



**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

**P4**

**"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



**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 which 24,710 patients have 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**

## 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 here, who was arrested. During questioning, the accused revealed that he had been stalking the woman after she rejected his engagement proposal, they said. Rather had kept a note of the timings of the victim's movement 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**  
The 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**

## GoI 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

**Observer News Service**  
SRINAGAR: A 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 spokesperson said. During the search operation, 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 effectively 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 Ishaq Malik alias Musa of Bongam Shopian. **More on P6**

**IGP Calls For Intensified Anti-Militancy Ops**  
The 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 **More on P6**

**'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 Nityanand Rai said on Wednesday. Replying **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**

## 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

In 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**

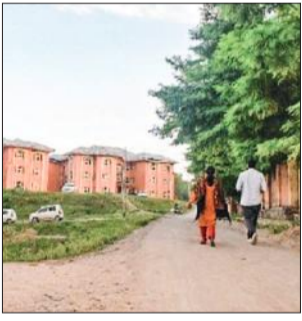
**64 New Posts Created In DISCOMS, 9 In JKTPO**  
Jammu: The Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, approved the strengthening of Corporations under **More on P6**

## More Sainik Schools Likely To Come Up In J&K

Jammu and Kashmir is likely to have more Sainik Schools under the Society of Ministry of Defence. According to the 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**

## 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**



Despite being geographically distant from Kashmir how Kashmiris in West maintain cultural, social, and emotional linkages with their homeland. Tune-in to latest KO podcast

**KO PODCAST**

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

New Campus Bemina Srinagar  
Notice for General Public

**Attention Please**  
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 details:-

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:- Gagjend 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.

**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 : Farooq Ahamd Chopan  
Father's Name : Ab Salam Chopan  
Mother's Name : Aasha  
Gagjend Kallan Budgam



**Details of Marks Certificate lost**  
Higher Secondary School Examination (class 11th )  
Roll No 227445 Session /Year Bi-Annual 2006

Higher Secondary School Examination (class 12th )  
Roll No 229252 Session /Year Annual 2007  
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  
pd

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

New Campus Bemina Srinagar  
Notice for General Public

**Attention Please**  
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  
Class: 10th  
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:- Gagjend 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**

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 fko

**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  
Regional Transport Office,  
Kashmir

**Office of The Regional Transport Officer Kashmir**

NOTICE

Whereas, a joint application 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  
Regional Transport Office,  
Kashmir

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All Mobile and Electronic Accessories Xerox also available.  
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Contact:-9149965005/ 9682370979



**PUBLIC NOTICE**

My Name has been wrongly written in my Driving License bearing DL No: JK1220000000211 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 Bijbehara RNA

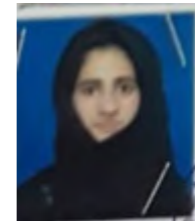
**THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION**

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-FATEHPORA



Now the candidate has, applied for issuance of DUPLICATE QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATE/S. Before the case will be processed under rules, if somebody 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 "CANCELLED").

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

Sd/= Assistant Secretary  
Certificates, KD

RNA

**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)  
ROLL NO :- 1160230  
SESSION A/R/2018 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.



Sd/= Assistant Secretary  
Sub-Office Anantnag

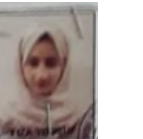
RNA

**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/R/2019 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.



Sd/= Assistant Secretary  
Sub-Office Anantnag

RNA

**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 jktccampsg@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.

Sd/-Pardeep Kumar, KAS  
Transport Commissioner, J&K  
DIPK-17449/21  
No. TC/JK/MV/40-45  
Dated: 03 .01.2022

**Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir**

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

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  
DIPK-17380/21



# '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.



## 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 Naqash, Conservator of Forests, Wildlife/Regional Wildlife Warden, Kash-

mir 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/

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 for them.

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.

## Div Com visits Noorbagh; inspects roads, drainage system

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR:- The Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole on Wednesday visited SDA Colony Noorbagh. Srinagar to take cognizance of the difficulties faced by the rehabilitated families due to defunct drainage system and inundated interior roads.

He was accompanied by VC Srinagar Development Authority; Joint Commissioner SMC; UEED officers and other officers from allied departments.

On the occasion, Div Com was apprised by the residents about the difficulties faced by them due to the defunct drainage system which has led to inundation of roads.

The locals said that it has become difficult for people to commute through these inundated roads which adds to their hardships.

On the Occasion, Div Com issued on spot directions for redressal of grievances faced by residents.

He directed the concerned department to expedite construction of the sewage treatment plant and make it functional by March, 2022.

## 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 district.

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 removal of encroachments on state/kachhari land, Commissioner Secretary directed all the Tehsildars to intensify the anti-encroachment drive so that all identified encroached state/kachharie 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 scrutiny.

## 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 Srinagar within seven days from the publication of this notice. No objection will be entertained after the said time. Kashaf Rashid D/o Rashid Ahmad Kawos R/o 49, Exchange Road, Lal Chowk Srinagar 190001

از دفتر نائب تحصیلدار کلکتہ درخواست منجانب غلام نبی چوپان ولد غلام رسول چوپان ساکنہ کلکتہ تحصیل کریری برادر وصول RBA سرٹیفیکٹ بحق دخر زینت فاروق تحت ہی آر 144,294,375 آ اشتہار برادر گاہی ہر خاص و عام معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں درخواست سائل دفتر پڑا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اس نسبت پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ بشمول مطلوبہ تقوالات ریکارڈ طلب کے گئے جس سے عہماں ہوتا ہے کہ سائل ساکنہ بارزوشن میں رہائش پذیر ہے۔ کنبہ کی سالانہ آمدنی 72000 ہے کنبہ بذیل افراد پر مشتمل ہے فاروق احمد بٹ و سربرہ 48 زمینداری 6000 آمدنی نیسہ بیگم زوبہ 25 گھر بیوکام زینت فاروق دختر 21 زینت فاروق دختر 18 اور فاروق دختر اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد کنبہ نہیں بتلا یا گیا ہے سرٹیفیکٹ زیر بحث اجراء کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا شخص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ نائب تحصیلدار ash k r

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## 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."

Termining the acid attack on a girl at Osmania Colony, Wantpora, Hawal in Srinagar as extreme, 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 punished.

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.

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

PRAYERS
FAJR 6: 03
ZUHR 12:44
ASR 4:22
Magrib 6:04
ISHA 7:26
HIJRI CALENDAR 1443

## This Day In History

- 1488 - Bartolomeu Dias discovers Mosselbaai (Angra dos Vaqueros)
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 agriculture
1865 - Hampton Roads Peace Conference, Lincoln & Stephens reach an impasse
1867 - Prince Mutsuhito, 14, becomes Emperor Meiji of Japan (1867-1912)
1870 - US state of Iowa ratifies the 15th Amendment of the United States Constitution allowing suffrage for all races & colour
1876 - Albert Spalding with \$800 starts sporting goods co, manufacturing 1st official baseball.
1915 - Turkish & German army reach Suez Canal
1924 - Switzerland claims the inaugural Olympic bobsleigh gold medal at the Chamonix Games, ahead of Great Britain and Belgium
1928 - Paleontologist 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 Islands.
1945 - Almost 1,000 Flying Fortresses drop 3,000 tons of bombs on Berlin
1962 - US President John F. Kennedy bans all trade with Cuba except 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 Jimmy Carter discuss the Middle East peace process in Washington, D.C.
1994 - President Bill Clinton lifts US trade embargo against Vietnam
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 explosive-packed 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

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 Shankaracharya of Puv and various other prominent Hindu religious leaders. The decision to send two executive members of the Hurriyat to Kumbh was taken after the top leadership of the conglomerate held detailed talks with Pandit N K Sharma, political advisor to former prime minister P V Narasimha Rao. Sharma will accompany the Hurriyat delegation, which is likely to include Mirwaiz Omer Farooq, religious 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 Adhyokshanada before talking to the Hurriyat leaders. (KASHMIR OBSERVER, 03 February, 2001)

KASHMIR  
OBSERVER

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K O V I E W

## Ray Of Hope?

India 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.

O T H E R O P I N I O N

## Blissful Ignorance

The 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 socio-economic 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

**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.**

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 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. There-

fore, 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, invisibilizing 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.

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 misogynist 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 society 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



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## Respecting Women Online

COVID-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.

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 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 lingers.

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 is done.

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 traveling 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 Bennett, 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 Jennifer 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](mailto: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

The 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 mask fits.

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-

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.

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 coronavirus 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, well-fitting 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.

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### 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.





## 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 was the best-placed Indian at 20th position, having dropped a run while pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah fell two places to 26th.

No Indian featured in the all-rounders' 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 matches.

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 Livingstone (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 team arrived in Ahmedabad this morning for its upcoming limited overs series against India.

The 'Men in Maroon' will be playing three ODIs at the Narendra 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.

"We arrive safely in Ahmedabad! The Men in Maroon have a quick turnaround, as WI get ready to play @BCCI in 3 ODI's

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

The Windies Cricket also posted a video of the players arriving at the Ahmedabad airport.

The Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA), which will be hosting the three ODIs, has already stated that the matches will be played behind closed doors due to the current COVID-19 situation.

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

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

West Indies recently beat England in a closely fought T20 series in the Caribbean.

## Kerala Olympic Games Rescheduled

Press Trust of India

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** The first-ever Kerala Olympic Games, slated to be held in mid-February, has been rescheduled for May after considering the pandemic situation.

The Kerala Olympic Association (KOA) said the Games would be organised from May 1 to 10. The office-bearers of the association told reporters here that the Olympic Expo in which sports goods and equipment manufacturers were to participate was rescheduled to April 29.

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 30.

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

In December last, Kerala Education Minister V Sivankutty un-

veiled the mascot of the Games Neeraj (rabbit) in honour of Neeraj Chopra, the first Indian athlete, to win an Olympic gold medal.

Athletics, aquatics, archery, basketball, boxing, badminton, cycling, football, wrestling, hockey, judo, karate, kabbadi (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 expected to take part in the Games.



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 India's Winter Olympics contingent, Mohammad Abbas Wani, has tested positive for COVID-19 upon arrival at the Beijing Airport here.

Abbas Wani is a part of the six-member Indian delegation at the Winter Olympics where Jammu and Kashmir skier Arif Khan is the only athlete from the country to have qualified 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 hotel room at Olympic village

& have been asked to restrict my movement within the room only until the results of my 2nd Covid test. I am completely fine & asymptomatic," he tweeted.

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president Narinder Batra informed about Abbas Wani's positive COVID result and said chef de mission Harjinder is coordinating with the Winter Olympics organisers for a re-test.

"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," Batra said.

The Winter Olympics will be

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 Galwan Valley in eastern Ladakh, 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 reported.

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 Winter Olympic Games.

## Saudi Arabia's Role In Transfer Market Revival In Pandemic

Agencies

**LONDON:** 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 ability to spend on players. The news of Premier League spending over the last month reaching 295 million pounds (\$400 million) was celebrated by sports minister Nigel Huddleston in the hours after clubs completed their final trades of the season.

"Good to see the Premier League recovering so strongly from the pandemic," Huddleston tweeted, "with January transfer window spending levels at second highest ever." In fact, deducting the amount recouped from sales from total expenditure showed that Premier League clubs had the highest net spend of 180 million pounds since the January transfer window was introduced in 2003, according to a tally by accountancy firm Deloitte.

The ability to so significantly 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.

But it's the government's warmth toward investment from Saudi Arabia that has also contributed to the headline figure trumpeted by Huddleston. In the first transfer window since the takeover of Newcastle by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund was approved by the Premier League — defying the pleas of human rights activists but reflecting Britain's embrace of the kingdom — the northeast club accounted for 90 million pounds in player spending. And the Public Investment Fund would have splurged even more, as it pursued more than the five deals it got over the line before Monday's transfer cutoff.

Now this is the squad Newcastle is stuck with until May in its mission to ensure its first season with the wealthiest

owners in world football does not end in relegation. Escaping the drop zone means only wip-



lion pounds by them, according to Deloitte. The desperation to avoid relegation is reflected by Everton, which is in 16th place and four points above the drop zone, spending more than 50 million pounds on players on top of the cost of replacing manager Rafa Benitez 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 pre-pandemic levels and remarkably among the highest we've ever 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 Premier League rivals.

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 the Bundesliga. Calum Ross, assistant director in the Sports Business Group at Deloitte, 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 streams.

"Provided fans continue to return to stadiums and disruption to the football season ahead remains limited," Ross said, "we should see revenues, and therefore transfer spend, continue to increase in the seasons ahead." (AP)

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



Press Trust of India

**MELBOURNE:** Seasoned Australian pacer Josh Hazlewood said 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 Taylor-led 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 21-25), which will also be the venue

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 sidelines.

"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 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 Mitchell was on Wednesday named the recipient of 2021's ICC 'Spirit of Cricket' award for 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 to be controversial in such a big game. It paid off in the long run that we won the game. Looking back, it all happened pretty quickly." The incident occurred on the first ball of the 18th over

bowled by Adil Rashid, with the score at 133/4 and James Neesham on strike.

Neesham smashed the ball down the ground and it would have been an easy single.

But Mitchell, at the non-striker'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-striker 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. Neesham (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 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 right way."

## 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. Second-half goals from Kim Jin-su and Kwon Chang-hoon on Tuesday gave the Koreans a comfortable victory over the bottom team in Asia Group A qualifying.

South Korea, the 15th nation to qualify for the 32-team field, moved 11 points clear of third-place United Arab Emirates with two games remaining.

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 to playoffs. In Group B, a first-half goal from Takumi Minamino set Japan on the way to beating Saudi Arabia 2-0 at Saitama Stadium and keeping the host on course for a seventh successive World Cup appearance.