunched by the government

environment which fosters

strong and equitable develop-

"Be it, Back to Village, My Town My Pride, Jan Sunwai Abhiyan and other, launched by LG's in J&K in recent years, The official spokesperson have proven to be the major said that good governance success for creating a 'People is of utmost significance in Centric-Responsive Adminlocal governments. It tries istration' here. These proto increase engagement be- grammes have been apprecitween local government and ated throughout the country

with due regard for the rule get the best alternatives that Grassroots democracy and empowering the Panchayats stitutions can be reformed to as well as people," he said. In the Good Governance In-

dex, the official spokesperson country's economic and social civil society. It generates an said that Jammu and Kashmir has registered an increase of 3.7% in good governance indicators from 2019 to 2021. Substantial performances have been witnessed in Commerce and Industry, Agriculture and Allied sectors, Public Infrastructure and Utilities, Judiciary and Public Safety Sectors.

He said that majority of the districts of Jammu and Kashmir have witnessed growth in foodgrain production, horticulture, poultry, agriculture credit etc. Universal coverage has been accomplished in Kisan Credit Card, Soil Health Card scheme and Animal vaccination.

"Moreover, momentous improvements have been reported common citizens in order to as it aimed at energising the collection, Skill training, Con-delivery apparatus.

Economic empowerment of women. Health insurance coverage and Housing for all. There has been refinement in conviction rates, disposal of court cases and boost in the proportion of women police personnel. Likewise, the Citizen-Centric Governance sector also witnessed impressive all round execution," he added.

The official spokesperson further said that after getting appreciated for its performance under Good Governance Index, the J&K Administration in collaboration with Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), GoI recently launched District Good Governance Index for all the districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The district good governance index ranks the districts and presents their comparative picture before the masses," he said.

Under this index, he said, the policies, schemes and programs of the Central and State government are monitored at district level. It not only reinforces the district machinery but also makes districts result in Ease of Doing Business, Tax oriented and enhances their

KL Rahul Moves A Place Up To 4th In ICC **T20 Rankings**

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: Opener KL Rahul moved a place up to fourth while Virat Kohli and India's new white ball skipper Rohit Sharma remained static on 10th and 11th positions, respectively, in ICC T20 rankings for batters issued on Wednesday.

In the bowling chart, seamer Bhuvneshwar Kumar wasthe best-placed Indian at 20th position, having dropped a run while pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah feel two places to 26th.

No Indian featured in the allrounder's list. India, though, did not feature in T20 Internationals in recent times.

Left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein and fast bowler Jason Holder have achieved career-best rankings in bowling after helping the West Indies to a series-deciding 17-run victory in the fifth match against England in Bridgetown.

In the latest weekly update to the men's rankings, which considers performances in the last three matches of the series, Hosein has moved up 15 places to 18th position after a haul of four for 30 that helped him finish with six wickets in three

All-rounder and former captain Holder, who performed the unique feat of grabbing four wickets in four balls to finish with match figures of five for 27 and



a tally of nine wickets in those three matches, has advanced three places to 23rd with a massive gain of 20 rating points.
Sheldon Cottrell (up 10 places

to 31st) is another West Indies bowler to move up in the update while England spinner Moeen Ali (up three places to 32nd) and Liam Livingston (up 33 places to 68th) have also advanced.

In the ranking for batters, Nicholas Pooran is up eight places to 18th after scoring 113 runs in the three matches including a knock of 70, while Brandon King (up 25 places to 58th) and West Indies captain Kieron Pollard (up 15 places to 60th) have also advanced.

Moeen Ali, who was adjudged the Player of the Match in the fourth match of the series against West Indies, has moved up 30 places to 67th with 73 runs in the three matches, in which he also took two wickets. As a result, he has leapfrogged Glenn Maxwell and Wanindu Hasaranga to third place among all-rounders.

West Indies Arrive For Limited Over Series Against India



Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: On a high after beating England in a T20I rubber, the visiting West Indies at the Ahmedabad airport. team arrived in Ahmedabad this morning for its upcoming limited overs series against India.

playing three ODIs at the Naren- behind closed doors due to the a Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. beginning February 6, followed by three T20 Internationals at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

"After a long couple days of travel from Barbados, the Men In Maroon have arrived in India!" posted Windies Cricket, the official Twitter account of Cricket West Indies, on Wednesday morning.

"WI arrive safely in Ahmadabad! The Men In Maroon have a quick turnaround, as WI get land in a closely fought T20 seready to play @BCCI in 3 ODI's ries in the Caribbean.

here, starting on February 6," it wrote in another tweet.

The Windies Cricket also posted a video of the players arriving

The Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA), which will be hosting the three ODIs, has already stated The 'Men in Maroon' will be that the matches will be played current COVID-19 situation

The West Bengal government, on the other hand, has given permission to allow 75 per crowd for the three T20I matches.

The three T20Is will be played in Kolkata on February 16, 18 and 20, following the threematch ODI Series which will be played in Ahmedabad on February 6, 9 and 11.

West Indies recently beat Eng-

Kerala Olympic Games Rescheduled

Press Trust of India

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Neeraj Chopra, the first Indian The first-ever Kerala Olympic athlete, to win an Olympic gold Games, slated to be held in mid- medal. February, has been rescheduled for May after considering the basketball. pandemic

tion. Kerala The Olympic Association (KOA) said the Games would be organised from May 1 to 10. The office-bearers of association told reporters here that the Olympic Expo in which sports goods and equipment manufacturers were to participate was rescheduled to April



President of the association V Sunil Kumar, secretary-general S Rajiv and treasurer M Renjith told the media that Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan would inaugurate the Games on April

At the inaugural ceremony, Tokyo Olympics medallists would be felicitated.

cation Minister V Sivankutty un- Games.

veiled the mascot of the Games Neerai (rabbit) in honour of

boxing.



ton, cycling, football, wrestling, hockey, judo, karate, kambadi (Kabadi), KHO- KHO, netball, rugby, rifles (shooting), wushu, tennis, table- tennis, taekwondo. volleyball and weightlifting would be part of the Games.

Qualification rounds were held at the districts-level and over 8,000 sportspersons were In December last, Kerala Edu- expected to take part in the



SKIER ARIF KHAN and his contingent at the Beijing airport.

Manager Of India's Winter Olympics Contingent Tests COVID Positive Upon Arrival In Beijing

Press Trust of India

BEIJING: The manager of In- room only until the results of dia's Winter Olympics con- my 2nd Covid test. I am comtingent, Mohammad Abbas pletely fine & asymptomatic," Wani, has tested positive for COVID-19 upon arrival at the Beijing Airport here.

Jammu and Kashmir skier Arif Khan is the only athlete from the country to have qualified test. this time. Arif will be competing in Slalom and Giant Slalom events during the Games.

The contingent also includes Harjinder Singh as its chef de mission, Ludar Chand Thakur as alpine coach, Puran Chand as technician and Roop Chand Negi as team official.

"I am in quarantine in my Batra said. hotel room at Olympic village

Agencies

turmoil, there's little

to celebrate in the

corridors of power in

London. Except, per-

haps, the financial heft

of England's soccer

clubs and their ability

to spend on players

The news of Premier

League spending over

the last month reach-

ing 295 million pounds

(\$400 million) was cel-

ebrated by sports min-

ister Nigel Huddleston

in the hours after clubs

completed their final

"Good to see the Pre-

dow spending levels at second

showed that Premier League

clubs had the highest net spend

of 180 million pounds since the

January transfer window was

mier League recovering

so strongly from the

trades of the season.

my movement within the he tweeted.

Indian Olympic Association IOA) president Narinder Batra Abbas Wani is a part of the informed about Abbas Wani's Galwan Valley in eastern Lasix-member Indian delegation positive COVID result and said at the Winter Olympics where chef de mission Harjinder is coordinating with the Winter Olympics organisers for a re-

> "The manager of the Indian contingent Mr. Abbas Wani tested COVID positive at Beijing Airport. The chef de mission Mr. Harjinder Singh is coordinating for a re-test.

> "The athlete and his coach have been shifted to another flat to avoid any interaction,

Saudi Arabia's Role In Transfer

Market Revival In Pandemic

& have been asked to restrict held from February 4 to 20. Meanwhile, China on

Wednesday fielded Qi Fabao, the regimental commander of the People's Liberation Army, who was injured during the June 2020 border skirmish with Indian soldiers in the dakh, as a torchbearer for the Games Torch Relay.

Qi took the flame from Wang Meng, China's four-time Olympic short track speed skating champion, at Winter Olympic Park, the state-run Global Times newspaper re-

On February 4, the Olympic flame, after being relayed by about 1,200 torchbearers, will light the main cauldron at the National Stadium to mark the beginning of the Beijing 2022 The Winter Olympics will be Winter Olympic Games.

Wouldn't Be Surprised If Some Don't Make Pakistan **Tour: Hazlewood**



Press Trust of India

MELBOURNE: Seasoned Australian pacer Josh Hazlewood says he won't be surprised if some of his national teammates refuse to tour Pakistan next month on security grounds.

Australia are expected to tour Pakistan in March, the first time in 24 years since a Mark Taylorled team visited the Asian country in 1998

There's a lot of things in place and there's been a lot of work in the background by CA and the ACA," cricket.com.au quoted

Hazlewood as saying. "So the trust is quite high there from the players, but there would certainly be some concerns from the players and I wouldn't be surprised if some of them don't make the tour.

"And that's very fair. People will discuss it with their families ... and come up with an answer and everyone respects that."

Australia's tour of Pakistan comprises three Tests, three ODIs and a lone T20 International.

The Test matches are scheduled to take place in Karachi (March 3-7), Rawalpindi (March 12-16) and Lahore (March 21-

for the four white-ball matches to be played from March 29 to April 5.

Hazlewood had missed a major part of the team's triumphant Ashes campaign against England owing to a frustrating side strain, leaving him on the

"If I'd had a normal (side strain), a big injury and you know you're going to be out, then you can deal with it all at once. But it just kept teasing, kept teasing, I might be able to play this one, I might be able to play that one," said Hazlewood.

"I've certainly had a typical side strain, where you tear your oblique (muscle), you can't bowl another ball and are out for at least six or seven weeks. This one was different ... the strength came back really quickly...

"It was just bowling, that dynamic movement, that caused a bit of grief. It was an unusual one."

Asked how he felt after Australia won the five-match Ashes 4-0, the 31-year-old pacer said: "It was very frustrating. You probably don't realize it as much now, but when you look back in 10 years ... people will talk about the Ashes when they won 4-0 in 25), which will also be the venue 2021 ... and it'd hit you again.

New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell Wins ICC's 'Spirit Of Cricket' Award





Press Trust of India

DUBAI: New Zealand's Daryl sham on strike. Mitchell was on Wednesday named the recipient of 2021's ICC 'Spirit of Cricket' award for have been an easy single. not taking an easy single during the T20 World Cup semifinal against England as he felt he had "obstructed" the way of bowler

Adil Rashid in that moment. Mitchell won the award for his gesture during the game in Abu Dhabi on November 10 last year, which New Zealand won by five wickets.

Mitchell is the fourth New Zealand player to win the award, following in the footsteps of Daniel Vettori, Brendon McCullum and Kane Williamson.

"It's an honour to receive the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award," Mitchell said.

"To be part of that T20 World Cup in UAE was an amazing experience, and to receive an award like this is pretty cool.

"It's something that we pride ourselves on as New Zealanders, the way we go about playing our cricket, and yes, the Spirit of Cricket side.

"Personally, I felt I got in the way and we wanted to win on our own terms, and didn't want game. It paid off in the long run that we won the game. Looking back, it all happened pretty auickly." The incident occurred

bowled by Adil Rashid, with the score at 133/4 and James Nee-

Neesham smashed the ball down the ground and it would But Mitchell, at the non-strik-

er's end, refused to take the run, conceding that he had impeded Rashid in a high-pressure chase, with a place in the World Cup final at stake.

Nasser Hussain, who was live on commentary during the contest, was full of praise for Mitchell saying, "That is very good. That is so New Zealand, it really is. So easy to take a run there. But the non-strike said, 'No, I've got in the way of Adil.'

Anything sums up New Zealand cricket – it was that." Mitchell, explaining why he refused to take the single, added: "It was a pretty tight game against England in that semi-final, with only a few overs to go. Neesh (Jimmy Neesham) hit a single down to long-off I think it was, and I felt like I'd obstructed Rashid from getting to the ball.

"The game that we play, we play it because we love it. Yes, we want to win as much as we can, but we don't want that to come about from doing things to be controversial in such a big that go against the values of cricket. Spirit of Cricket is vitally important. It sets a platform for kids in the future, who will go about playing the game in the

South Korea Qualifies For Qatar World Cup

Agencies

SEOUL: South Korea qualified for a 10th successive World Cup after beating Syria 2-0 in Dubai.

field, moved 11 points clear of ates with two games remaining. World Cup appearance.

Iran, which has already qualified, beat the UAE 1-0 to remain atop Group A. Iran last week became the first team from Asia to qualify for Qatar when it beat Iraq 1-0.

The top two teams from both groups automatically qualify. The third-place teams advance fortable victory over the bottom to playoffs. In Group B, a firsthalf goal from Takumi Minamino set Japan on the way to beating Saudi Arabia 2-0 at Saitama Stadium and keeping the host on third-place United Arab Emir- course for a seventh successive

to a tally by accountancy firm Deloitte. Athletics, aquatics, archery,

revamp squads in midseason has shown the resilience of the world's richest league to weather the financial impact of the coronavirus, helped by the government ending all capacity restrictions that have continued to impede rivals in Europe.

from Saudi Arabia that has also contributed to the headline figtle by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund was approved by the Premier League _ defying the pleas of human rights activists but reflecting Britain's played from next season. embrace of the kingdom _ the northeast club accounted for 90 million pounds in player spending. And the Public Investment Fund would have splurged even the five deals it got over the line

Now this is the squad Newcastle is stuck with until May the league's spending was by in its mission to ensure its first teams in the bottom five, with continue to increase in the sea-



pandemic," Huddleston tweet- ing out Norwich's single-point ed, "with January transfer win- edge on Newcastle with 17 games remaining. To that end, highest ever." In fact, deduct- manager Eddie Howe has been ing the amount recouped from given three new defenders, a sales from total expenditure

Kieran Trippier, who was part

its Abu Dhabi bank account. now to join City, although this But it's the government's was a more restrained transfer warmth toward investment window, reflecting the ninepoint lead enjoyed by Pep Guardiola's side at the top of the ure trumpeted by Huddleston. Premier League. After letting In the first transfer window Ferran Torres join Barcelona for since the takeover of Newcas- around \$60 million, City spent only a third securing another young attacker with potential the 22-year-old Argentine, Julian Alvarez _ who will be

before Monday's transfer cutoff. Ham spent nothing.

midfielder and a striker.

of England's run to the 2018 World Cup semifinals and Euro 2020 final, is the recruit with introduced in 2003, according the most star power. It is only the start delayed if Newcastle mier League rivals. does drop into the second tier The ability to so significantly of a commitment by the club to use its wealth to rival the superpowers for talent in the way Manchester City rose from me-10 Premier Leagues thanks to

While the most expensive single signing was the 60 million euros second-placed Liverpool committed to signing Luis Diaz from Porto, the other more, as it pursued more than teams in the top five Chelsea, return to stadiums and dis-Manchester United and West

Instead, more than half of season with the wealthiest an estimated outlay of 150 mil- sons ahead." (AP)

points above the drop zone, spending more than 50 million pounds on players on top of the cost of replacing manager Rafa Benitez

owners in world football does lion pounds by them, according

with Frank Lampard. "This transfer window indicates that the financial pressures of COVID on Premier League clubs are easing," said Dan Jones, head of sports at Deloitte, "with spending firmly back to prepandemic levels and remarkably among the highest we've ever

by Everton, which is

in 16th place and four

seen in January It reinforces England's elevated status apart from its European rivals, underpinned by a growth in the value of international broadcast rights. The second-biggest spenders in January were Serie A clubs whose total of 175 million euros (almost \$200 million) was almost half the outlay by Pre-

Next were La Liga clubs who spent 75 million euros on transfers, followed by 65 million euros across Ligue 1 in France and 60 million euros by diocrity to win half of the last the Bundesliga. Calum Ross, assistant director in the Sports Business Group at Deloitte, Players need little convincing commented: "In stark contrast to January 2021, the wider European transfer market appears buoyant. Many clubs are starting to bounce back from significant COVID-induced reductions, with rising revenues re-activating activity within the transfer market."

> While total spending across Europe's big five leagues rose to 735 million euros from 460 million euros last January, the figure was almost 1 billion euros in 2020 before the coronavirus spread across Europe, disrupting leagues and revenue

"Provided fans continue to ruption to the football season ahead remains limited." Ross said, "we should see revenues, and therefore transfer spend,

on the first ball of the 18th over right way.

Second-half goals from Kim Jinsu and Kwon Chang-hoon on Tuesday gave the Koreans a comteam in Asia Group A qualifying. South Korea, the 15th nation to qualify for the 32-team