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P5 STATE

23 J&K HOSPITALS WITH 1705 BEDS DESIGNATED FOR COVID-19 PATIENTS

Amid a surge in COVID-19 cases across Jammu and Kashmir, the government on Saturday designated 23 hospitals as dedicated hospitals for treatment including 15 in Kashmir division and...

THINK

A LIFE DEVOTED TO FOSTERING TRUST & GOODWILL

IN 2009, a publication by the Georgetown University, USA titled "The 500 Most Influential Muslims of 2009" described Maulana Wahiduddin Khan "Islam's Spiritual Ambassador to the world." His approach, the book points out, is...



P4 WORLD

COVID IN INDIA: PAKISTANIS POUR THEIR HEARTS OUT FOR INDIANS

Mutual hard feelings melt in the face of the raging contagion that has emerged as a common enemy. India, which recorded 346,000 Covid-19 new Covid-19 infections...



Quote!
After the major sins which must be avoided, the greatest sin is that someone dies in a state of debt and leaves behind no asset to pay it off.
—Hadith (Darimi)

12 TH RAMAZAN		
	Iftar TODAY	Sehri TOMMOROW
FIQAH HANAFIYA	07:13	04:19
FIQAH JAFARIYA	07:19	04:17

NEWS DIGEST

Soldier Injured In Grenade Blast

SRINAGAR: A soldier was injured on Saturday in an accidental grenade blast in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. Havildar Jitendra Kumar of 8 Garh was injured around 1815 hours on Saturday when a hand grenade exploded at Tila Post in the frontier district, they said. Kumar, who suffered injuries in right hand, was airlifted to army. **More On P10**

Militant Held From Budgam: Police

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have arrested a militant from Chrar-e-Shareef area of central Kashmir's Budgam district. Gulzar Ahmad Bhat of Arwani village in Anantnag district was arrested by police, army's 53RR and the personnel of CRPF 181 battalion during an input driven joint search operation in village Nagbal. **More On P10**

Youth Booked For Holding 12 Bore Rifle

SRINAGAR: Police have booked a youth for possessing unauthorised 12-bore rifle in Hokersar area of the city outskirts. Sahil Ahmad Dar of Hokersar in the city outskirts was caught along with his unauthorised 12-bore rifle by the officials of the wildlife department on the basis of specific information, an official said. The youth, he said, failed to produce. **More On P10**

5 Detained For 'Breach Of Peace' In Ramban

BANIHAL: Five persons were taken into preventive custody for breach of peace in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district, police said on Saturday. The action followed a complaint by a woman from Ramban's Nai Basti village, alleging that five persons belonging to another community are disputing with her over a piece of land and attacking her family, the police said. **More On P10w**

Curfew Imposed Across J&K To Combat Coronavirus Spread



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir administration announced a 34-hour curfew from 8 pm on Saturday amid a surge in coronavirus cases

in the Union Territory.

"Complete corona curfew to be observed in the Union Territory from 8 PM, 24th April (Saturday) till 6 AM, April 26 (Monday). Essential and emergency services to

be allowed. All market, commercial institutions will remain closed," the office of Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha said in a tweet. On April 8, a night curfew from 10 pm **More On P10**

23 Hospitals Turned Into Covid-19 Facilities

Amid a spike in coronavirus infections, the Jammu and Kashmir authorities on Saturday turned 23 hospitals into dedicated COVID-19 facilities. According to an order issued by the Health and Medical Education Department, 15 health institutions with a total bed capacity of 1,194 have been notified as COVID-19 hospitals in Kashmir. Similarly, eight health institutions with a bed capacity of 511 were declared COVID-19- **More On P10**

Govt Announces Free Vaccines For All

The Jammu and Kashmir government on Saturday announced to provide the coronavirus vaccine jabs free of cost to all eligible people across the Union Territory. "It has been decided that COVID-19 vaccination for people in the age group 18-45 years will be cost-free in the UT. The cost of the vaccine will be fully borne by the government of J&K. The health department will constitute a panel to work out the logistics," the L-G's office **More On P10**

50% Staff Attendance Ordered In Edu Institutes

Government on Saturday ordered restricting attendance of staff to 50% in all educational institutions including school, colleges, universities and technical education during closure amid covid-19. "During the closure of educational institutions (school / colleges / universities / technical education etc.) attendance of staff in person shall be restricted to 50 percent only," reads an order by Member Secretary, **More On P10**

BSF Foils Arms Drop Via Drones in Jammu

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: The Border Security Force (BSF) on Saturday claimed to have foiled Pakistan's attempt to airdrop arms and ammunition by drones along the International Border (IB) when alert troops opened fire on two such flying objects on entering Indian airspace in Arnia sector here, a spokesperson of the force said.

Both the unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) were spotted hovering in Jabbawal and Vikram border outpost area between 4.30 am and 4.45 am and returned to Pakistani side after the alert BSF personnel fired around 15 rounds in an attempt to bring them down, officials said.

Pakistan is using drones to drop weapons and drugs with the latest attempt coming at a time when there is peace on the borders in Jammu and Kashmir after India and Pakistan agreed to uphold the 2003 ceasefire agreement from the **More On P10**

Pak Lists 5 Demands To Begin Bilateral Talks With India: Report

Observer Monitoring Desk

SRINAGAR: Pakistan has listed five demands, including return of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, release of political prisoners, removal of communication and movement blockade, reducing footprints of soldiers and acknowledgment of Kashmir as an internationally recognised territorial dispute before holding formal bilateral talks with New Delhi, a media report said on Saturday.

Quoting highly-placed Pakistani sources familiar with the development, Al-Jazeera reported that Islamabad was willing to hold formal bilateral talks



with New Delhi to resolve all issues, including Kashmir if the latter takes certain steps to "ease lives" in Kashmir.

"Pakistan is genuinely standing by the Kashmir cause, of course the territory is an internationally

recognised dispute, but the first thing we have to do is make sure Kashmiri lives are eased," Al-Jazeera quoted one source as saying.

The report quoted the sources citing "examples" of concrete **More On P10**

NOTABLY ABSENT FROM PAKISTAN'S demands is the reimplement of Article 370, which was revoked on August 5, 2019, by the Modi government.

Tele-Psychiatric, Psychological Services Started In J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday launched tele-psychiatric, psychological services across Kashmir Valley to motivate people to remain mentally and physically healthy besides to dispel their stress, fear and anxiety during the coronavirus pandemic.

According to an official spokesperson, the tele-psychiatric and psychological services

have been started in Kashmir division on the directions of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole to dispel stress, fear and anxiety among the people during the ongoing Pandemic.

Under the directions of Pole, a team of doctors and experts shall remain available for the general public through various toll free numbers and mobile phones from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm to provide counselling to people for their **More On P10**

Police Arrests 3 'Lashkar OGWs' For Bank Robberies

Trio Also Killed A Civilian, Looted Petrol Pump: Police

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Saturday claimed to have cracked the sensational case of a bank robbery in north Kashmir's Pattan by arresting three people, who

were involved in the heist and other robberies in district Budgam as well.

In a statement issued to media here, a police spokesperson said that an FIR was registered at the police station Pattan and a special investigation team was constituted after receiving information **More On P10**

PMDP Sponsored Small Hydro Projects In J&K Hit Roadblock

Only Rs 1.94 Crore Utilized Against Financial Outlay Of Rs 2000 Crore

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The ambitious project of setting up of small hydro projects in Jammu and Kashmir under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) has come to a grinding halt.

Official documents reveal that only Rs 1.94 crore has been utilized for setting up the small hydro projects in the Union Territory till date against the financial outlay of Rs 2000 crore

for it under the package.

So far, the documents reveal, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has sanctioned Rs 27.71 crore for the project and only Rs 3.86 crore has been released out of it, the documents reveal.

According to the documents, out of 23 projects proposed to be set-up under the package, only three have awarded or are under process of award. Of 23 small hydroelectric projects proposed to be set-up under the package, seven are in range of 2-10 megawatts and 16 of 10-25 MWs.

An official of Power Development Corporation, wishing not to be named, said that there has been no progress under these projects **More On P10**

J&K BJP Chief Claims Death Threat From Lashkar

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Saturday claimed that he has received a death threat from a Pakistani militant affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

He said he took up the matter with Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police Dilbag Singh, who assured him that a proper investigation would be carried out in the matter.

However, there was no official word from the police about the death threat received by Raina.

The BJP leader claimed he received a call from a Pakistani mobile number around 5:30



PM on Saturday and the caller introduced himself as a commander of LeT.

"He warned me to leave Jammu and Kashmir and also sent me a video on WhatsApp," Raina said. In the over three-and-a-half-minute video, a masked man armed with **More On P10**

Pleasant Weather In Kashmir After Wet Spell

Agencies

SRINAGAR: As the wet weather makes way for clear skies, the minimum temperatures remained below normal in Kashmir Valley with Gulmarg recording a low of minus 3.4 degree Celsius, officials said on Saturday.

A meteorological department official said that Srinagar recorded a low of 5.6 degree Celsius against 4.6 degree Celsius on the previous night while it received 0.2mm of rain in the last 24 hours till 0830 a.m. Saturday. The temperature was



3.5 degree Celsius below normal in the summer capital of J&K for this time of the season, he said.

Qazigund recorded a low of 3.2 degree Celsius against previous night's **More On P10**

SRINAGAR BOUND TRAFFIC ON HIGHWAY TODAY

The 270-km Jammu-Srinagar Jammu, the only surface link connecting Kashmir valley with the outside world, will be open for one way traffic on Sunday, officials said. "Subject to fair weather and better road condition, LMVs (passenger) shall be allowed from Jammu towards Srinagar on the highway," the traffic department said **More On P10**



To place an advertisement
CALL +91-194 2502327
Monday - Saturday (9am - 6pm)
No 5- Dal Lake Boulevard Srinagar, 190001, Kashmir

Sunday| 25.04.2021

KASHMIR OBSERVER

2

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

Scholarship Name 1: IIT Ropar Department of Chemistry Junior Research Fellowship 2021

Description: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar invites applications for IIT Ropar Department of Chemistry Junior Research Fellowship 2021 from master's degree holders. The fellowship requires the candidate to work on the project titled, "Development of Porous Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs) for Catalytic Conversion of Carbon Dioxide to Fine Chemicals".

Eligibility: The fellowship is open for candidates who hold a Master's or equivalent degree in Chemistry/Materials Science and have also obtained first-class (6.5 grades point out of 10) or 60% marks (55% marks for SC/ST) along with qualified UGC/CSIR-NET or GATE.

Prizes & Rewards: As per DST norms
Last Date to Apply: 09-05-2021
Application mode: Via email only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/DCF2

Scholarship Name 2: Life Time Contribution Award in Engineering 2021

Description: Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) is

inviting applications for Life Time Contribution Award in Engineering 2021 from eminent engineers (INAE fellows). The award aims to recognize lifetime contributions in Engineering made by eminent people in any Branch of Engineering within the purview of the Academy.

Eligibility: The fellowship is open for Indian candidates who are INAE fellows but not a Member of the INAE Council during the year of the award. Alongside, the candidate must have made a distinguished contribution in the field of Engineering/Engineering Research/ Engineering Education/ Technology Development/ Engineering Services or Management, which had brought prestige to the nation and had been regarded as landmarks of technological excellence in the country.

Prizes & Rewards: INR 5 lakh in cash and a citation
Last Date to Apply: 15-05-2021
Application mode: Via post only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/FCA7

Scholarship Name 3: NIT Meghalaya Department of Mechanical Engineering Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) 2021

Description: National Institute of Technology, Meghalaya invites applications for NIT Meghalaya Department of Mechanical Engineering Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) 2021 from master's degree holders. The fellowship is meant for the project titled, "Development of a Novel Solar-driven Dedicated Outdoor Air System (DOAS) for Space Heating and Liquid Desiccant Dehumidification with Direct/Indirect Contact Heat/Mass Exchangers for Meghalaya Region".

Eligibility: The fellowship is open for candidates below 28 years of age who hold an M.Tech/M.E. (or B.Tech) degree in Mechanical Engineering with specialization in Fluid/Thermal Engineering with a minimum of 60% marks, or have obtained an equivalent in Master's degree (or 75% marks or an equivalent in Bachelor's degree). Added to this, they should be GATE qualified.

Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 35,000 per month
Last Date to Apply: 06-05-2021
Application mode: Via email only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/TMM

Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Office of the Executive Engineer, R&B Sub-Division Magam.

Quotation for preparing designing for construction of marriage hall with extra office room behind existing town hall at Ward No. 01 Municipal Committee Kunzer (With provision of residential Room at 1st floor)

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, the Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Magam invites sealed quotation for below mentioned item affixed with Four Rupees revenue Stamps from various Authorised / registered designer which should reach the office of the Executive Engineer Gulmarg Development Authority Tangmarg on 01/05/2021 upto 2 PM. The quotation will be opened on the same date or any other date convenient to the opening Authority in presence of the quotationers or their authorised representatives who wish to be present there.

S. No.	Particulars	Unit	Qty	Rated to be quoted per No.
1	Design for construction of marriage hall with extra office room behind existing town hall at Ward No. 01 Municipal Committee Kunzer (With provision of residential Room at 1 st floor) Provision 03 sets of drawings.	Set.	01	R.T.Q

Terms and conditions:

- The Rate quoted should be inclusive of all taxes applicable presently as per norms.
- The offered rates should be covered with transparent tape; otherwise the tenders will be rejected.
- The rates quoted by the quotationer should be both in figures and words.
- Penalty upto the extent of 10% shall be imposed upon the successful quotationer in case of delay.
- The payment will be made only after funds are available with the department.
- The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation or a part thereof without assigning any reasons thereof.
- All other terms and conditions if any will remain the same as already issued vide this office NIT No. 01/R&B of 2020-21.

No: Divn./R&B/M/262-67
Dated: 22-04-2021

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
R&B Sub-Division Magam.

DIPK-780/21

Union Territory Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No- 04 of RnB-Sopore of 2021-2022 e-tendering DATED- 25.04.2021.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K, e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/ DOC (In Rs)	Time of Completion In days	Time & Date of Opening of Bid	Class of Contractor	M. H of Account	Position of AAA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
01	Construction of Dak Bunglow at Chijhama way of providing of balance. finishing items.	5.75 lacs	300/-	25 days	11.05.2021	DEE		Approved

Position of funds: Available

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other detail's can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

01.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	25.04.2021
02.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 25.04.2021 (10.00 A.M) to 10.05.2021 (4.00P.M)
03.	Bid submission start date	25.04.2021 from (04.00P.M)
04.	Bid submission end date	10.05.2021 upto (4.00P.M)
05.	Date & time of opening Bids (on line)	11.05.2021 at (04.10 P.M) in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore (tender inviting authority) and Bid security Declaration as per format given in SBD. The EMD has to be submitted by the lowest bidder L1 (3% of quoted cost) within the period as specified in SBD.

3. All Bidders have to submit Bid security Declaration form instead of Earnest money as per circular of Finance Department (Bid Security declaration from is as per Annexure "A" below.

4.The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDR within 02 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work/DLP.

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same web site in the office of the Tender receiving authority).

6. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical Bids.

7. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

7.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website www.jktenders.gov.in acquaint bid submission process.

7.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get "Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)" as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendor.

7.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.

7.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1

7.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.

18. The tender/bid is liable to rejection if it does not full fill the requirements as laid down in NIT.

19 The earnest money in favour of unsuccessful/ Non-responsive bidders shall be released only after ensuring submission of tender document fee in original with the tender receiving authority, irrespective of submission of hard copies and failure of submission of tender document fee be bidder using the site shall entail him or blacklisting.

20. All other terms, conditions shall remain same as per NIT No: 2 of 2020-21 issued under No; 641-61 dated: 22.4.2020 PWD form 25 (Double agreement form)

21. If the contractor/HMPO quotes rate for any item of work in his tender as free of cost at the time of tendering process, his tender shall be rejected out rightly.

For and on behalf of the,
Lt. Governor of J&K UT,

Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Sopore

No:- 776-96

Dated:- 25.04.2021

DIPK-814/21

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Office of the Chief Executive Officer SRINAGAR SMART CITY LTD

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-N.I.T NO:- 01/SSCL of 04/2021 DT:- 22-04-2021

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor UNION Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Tenders are invited by e-tendering mode from approved Registered firms eligible "AAY/BEE Class Contractors" with J&K UT PWD/MES/Railways for the works detailed in the table below.

Position of funds:- (Available)

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Organization	Estimated Cost	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Head of Account	Class	Time Allowed for completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Establishment of Food Court at Vendor Zone near Magarmal Bagh Srinagar	Chief Executive Officer SRINAGAR SMART CITY LTD	Rs. 34.68 lacs	Rs. 1500/- Pledged to Chief Executive Officer SRINAGAR SMART CITY LTD	SSCL	AAY/BEE	45 Days

2.	Date of publication of E-tender:-	23/04/2021
3.	Document Download/Sale Start date:-	23/04/2021 from 1000 Hrs. on http://www.jktenders.gov.in
4.	Bid submission Start Date	23/04/2021 from 1000 Hrs.
5.	Bid Submission Close Date	08/05/2021 Up to 1600 Hrs.
6.	Date and Time for Opening Bid	10/05/2021 at 1400Hrs
9.	Place of opening bids:-	Office of the Chief Executive Officer Srinagar Smart City Ltd. Srinagar.
10.	Period of bid validity:-	120-days
11.	Officer inviting Bid:-	(Chief Executive Officer Srinagar Smart City Ltd. Srinagar)

1. a. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 23-04-2021 to 08-05-2021 up to 1600 Hrs. The bids received will be opened on 10-05-2021 at 1400 Hrs. online.

b. The complete bidding process will be online.

c. Bids of bidders shall be opened on line in the office of Chief Executive Officer SRINAGAR SMART CITY LTD on 10-05-2021 at 1400 hrs.

d. All the bidders are required to pay Cost of Tender Document in favour of Srinagar Smart City Ltd. "Bank Account Number" 0216010100002252, IFSC, JAKA0SSISGR, MICR: 190051059, Branch SSI Lal Chowk Srinagar.

e. The original copies of Cost of Tender Document shall reach to the Office of Chief Executive Officer Srinagar Smart City Limited (Address: 1st Floor Budshah Building, Lal Chowk, Srinagar, 190001, J&K) before the last date of opening of online bids.

2. Bid documents can be viewed at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> Bid documents contain qualifying criteria for bidder, specifications, conditions and other details.

3. The site for the work is available.

4. Bids must be accompanied by cost of Tender Document as specified in column 5 of the table above payable at Srinagar pledged to Chief Executive Officer SRINAGAR SMART CITY LTD. The cost of downloaded tender documents shall be in the form of Demand Draft pledged to Chief Executive Officer Srinagar Smart City Ltd. a. Bids will be opened in the office of the Chief Executive Officer SRINAGAR SMART CITY LTD on 10-05-2021 at 1400hrs. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

7. The bid for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period of 120-days from the date of opening of bids.

8. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process

a. The interested bidder can download the NIT/bidding document from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

b. To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get (DSC) "Digital Signature Certificate" as per Information Technology Act-2000, to participate in online bidding.

This certificate will be required for digitally signing the bid bidders can get abovementioned digital certificate from any approved vendors. The Bidders, who already possess valid (DSC) Digital Signature Certificates, need not to procure new Digital Signature Certificate.

c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with Digital Signature. The bids cannot be uploaded without Digital Signature No Proposal will be accepted in physical form.

d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para 3 (a).

e. Before submission of online bids, bidders must ensure that scanned copy of all the necessary documents have been attached with bid. Details of Document required is available along with downloadable tender document on <http://jktenders.gov.in>

f. The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission of bids whatsoever reasons may be.

g. All the required information for bid must be filled and submitted online.

h. The tenderer should quote his rate in such a way that the total work amounts without a fraction. In any case if the amount is in fractional form the amount between 0 to 50 Paisa will be treated as Nil and above 50 Paisa rounded up to next rupee. (The fraction will be limited to TWO digits only).

i. In case two or more tenders have quoted equal amounts for executing the work the allotment shall be made to the bidder having highest turnover for last three consecutive years. FY (2018-19) FY (2019-20) FY (2020-21)

10. Bidders can contact the undersigned for any guidance for getting DSC or any other relevant details in respect of e-tendering process.

11. In case of lowest bid value being below the advertised cost, following additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR shall have to be deposit by the successful bidder within a week from the date of intimation.

For Contract value

Up to 0% to 15% below for the advertised cost.

Beyond 15% to 20% below the advertised cost.

Beyond 20% to 30% below the advertised cost

Performance security

5%

10%

20%

UNBALANCED BIDS

Bid of the Successful Bidder is said to be unbalanced when the bid is more than or less than 30% in relation of the advertised cost. In this case the Bidder has to produce detailed price analysis for any or all items of the Bill of Quantities, to demonstrate the internal consistency of those prices with the construction methods and schedule proposed. After evaluation of the price analysis, the proposed work may require that the amount of the performance security set forth be increased at the expense of the successful Bidder to a level sufficient to protect the Quality of work against financial loss in the event of default of the successful Bidder under the Contract.

The bidders are instructed to read carefully the BOQ. Items showing blank cells in the column of "Rates" should be treated as RTQ (Rate to be quoted). The bidders should accordingly bid rates for all items.

12. Special Condition

a. The Bidder Must Upload all relevant Documents in order of following:

Registration Certificate Demand Draft

PAN GST Registration and Recent GST Return

Recent ITR. Bank Statement/Balance Sheet etc

b. The work should be completed within stipulated time mentioned above from the date LOI / Allotment order. In case of any delay in completion of work, a penalty of Rs. 2000/- day shall be imposed upon the contractor to whom the work is allotted.

c. Quality Assurance/Quality Control should be maintained as per Engineer In charge/ Site Engineer.

13. In case a Tenderer does not quote rate for any item/items, the same shall be taken as free of cost for all purposes and nothing extra shall be considered for working out total contract value on this account.

14. Key Material:- The contractor shall arrange all the required key construction materials subject to the condition that the arranged material confirm to the BIS / ISO standard.

15. The guidelines for submission of bid online can be downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

16. The Quantities mentioned in the BOQ are purely tentative and are likely to get changed as per the actual requirements at site.

DIPK-NB-439/21

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Srinagar Smart City Ltd.

SRINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER LEFT RIVER WORKS DIVISION

**M/S Social Welfare of India,
145 Lane No. 2 Vidhata Nagar
Bathindi Jammu.**

**Subject: Construction of Lavatory Block at Anchari Mohalla Saida Kadal
(Site changed to: DPL Karan Nagar vide No. SMC/JCW/SE/4634-40 dated: 10-01-2020) ——— Final Notice**

Whereas above cited work has been allotted to you vide Allotment No. SMC/EEERRWD/869-73 dated: 07-09-2017.

Whereas time of completion as stipulated in the allotment order is 90 days from the date of issue of allotment i.e. 07-09-2017.

Whereas you started the work on 12-01-2020 but failed to maintain the progress and have subsequently abandoned/left work unattended since long.

Whereas notices have been issued to you for completion of various CTPT works vide Joint Commissioner Works No. SMC/JCW/SE/3671-78 dated: 21-11-2019, Commissioner SMC No. SMC/PS/Com/TO/1141-53 dated: 09-12-2019, Executive Engineer LRWD No. SMC/EELRWD/351-57 dated: 17-06-2020.

Whereas despite lapse of 1318 days, the work continues to be unattended without any progress and same has been viewed seriously by the authorities.

Whereas through the medium of this office notice No: SMC/EELRWD/8005-12 dated: 25-03-2021 served to you by registered post vide No. EE893708635IN dated: 26-03-2021 and published in 2 local dailies dated 28-03-2021 & 29-03-2021, you were asked to resume work in 05 days but again you failed to recommence the same.

Now you are hereby given last and final opportunity to resume the work within 05 days from the date of issue of this notice failing which it will be construed that you are not interested in executing the balance work and same shall be got executed through some other agency and extra cost if involved shall be recovered from you under rules. Besides action for cancellation of your registration as NGO shall be initiated.

No: SMC/EELRWD/ 227-234

Dated: 20-04-2021

Executive Engineer,
Left River Works Division,
Srinagar Municipal Corporation.

DIPK-NB-415/21

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Covid-19: Srinagar Logs 6400 Cases In A Fortnight

'5,489 Cases Active, Admin Notifies 48 Areas As Micro Containment Zones

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The active coronavirus positive cases in capital city Srinagar have crossed 5400-mark on Saturday with official data revealing that the summer capital has recorded over 6400 cases in the last 15 days. The district administration has also declared 48 localities across Srinagar as Micro Containment Zones in the last nearly one month.

The toll of active positive cases of COVID-19 cases has reached to 5489. The data reveals that the summer capital has recorded 6,464 positive cases in the last 15 days.

On April 11, Srinagar recorded 362 cases of COVID-19 while on April 12, Srinagar recorded 303 positive cases. According to the data 423 cases were recorded on April 13 while 388 positive cases were recorded on April 14.

Srinagar reported 418 and

407 positive cases on April 15 and 16 respectively, the data said, adding that On April 17, Srinagar recorded 319 positive cases while on April 18 and 19, 520 and 383 positive cases respectively have been detected in the summer capital.

On April 20, Srinagar recorded 647 positive cases while on April 21, the summer capital recorded 612 cases. The data revealed that 590 COVID cases were recorded on April 22 while 501 cases were recorded on April 23.

Srinagar recorded a total of 591 cases today, thus adding the number of cases from the last 15 days to 6,464.

According to the data, the district has a total of 5489 active positive cases at present.

With the recovery of 363 people today, the overall toll of recovered patients so far has mounted to 32025 in the district. A total of 500 deaths have also been reported so far across the district, the data said.

Additional to several government orders 48 localities across Srinagar have been declared as Micro containment Zones.

Admin Starts Vaccination Drive In Srinagar Markets

Observer News Service

Amid a spike in the COVID-19 cases, the district administration Srinagar has started vaccination drive in market places in the district.

The health officials carried out COVID vaccination drive in the historic Jamia Masjid market, located in the Old City area of Nowhatta yesterday.

Witnesses said that the people who had come to offer prayers at Jamia Masjid or other passersby in the market were vaccinated. Today, the drive was carried out at the commercial hub Lal Chowk, where traders were vaccinated.

Meanwhile, Lal Chowk traders Association have expressed gratitude to the administration for carrying out the vaccination drive. Talking to media persons, members of traders Association said that they are thankful to deputy commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Tehsildar, Patwari and others for organising the vaccination drive here today. "Amid steep rise in the COVID-19 cases, we appeal to the shopkeepers and general people to come forward and get vaccinated as the vaccination drive will continue for three days here," the traders said.

Dr Mahoor Shafi, who was part of the drive, said that it's great to see positive response from the people vis-à-vis getting vaccinated. "The vaccine is not stopping virus but it gives immunity to protect oneself from getting infected," she said—(KNO)

J&K Bank Qamarwari Shut After Nine Employees Test Positive

Observer News Service

The Jammu and Kashmir Bank authorities Saturday ordered closure of its Qamarwari branch for at least five days after two of its staff members tested Covid positive.

Chief Medical Officer Qamarwari, Dr Sameer said that nine employees of JK Bank Qamarwari were detected Covid positive in the main branch of JK Bank Qamarwari.

He said that after the sanitisation of the bank, the bank was closed for five days.

He said primary contacts of these employees will be tested after quarantine of 5 days adding that all the primary and secondary contacts of the affected employees have been advised to self isolate.

Khanyar Declared Micro Containment Zone After 50 Test Positive

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The district administration Srinagar on Saturday declared Khanyar area of Srinagar as a Containment Zone after 50 positive cases were detected from the area in the last two days.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar Muhammad Aijaz Asad in a tweet said that over 50 positive cases were detected during mass

sampling in Khanyar area in last two days.

He added that after detection of cases, Khanyar area has been declared as a Containment Zone.

"Over 50 Positive cases reported from Khanyar area during mass sampling in the last two days. Therefore, Khanyar is hereby notified as a Containment zone. Pl cooperate with the field staff. Let's #BreakThe-Chain," DC Srinagar tweeted.

'13K Litres Medical Oxygen Generation Capacity In Srinagar Hospitals'



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad Saturday chaired a meeting to take stock of the availability of Medical Oxygen in City hospitals and subsequent allocation of the same among all hospitals functioning in Srinagar.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, SSP Srinagar, SSP Traffic Srinagar City, Medical Superintendents of SMHS, Lal Ded, Chest Disease, Bone & Joint, JLN, SKIMS, G.B Pant, SKIMS JVC hospitals and Kashmir Nursing Home were present in the meeting besides CMO Srinagar, Nodal Officer Covid Control Room and representatives of various Medical Oxygen Plants operating in Srinagar.

The DC urged all Medical Superintendents to work in a coordinated manner to fulfil requirements relating to oxygen and other Covid-19 issues.


He also stressed the need to increase the availability of oxygen cylinders as well as upgrade the logistics facilities for generation and transportation of oxygen supplies.

The DC stressed upon the officers to fill the gaps if any and forecast the Oxygen demand to tackle untoward situations, if any.


He urged the authorities of Police and Traffic to ensure hassle free movement of Oxygen supplies and no oxygen carrying vehicle meant for any hospital or health institution is stopped or gets stranded.

He also told the owners of oxygen plants operating in Srinagar to ensure smooth and prompt supply of oxygen to City hospitals to meet increasing oxygen requirements.

While reviewing hospital wise availability of oxygen supply, the DC was informed that at present City hospitals are having capacity of generating about 13000 litres per minute of oxygen supply for patients. While at industry level about 3000 oxygen cylinders are being produced at different oxygen plants at Rangreth, Khonmoh and Sanat Nagar industrial Estates for hospital supplies.



OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
(JSD) PHE DIVISION, PULWAMA
email : xonphupulwama@gmail.com



از دفتر ایگزیکٹو انجینئر (جل شکتی ڈیپارٹمنٹ) پی ایچ ای ڈویژن پلوامہ

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E-NIT S. No. 04/PHEP/Fresh of 2020-21

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of J&K e-tenders (Two cover System) are invited on Turn Key basis with maintenance period of Three Years which includes DLP of one year from reputed and resourceful contractors /Firms/companies/joint venture of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments for the following works, which should be uploaded on the Procurement web portal <http://jktenders.gov.in> for the subjected work(s) referred below to be received by the Executive Engineer JSD (PHE) Division Pulwama and as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification and to whom all the terms and conditions of detailed e-NIT /Tender Documents/ PWD Form No:- 25 double are accepted. The detailed tender document and Specifications etc. can be downloaded on the e-procurement portal <http://jktenders.gov.in>. The cost of tender documents (Non-refundable/Non-Transferable) should be in the shape of e-Challan or Treasury Challan/Receipt in favour Executive Engineer JSD (PHE) Division Pulwama.

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Cost of Tender Document	Earnest Money Deposit	Time of completion	Tender Opening Authority	Class of Contract
1	Construction of chowkidar quarter, 0.20 lac gallons RCC S.R., Construction of Chain link fencing, construction of retaining wall/ breast wall, including Anchor Blocks and conc. steps with constructions of sluice chamber, up-gradation / improvements to existing quarter, providing, laying & fitting of pipe network including all electrical/mechanical works complete job (on turkey basis) for WSS Khanchipora Lajoora under NABARD including maintenance for a period of three years which includes DLP of 12 months	₹ 148.47 lacs	₹2000/- (Favouring Executive Engineer PHE Division Pulwama under MH 0215)	Bid Security Declaration	10 months	Executive Engineer JSD (PHE) Division Pulwama	"A" Class - Reputed and resourceful contractors/ Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments.

Position of Funds:- Available; Major Head of Account: NABARD

The Bidding documents consisting of eligibility criteria, specification, drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) set of terms & conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the e-procurement Portal "<http://jktenders.gov.in>" as per schedule of dates given below:-

S. No.	Description	Date			Time
		DD	MM	YYYY	
1	Publishing date of NIT	24	04	2021	1600 Hrs
2	Download start date	24	04	2021	1600 Hrs
3	Bid submission start date	24	04	2021	1600 Hrs
4	Bid submission end date	17	05	2021	1600 Hrs
5	Bid opening date (Technical Cover)	19	05	2021	1000 Hrs.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

No:- PHEP/ 420-29
Dated:- 24-04-2021

DIPK-836/21

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
JSD (PHE) Div, Pulwama

Makhdoom Sahab Shrine Fumigated After Imam, Five Others Test Covid Positive

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Makhdoom Sahab shrine was on Saturday fumigated after Imam of the Mosque and five others tested positive for COVID-19.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Wafk Board, Mufti Muhammad Farid-uddin said that six persons including the Imam and five others tested positive at the shrine.

He said that the positive cases have been isolated and the contacts have been asked to self-isolate and get themselves tested.

He said that soon after the positive cases were detected at the shrine, the men from Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) visited the shrine and sanitised it.

"We are monitoring the situation closely and if need arises, we will close the shrine for two or three days," he said.

از نیابت سوپور

عنوان: درخواست منجانب فہیدہ بیگم زوجہ مرحوم فیروز احمد میر ساکنہ سنگرامہ تحصیل سوپور نسبت اجارنی لیگل بہر سرقفیت بابت حاصل کرنے رقم از جمع شدہ بینک اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بمراد عطا یگی لیگل بہر سرقفیت پیش کی ہے۔ جو کہ فتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اور اجرا کرنے مطلوب ہے اس ضمن میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ محمد رمضان کھورو ولد غلام احمد ساکنہ کترال ٹینگ سوپور مورخہ 15-02-2021 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے۔ متوفی مذکورہ کے وارثان ہذیل ہے

سلیمہ بیگم زوجہ متوفی عمر رسیدہ 68 سال

ریاض احمد تجارت 50

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرقفیت زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

gms نائب تحصیلدار

از نیابت سوپور

عنوان: درخواست منجانب فہیدہ بیگم زوجہ مرحوم فیروز احمد میر ساکنہ سنگرامہ تحصیل سوپور نسبت اجارنی لیگل بہر سرقفیت بابت حاصل کرنے رقم از جمع شدہ بینک اشتہار بمراد آگاہی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصدر میں سائل نے ایک درخواست بمراد عطا یگی لیگل بہر سرقفیت پیش کی ہے۔ جو کہ فتر ہذا میں زیر کاروائی ہے اور اجرا کرنے مطلوب ہے اس ضمن میں پٹواری حلقہ سے رپورٹ طلب کی گئی ہے جس سے عیاں ہے کہ فیروز احمد میر ساکنہ سنگرامہ مورخہ 07-12-2020 کو فوت ہو چکا ہے۔ متوفی مذکورہ پیشہ سے مزدور تھا

متوفی مذکورہ کے وارثان ہذیل ہے

فہیدہ بیگم زوجہ متوفی گھریلو کام 45 سال

میر انعام اللہ پسر زیر تعلیم 12

سفینہ فیروز دختر زیر تعلیم 05

اسکے علاوہ کوئی بھی افراد نہیں بتلایا گیا ہے سرقفیت زیر بحث ادا کرنے میں اگر کسی شخص یا اشخاص کو کوئی عذر یا اعتراض ہو تو وہ اپنا عذر یا اعتراض ساتھ یوم کے اندر پیش کریں۔ میعاد گزرنے کے بعد کوئی عذر یا اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہو گا۔

gms نائب تحصیلدار

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

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈️

RAILWAYS



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

HIGHWAY STATUS



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

This Day in History

- 1185 - Sea battle at Dan-no-ura: Minamoto Yoritomo beats Taira-family
- 1507 - German cartographer Martin Waldseemüller first to use the name America on his world map "Universalis Cosmographia"
- 1607 - Battle at Gibraltar: Dutch fleet beats Spanish/Portuguese fleet
- 1626 - Battle at the Dessau bridge: Albrecht von Wallenstein beats Ernst von Mansfeld
- 1678 - French troops conquer Ypres
- 1684 - Patent granted for thimble
- 1684 - Patent granted for thimble
- 1707 - Battle of Almansa; Franco-Spanish forces defeat British and Portuguese 1861 - Battle of Lavaca, Texas (US Civil War)
- Jones & Harry Greenbacks musical premieres in London
- 1846 - Thornton Affair: Open conflict begins over the disputed border of Texas, triggering the Mexican-American War.
- 1859 - Ground broken for Suez Canal
- 1861 - Battle of Lavaca, Texas (US Civil War)
- 1898 - Spanish-American War: The United States declares state of war on Spain effective from 21st April.
- 1905 - Whites win right to vote in South Africa
- 1914 - US President Woodrow Wilson is persuaded by Argentina, Brazil, and Chile to accept mediation in the conflict with Mexico
- 1926 - Persian cossack officer Reza Chan crowns himself Shah Palawi
- 1927 - Spain routes 20,000 soldiers to Morocco (uprising Rifkabylen)
- 1941 - Operation Merkur: Hitler orders conquest of Kreta
- 1945 - Allied air raid on Surabaya, Java
- 1945 - British troops reach Grebbe line Neth
- 1945 - Red army completely surrounds Berlin
- 1945 - Last Boeing B-17 attack against Nazi Germany
- 1957 - 1st experimental sodium nuclear reactor operated
- 1957 - Ibrahim Hashim forms Jordanian government
- 1959 - Then-bishop Karol Wojtyla's celebrates newly completed Nowa Huta, Poland's first ever Mass at midnight of Christmas morning
- 1960 - 1st submerged circumnavigation of Earth completed (Triton)
- 1962 - US Ranger spacecraft crash lands on Moon
- 1972 - Hans-Werner Grosse glides 907.7 miles (1,461 km) in an AS-W-12
- 1976 - Elections in Vietnam for a National Assembly to reunite the country
- 1983 - France performs nuclear test at Muruora Island
- 1983 - NASA space probe Pioneer 10 travels beyond Pluto's orbit.
- 1990 - Hubble space telescope is placed into orbit by shuttle Discovery
- 1991 - Iraq expects to resume crude oil and product exports by July
- 1994 - Bomb attack on taxi stand in Johannesburg, 10 killed
- 1994 - King Azlan Shah of Malaysia resigns
- 2005 - Bulgaria and Romania sign accession treaties to join the European Union
- 2005 - 107 die in Amagasaki rail crash in Japan
- 2011 - At least 300 people killed in deadliest tornado outbreak in the Southern United States since the 1974 Super Outbreak.
- 2012 - The United Kingdom dips back into recession after the economy shrank 0.2% in the first quarter of 2012.
- 2013 - 38 people are killed in a psychiatric hospital fire in Ramensky, Russia
- 2015 - 100 year anniversary of the Gallipoli Peninsula landings in Turkey by ANZAC forces during WWI
- 2015 - 7.8-magnitude earthquake near Kathmandu in Nepal, killing 8000, leaving over 100,000 homeless, destroying many historic sites
- 2018 - Indian religious leader Asaram Bapu is sentenced to life for raping a 16-year old girl

From KO Archives

HIZB READY FOR CONDITIONAL TALKS WITH DELHI

SRINAGAR - Pro-Pakistan Hizbul Mujahideen on Sunday said it would consider entering into a dialogue with the Centre provided their conditions, including stopping of military -operations in Jammu and Kashmir were accepted. They also demanded that Pakistan and Kashmiri political leadership must sit together with them for talks.

"We will join the talks only when the Kashmiri political leadership and Pakistan deems it necessary that militant leadership should share the table with them," Supreme Commander of the outfit, Syed Salahuddin, told a local news agency.

However, he said, This will be done only when India accepts Kashmir as a disputed territory, respects wishes of Kashmiris, withdraw troops to barracks and release all detainees and stop all operations in Jammu and Kashmir.

Acceptance of our conditions will encourage us to enter into dialogue and demonstrate that India was sincere and serious for resolution of Kashmiri issue," Salahuddin said.

About Kashmiri political leadership, he said he has full faith and trust on Syed Ali Shah Geelani, chairman of hardline faction of Hurriyat Conference.

Without referring to the Prime Minister's statement that he was ready for talks with-terrorists provided they lay down arms. Salahuddin said, "We are being asked to surrender arms, which we will not till the last Indian soldier was in Kashmir." (Agencies).

(Kashmir Observer, 25 April, 2005)

'Virtual Ramadan' Helps British Muslims Struggling With Restrictions



CHRISTOPHER HAMILL-STEWART

LONDON: Mental health charity collaborates with Islamic education platform to deliver a series of educational and spiritual workshops throughout Ramadan that will provide Muslims relief from the mental health strain of spending a second straight holy month under tight coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions.

Mental health charity Supporting Humanity has partnered with Islamic education platform Teach Me Islam to deliver the online sessions.

The organizations will provide Islamic talks, children's stories, interactive baking for Iftar, along with health and fitness sessions for free, three times a week throughout the month.

During Ramadan, Muslims fast during the day and normally gather after the sunset to share in food and worship with their friends, family and the wider community.

This Ramadan is the second straight that the UK's 3.3 million Muslims have spent adhering to strict curbs on social gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While last year's curbs saw a total ban on social interaction as the virus swept across the country, this year sees looser restrictions for worshippers. Though the amount of social interaction still falls far short of what Muslims would normally expect from the holiest month on the Islamic calendar.

Nabeela Raza, the CEO of Teach Me Islam, told Arab News that her platform learned from the first Ramadan lockdown just how important it is for people to remain socially engaged and connected during the holy

month, even if it has to be online.

"Last year was the hardest Ramadan that the Muslim community has gone through," Raza said. "A year on, some restrictions still in place are not allowing us to enjoy the company of friends and family, break fast together, and do the things we would usually do."

Raza explained that during the lockdown, and particularly during Ramadan, people need Teach Me Islam's services more than usual.

With online educational services, she said, people were able to "still feel like they had humane interaction or have the personal tutor that gives them the right advice. But it also makes it feel like they are not alone."

In hard times, Raza added, religious education can "provide us with the coping mechanisms and tools we need to make it through."

Supporting Humanity is a London-based mental health charity that has been providing bereavement counseling to many families who have lost loved ones during the pandemic.

In a statement to Arab News, Idris Patel, the CEO of Supporting Humanity, said: "Ramadan is a time for Muslims to spiritually connect as well as remember the less fortunate and give to charity, but it is also a time where families get together."

"The pandemic will make this very difficult this year for many Muslims, and we, as a mental health charity, want people to feel that there is something for the community to log into and be part of and not feel isolated."

The online sessions are free and will run throughout the whole month. (ARABNEWS)

COVID IN INDIA: Pakistanis Pour Their Hearts Out For Neighbours On Social Media

Agencies

India, which recorded 346,000 Covid-19 new Covid-19 infections and 2,624 deaths due to the contagion on Friday, has found unlikely support from its western neighbour Pakistan during the Holy month of Ramadan that started on April 13.

Historically, India and Pakistan - both nuclear powers - are known for their decades-old hostilities, but the mutual hard feelings have melted overnight in the face of a common enemy, the raging Covid-19 outbreak.

Pakistani civilians have taken to social media platforms to rally support behind Indians reeling under a deadly strain of SARS-CoV-2, which causes the viral disease, as people are dying like fireflies.

Secunder Kermani, who covers Pakistan and Afghanistan for British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), put out a poignant tweet that summed up the Pakistanis' concern for their neighbours, as people from both nations have a shared past and history.

"Two top Twitter trends in Pakistan at the moment are about the awful Covid-19 situation in India... Amidst such grim scenes heartening to see so many Pakistanis expressing sympathy, offering prayers, and wondering if there's any way they or the government can help," Kermani tweeted.

Shiraz Hassan, a multimedia journalist based in Islamabad, told Khaleej Times that the magnitude of the calamity playing out across the border has caught many of his compatriots by surprise.

"Pakistan's Covid-19 situation has been equally grim in the past couple of weeks and the deaths rate is far higher, as compared to our population. Fear is the key among Pakistanis. However, the situation in India is far more disturbing going by social media posts, ground reports and horrifying visuals of mass cremations across the country. Those social media posts and visuals have hit people hard back home. It was beyond belief that India will be battling such a severe health care emergency. The popular perception in Pakistan



suggests that the Indian health care system is way superior to ours. Alas! That doesn't appear to be the case," said Hassan.

A health care professional, who works for the Indian government-run All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi, spoke to Khaleej Times on condition of anonymity, as he is not authorised to speak to the media, and debunked the myth that many Pakistanis may harbour.

"India's healthcare system was always broken. The second and more lethal wave of Covid-19 outbreak, whose mutations are taking diabolical proportions with each passing day, has exposed the creaking health care structure. The government has no answer how it can be fixed because the problems are far more endemic than they may appear," he said.

Pakistani civil society has poured its heart out for suffering Indians.

Kamran Zaidi, a young Pakistani national, tweeted: "I request our government to open the Wagah border and send whatever they can to help India."

Saad Ur Rehman, a popular YouTuber and uses the Twitter handle duckybhai, tweeted: "Political differences aside, I hope the Covid-19 crisis in India comes under control. Our prayers with the people of India. We are in this together. Also fellow Pakistanis, please take care. Stay home, stay safe."

Shayan Shakeel, a UAE-based media professional, who traces his origin to Karachi, Pakistan's most populous city, put the health care emergency in India in perspective.

"I hadn't paid much attention

to what was happening in India. I had assumed that with success in manufacturing vaccines India had managed to bring things under control. But to see the images and videos now emerging out of India, of people dealing with loss at such a large scale, has been very troubling. People speaking the same language, wearing similar clothes, on similar-looking streets, suffering alone... it is beyond heartbreak to see and not even be able to call. I was heartened to see the mass outpouring of support from everyone in Pakistan. I've been hearing of people writing to both governments, and those that don't know how to help, including my mother, are offering prayers at home, in mosques, in temples and churches, wherever they can.

But what goes viral is a side story. History offers proof that South Asia will not receive enough aid. India needs help right now, and tomorrow it could be another country in the region. Pakistan is bracing itself for its own wave as well. Both countries should find a way to share and accept help, for their own peoples' sake.

I find it surreal to think that these two countries were on the brink of war a couple of years ago. Could either side bear and see the loss that either neighbour would go through? The outpouring of support while fighting a common enemy suggests it's a price nobody wants to bear. Three wars later for people to still care for those that have been cut off for so long. Kin can't forget kin, and blood runs thicker than water."

India Is Going Through Very Terrible Covid-19 Situation, Says Dr Anthony Fauci

Agencies

WASHINGTON: Dr Anthony Fauci, the Biden administration's top medical adviser on the pandemic on Friday said that India is going through a very terrible situation right now in a press briefing regarding surge in COVID-19 cases.

"India is going through a very terrible situation right now. They've had, yesterday, the largest number of cases that has ever been reported by any country," said Fauci.

India on Saturday recorded 3,46,786 new COVID-19 cases, the highest single-day spike since the pandemic broke out last year.

Regarding the ability of vaccines to protect against COVID-19 variants in India 'not yet fully characterised', Fauci said, "They have a situation there where there are variants that



have arisen. We have not yet fully characterised the variants and the relationship between the ability of the vaccines to protect. But we're assuming, clearly, that they need vaccines."

He informed that US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is working with its counterpart agency in India to provide technical support and assistance and suggested to get people vaccinated.

Meanwhile, White House coronavirus coordinator Jeff

Zients said that US has longstanding commitment to India's public health.

"We are working closely with them in the COVID-19 response. The Quad partnership and team is providing assistance across governments," said Zients in the White House press briefing.

US is 'committed to sharing vaccine supply' and 'as our confidence around our supply increases, we will explore those options'.

"And, you know, this is a global pandemic, and India demonstrates the risk of what can happen if we don't get the pandemic under control everywhere. And it's why we made the biggest investment in COVAX and we are committed to sharing vaccine supply. As our confidence around our supply increases, we will explore those options," said Zients.

Sirens Wail Across Israel As Palestinians Hit Back After Violent Attacks

Agencies

Rocket warning sirens have for several times been activated in numerous locations across the Israeli-occupied territories over the past 24 hours amid an assertive Palestinian response to recent attacks on Jerusalem al-Quds and the besieged Gaza Strip.

Israeli media said on Saturday that Palestinian resistance movements had fired 36 rockets from the Gaza Strip toward the occupied territories overnight, activating warning sirens in various settlements in the early morning hours.

Israeli authorities claimed that most of the rockets had struck "open areas" and six of the projectiles had been intercepted by the Iron Dome missile defense system.

The rocket salvos came after Israeli bombings of the Gaza Strip and violent attacks on worshippers in the occupied Old City of Jerusalem al-Quds, in which more than 100 Palestinians have been injured.

The unity shown by the Palestinian factions and the ferocity of confrontation in the Old City as well as the response of the resistance movements in the besieged Gaza to fresh Israeli aggression is unprecedented.

It comes in the wake of normalization deals signed by several Arab regimes with Israel, which the Palestinians have described as a stab in their back.

The uptick in tensions also comes as Palestinian territories gear up to mark Quds Day which falls on the last Friday of the fasting month of Ramadan, along with pro-Palestine advocates around the world.

Addressing protesters in Gaza,



senior Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahar condemned the decision of some Arab states to normalize relations with Israel last year.

"After a long series of protests and demonstrations, we have reached the conclusion that without weapons, we cannot liberate our land, protect our holy sites, bringing back our people to their land or maintain our dignity," he said.

Another Hamas official condemned the Israeli attacks as a "desperate attempt" to break the willpower of Palestinians.

"Our people and our resistance are united with our people in al-Quds in their fight against the Zionist occupation and in their defense of al-Aqsa Mosque."

Hamas' armed wing, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, pledged to defend al-Aqsa Mosque and the Palestinians in Jerusalem al-Quds.

Their reactions came after scores of Palestinians were injured in clashes with hundreds of extremist Israeli settlers who raided the Old City which houses al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem al-Quds, chanting "Death to Arabs" and "Arabs get out!"

Al-Aqsa Mosque is the third holiest site in Islam. The clashes on Thursday took place after some 300 members of the supremacist Lehava group took part in the violent anti-Arab march.

French Isolation Study Ends After 40 Days In Cave Hideout



Agencies

Ever wonder what it would feel like to unplug from a hyperconnected world and hide away in a cave for a few weeks? Fifteen people in France found out.

After 40 days in voluntary isolation in a dark, damp and vast cave, eight men and seven women who took part in a scientific experiment emerged on Saturday from their self-segregation in the Pyrenees.

With big smiles on their pale faces, the 15 participants exited the Lombrives cave to a round of applause and basked in the light of day while wearing special glasses to protect their eyes after so long in the dark.

"It's really warm!" said one.

For 40 days and 40 nights, the group lived in and explored the cave without a sense of time. There were no clocks and no sunlight inside, where the temperature was 10 degrees Celsius (50F) and the relative humidity stood at 100 percent.

The cave dwellers had no contact with the outside world, no updates on the pandemic, or any

communication with friends and family above ground.

Scientists at the Human Adaption Institute leading the 1.2 million euros (\$1.5m) "Deep Time" project say the experiment will help them better understand how people adapt to drastic changes in living conditions and environments, something much of the world can relate to because of coronavirus pandemic.

'Really interesting'

In partnership with labs in France and Switzerland, scientists monitored the 15-member group's sleep patterns, social interactions and behavioural reactions via sensors. One of the sensors was a tiny thermometer inside a capsule that participants swallowed like a pill. The capsules measure body temperature and transmit data to a portable computer until they are expelled naturally.

The team members followed their biological clocks to know when to wake up, go to sleep and eat. They counted their days not in hours but in sleep cycles.

NEWS MAKERS

Covid-19: Plane Takes Off With Just One Infected Traveller On Board, Leaves Other Passengers Behind

Agencies

In a strange turn of events, a plane from Cairo International Airport took off with just one passenger on board after she tested positive for Covid.

According to Emarat Al Youm, doctors were surprised to find that the 42-year-old Sudanese woman had a positive PCR test result on arrival from Khartoum.

Authorities prevented her from entering the country, determining that she be put on a return flight when the flight's captain refused to let her onboard on account of other passengers' safety.

Airport officials failed to convince the captain to let the wom-



an take her seat allocated in the back of the aircraft — even though she'd be dressed in full PPE.

After five hours of negotiations, it was decided that the woman would fly as the lone passenger on the flight, with

travel for all other scheduled passengers cancelled.

Four crew members were on the flight, with eight being transferred to nearby hotels to await the next outgoing flight to Khartoum.

4-Year-Old Pak Girl Becomes Youngest Microsoft Professional

Karachi, April 24

ARISH FATIMA, A 4-year-old prodigy from Karachi, made history by becoming the youngest Microsoft professional.

At the age of four, Arish Fatima has set a unique example by scoring 831 marks in the Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) exam, the Government of Pakistan announced via Twitter on Friday.

The minimum score for passing the MCP exam is 700 while Arish broke the world record to achieve great success and made Pakistan proud around the world, the Geo TV reported.

Arish's father, who also accomplished the milestone at a very young age, said that while working from home during the coronavirus lockdown, he saw his daughter's interest in IT and helped her in this test.

Arish's father Osama is also an IT expert and sees his daughter doing wonders in this field.

Arish's parents say that their daughter is "extremely capable and has extraordinary abilities." IANS



Saudi Arabia: Man Arrested For Killing Wife By Pouring Boiling Water On Her

CAIRO: Saudi prosecutors are interrogating a man accused of savagely beating his wife and pouring boiling water on her, resulting in her death, local newspapers reported.

The suspect, an African resident in the Saudi region of Mecca, was exposed after a government hospital notified police that a woman, holding an African nationality, had been brought to the hospital with serious burns and signs of physical abuse.

Severe abuse

Investigations showed that the woman had been severely abused by her husband in their house in the governorate of Al Taif.

Her family transferred Thursday to the hospital where she died a day later. Mecca police arrested the suspect who is being questioned before referral to court.



Shopian's Dar Bagh Village Lacks Basic Facilities, Villagers Seek LG's Intervention

Observer News Service

SHOPIAN: Dar Bagh, a village in Zainapora tehsil of South Kashmir's Shopian district is bereft of basic facilities with the residents alleging that the successive governments have never bothered to address their basic issues.

The locals said that their area falls on the boundary of Pulwama and Shopian district and lacks all basic facilities.

They said that a water supply scheme along with a filtration plant was constructed in the area around a decade ago but the plant was yet to be made functional.

"From the last 10 years, we are forced to drink contaminated water and despite repeated pleas to the concerned authorities no attention is being paid towards our issues," they said.

They said that even after passage of over a decade the department is yet to provide water to dozens of households.

"Decayed poles and low lying electric wire is posing a threat to the local residents."

Gulzar Ahmad, a local resident said that a canal is passing through

the village and in absence of the water to the canal, it has been turned into a dumping site.

He said that time and again, locals have requested higher ups to clear the canal as foul smell coming from the canal is giving tough time to the locals.

"A bridge on Nallah Tongri in the village has also got damaged which is the only connectivity of the village to rest of the district," said Shabir Ahmad, another local resident.

Shabir said they have brought the issue into the notice of higher ups many times but to no avail.

They added that inner roads and the main road Darbarh to Aglar is also in dilapidated condition and hasn't been macadamised for the last several years

"This village has a population of around 12,000 people but has been neglected by successive governments," they said.

Locals requested Governor lead administration to look into the matter and direct concerned officials to provide basic facilities to the area at the earliest so that they can heave a sigh of relief.

J&K Congress Asks Workers To Help Needy Amid Spike In Covid-19 Infections

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Congress president G A Mir on Saturday asked party workers to help the needy and health authorities amid a spike in COVID-19 infections.

He expressed concern over the surge in COVID-19 cases and alleged that because of the failure of the central government, people are dying due to lack of oxygen and medicines in hospitals.

"The centre government is solely responsible for the present crisis.... It has failed to take timely action," Mir said at a party function on National Panchayati Raj Day here.

Targeting the BJP government for its policies, including allowing export of oxygen and vaccines, the

Congress leader said, "Hospitals in the country are facing acute shortage of oxygen, vaccines and other medicines as a result of which people are dying which is indicative of the serious mismanagement."

Mir urged party cadres to help the needy people in the prevailing situation in their neighbourhood and render all sorts of assistance to the society and the health authorities.

On National Panchayati Raj Day, he said the credit for introducing three-tier panchayati raj system goes to former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi and the Congress.

He accused the BJP of trying to take the credit for the three-tier system and said the people are not ignorant and cannot be fooled.

23 J&K Hospitals With 1705 Beds Designated For Covid-19 Patients

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Amid a surge in COVID-19 cases across Jammu and Kashmir, the government on Saturday designated 23 hospitals as dedicated hospitals for treatment including 15 in Kashmir division and eight in Jammu division. The government has also kept 1705 beds for COVID patients in designated hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir.

In a notification Deputy Director (Planning) Health and Medical Education Department said that the health institutions along with their bed capacity has been designated as dedicated COVID-19 hospitals.

"In reference to subject cited above. I am directed to convey approval of competent authority to notify the following Health Institution along with their Bed capacity as dedicated Hospitals for COVID treatment only in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir," it reads.

The hospitals which have been designated as dedicated Covid-19 hospitals along with their bed capacity in Jammu division include Gandhi Nagar Hospital, C.D. Hospital, MCH Complex Gandhi Nagar Hospital, CHC Ramgarh, Old Hospital Kishtwar, SDH Nagri Parole, CHC Chenani and AH Ghagwal, Samba.

In Kashmir Division the hospitals include C.D. Hospital, Srinagar, NTPHC New Building Parisabad Budgam, MCH Kulgam, NTPHC New Building Pethkot Budgam, PHC Chanapora Budgam, NTPHC Bandipora (Maternity Center Sanavani), CHC Dawar, Tibiya College Shivath Bandipora, CHC Hajin, Army Hospital JAKLI, Rangreth, Srinagar, JLNH Hospital, Kashmir Nursing Home, SDH Sopore, Trauma Hospital Bijbehara and NTPHC Akhura Mattan.

Mutated Strain Of Coronavirus Can Reinfect Recovered Patients: DAK

Observer News Service

With the detection of N440K mutant in Kashmir, Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) on Saturday said people who have recovered from Covid-19 could be reinfected with the mutated strain of the novel coronavirus.

"Those who have got Covid-19 infection could get sick again with the new variant," said DAK President Dr Nisar ul Hassan in a statement.

"The N440K mutant that is dominant in some of the Indian states and has found its way into the valley," he said.

Quoting a research conducted by the Kurnool Medical College in Andhra Pradesh, Dr Nisar said N440K variant can escape

the immune response and can cause reinfection.

"The conclusion was based on the study of the two reported cases of reinfection – found in Noida and Kurnool – which showed the presence of the variant in them," he said.

He said this resistance of the N440K mutant to the neutralising antibodies could have implications on the effectiveness of the currently available vaccines which needs to be seen.

In Kashmir, he said, genome sequencing has been done on 381 samples, when the Union government's recommendation is to sequence minimum 5 percent of all Covid positive cases – that means around 8,000 samples from the current tally of over 1.57 lakh cases.

Meanwhile, as per another notification issued by the Deputy Director Planning Health and Medical Education Department, a total of 1705 beds have been kept for COVID patients in the COVID designated hospitals across the Union Territory.

Gandhi Nagar Hospital Jammu has 90 beds for COVID patients only while as CD Hospital Jammu has 110, MCH complex Gandhi Nagar Hospital Jammu 98, CHC Ramgarh 25, Old hospital Kishtwar 70, SDH Nagri Prole 30, CHC Chenani 80 and AH Ghagwal, Samba 08. "In total, 511 beds are available for Covid patients in various Jammu hospitals," the notification reads.

It further states that in Kashmir, 1194 beds are avail-

able for Covid patients in the various Covid designated hospitals that include 104 beds at CD Hospital Srinagar, 150 at JLNH Hospital Srinagar, 50 at Kashmir Nursing Home, 50 at SDH Sopore, 110 at Trauma Hospital Bijbehara, 50 at NTPHC Akhura Mattan, 60 at MCH Kulgam, 40 at NTPHC New Building Pethkot Budgam, 30 at NTPHC New Building Parisabad Budgam, 34 at PHC Chanapora, Budgam, 100 at NTPHC Bandipora (Maternity Centre Sanavani), 80 at CHC Hajin, 30 at CHC Dawar, 56 at Tibiya College Shivath Bandipora, 250 at army hospital JAKLI Rangreth Srinagar. "In total, 1705 beds are available for the Covid patients across the UT," the notification reads.

Karnah-Handwara Transmission Line Breaks Down Nine Times In April

‘Leads To Increased Power Outages In 32 Villages Of Kupwara’

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: At least thirty villages of northern Kashmir's Kupwara district are reeling under darkness after the frequent breakdown of 33KV transmission line of Tangdar- Karnah, nine times in the month of April.

The 33KV transmission line passing from Grid Station Wilgam Handwara supplies electricity to four separate receiving stations, including Kralpora, Trehgam and Karnah Tangdar.

The line originates in Wilgam



and connects two receiving stations of Kupwara, Kralpora and Tangdar.

According to locals, the 33KV transmission wire and poles have rusted and always suffer

damage whenever it rains or snows.

Fayaz Ahmed, a resident of Karnah said that this transmission line has been set up decades ago but the PDD never

repaired or replaced it.

Although, the government has approved a power plant in Karnah but the work on the project is going on at snails pace.

"The administration should speed up the work, to give relief to the people of Karnah," Ahmad said.

An official of Grid Station Wilgam said that the 33KV transmission line that connects Karnah Tangdar suffered damage 9 times in the ongoing month of April.

"There are two types of transmission faults, one is earth fault,

means a breakdown in wire, it has happened once, other is due to overload, it happens when demand exceeds supply, breaks the conductor, it happened 8 times in past 2 weeks," he added.

AEE Kupwara said, "The transmission line is passing through hilly areas, and the weather in areas remains bad due to which line gets breakdown. We are trying our best to provide electricity to the households living in Karnah. We also request people to use the electricity judiciously," he added. (KNS)

Task Force Creation To Scrutinise Govt Employees A Colonial Hangover: NC

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC) Saturday called the constitution of a task force to monitor J&K employees a toolkit to suppress employees, saying the measure will impede the work culture in government departments.

Terming the measure of monitoring the J&K employees with a task-force a diktat destined to take away what was given by the constitution to people in the form of fundamental rights, Party Member of Parliament Muhammad Akbar Lone in a statement called the measure a colonial hangover that gives sweeping powers to government with minimal safeguards to protect the interests of employees thus putting them at disadvantage of being labeled as antinational.

"Such measures might be used against anybody who wounds the vanity of government or criticises its policies. There is a stark distinction between being anti national and having an opinion, this diktat obliterates such distinction," he said.

Lone said the new gag provides a handy tool to higher-ups in bureaucracy to suppress their subordinates and lower rung officers on unjustified excuses. "Having such a measure in place

in a functioning democracy is uncalled for. It is bound to add to haughtiness in bureaucracy. The misstep is yet another low this government has touched. Such a law was not required at first place because there are already required service rules that deal with such employees as are involved in any unscrupulous activity. The measure, it goes without saying, gives a ditch to the claim of the government on return of normalcy in Kashmir. Normal situations do not require the government to have such bizarre diktats in place."

While underlining the undemocratic underpinnings of the gag, Lone asked the government to roll back the diktat as it would severely affect the work culture in government departments. "This is what the government has for our employees when they are in the frontline fighting the resurgence of COVID-19. With such measures, the ruling dispensation at New Delhi has brought dark days for labour classes in Jammu and Kashmir. Such exclusivist measures vis-à-vis the people of J&K reveal the wanton parity which our people are subjected to. We are undoubtedly undergoing a grim chapter in the history of Jammu and Kashmir that saps democratic moorings, and reverence for people's fundamental rights," he added.

Five J&K Gram Panchayats Bag National Panchayat Awards

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha Saturday extended his heartiest congratulations to the best performing Panchayats of J&K by bagging the National Panchayat Awards – 2021.

Gram Panchayat Kangroosa, Block Kandi Rafiabab, Baramulla, and Gram Panchayat Hakermulla, Block Soibugh, Budgam won the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran puraskar (DDUPSP).

Gram Panchayat Kootah, Hiranagar, Kathua was conferred with Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar(NDRGGSP).Gram Panchayat Panzgam A, Block Reddi Chowkibal, Kupwara won Gram Panchayat Development Plan Award (GPDPA). While, Gram Panchayat Achabal A, block Nadihal, Baramulla bagged Child Friendly Gram Panchayat Award (CFGPA).

The Lt Governor applauded the Sarpanches and other PRI members of the Awardee Panchayats for putting in outstanding efforts for the effective and efficient delivery of public services for transformation of rural J&K.

These PRIs would be role models for other Panchayats and these achievements shall



motivate others to follow their path. I am hopeful that other Panchayats in the UT would replicate similar steps and adopt best practices for greater development and welfare of the rural masses, said the Lt Governor.

Distinct emphasis on rural development through inclusive programmes, empowering PRIs and efficient monitoring of rural welfare programmes has won J&K five national awards, added the Lt Governor.

Pertinently, today, on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi conferred the National Panchayat Awards 2021 under the various categories. The Prime Minister has also transferred the award money directly to the bank accounts of the concerned Panchayats in real time.

20 Nomad Families Trapped In Snowfall In Kathua, Provided Help

Press Trust of India

KATHUA: At least 20 nomadic families, trapped in heavy snowfall in the higher reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua, were provided immediate help by the district administration, officials said on Saturday.

Heavy snowfall and incessant rains killed at least 30 sheep and goats of these families who were on seasonal



migration in search of greener pastures in the upper reaches of Bani, the officials said.

The high-altitude areas of Jammu and Kashmir experienced snowfall while most

of the plains were lashed by rains on Thursday and Friday. However, a bright sun shone on Saturday morning, providing relief to the people.

Over 20 migratory families belonging to Gujars, Bakarwals and Gaddi communities along with their animals were trapped in heavy snowfall in Sarthal-Chatergala in Bani Tehsil, the officials said.

Kathua Deputy Commis-

sioner Rahul Yadav said the area is very remote and is presently snow-bound but despite the challenging situation, every possible help including food, shelter, medical aid and blankets were given to the trapped families.

He said the Bani administration was asked to keep a close watch on the situation and ensure that the required assistance reached the families.

Two Timber Smugglers Arrested In Budgam

Observer News Service



ed from Sugan Bathipora forest area of Khag by a police party from police station Khag.

"We intercepted the duo carrying illicit timber on 4 horses. The duo was arrested and horses and timber seized," the police official said.

A case under relevant sections of law has been registered at police station Khag.

Budgam: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday arrested two alleged timber smugglers along with 4 horses laden with illicit timber in Central Kashmir's Budgam district.

A police official said that the smugglers were arrested from Sugan Bathipora forest area of Khag by a police party from police station Khag.

Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Sopore.

QUOTATION.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of J&K , the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore hereby invites sealed quotation affixed with Re.2/- Revenue stamps for providing consultancy service, from registered consultancy firms .. The quotation should reach this office on or before and will be opened on 28-04-2021 the same date or some other date convenient to the Executive Engineer in presence of the quotationers who may like to be present there. In case the last date of receipt of tenders happens to be holiday/Hatal/curfew the same shall be received on the next working day.

S.No	Particulars
1	Providing consultancy services with all structural drawings for Construction of bridge to connect the Revenue complex with Baramulla-Chowkibal National Highway adjacent to 32- RR Army Headquarters at Waterigam Sopore

Terms and conditions:-

- The opening authority reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation without assigning any reason thereof.
- The quotationers shall quote their rates clearly without any cuttings over writings or alternations.
- Tender fee for an amount of Rs 200.00 in shape of Treasury Challan is to be enclosed with the bid.
- The quotation not fixed with revenue stamps worth Rs 2/. Shall be rejected.
- The firm are at liberty to submit their quotation either in person or through registered post with duly written name of firm.
- The firm shall have B -tech-Architecture Registered with the statutory body and structural Engineer registered with the statutory body on its panels and certificates to be submitted with the quotation.
- The firm shall have valid GST/CGST registration and PAN registration- Tax shall be deductible as per norms.
- The terms on account of work in question will be made to the successful bidder as and when funds become available with the department for the said purpose.
- The ist lowest quotationer has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as performance security in shape of CDR/FDF within 02 days before fixation of contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.
- In addition of above, the contract shall be governed by the by the terms and conditions as laid down in the PWD form 25 (Double).

No:- 826-36
Dated: 24-04-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor,
of J&K

Executive Engineer
R&B Division Sopore.

DIPK-847/21

NEWS MAKERS

Non Local Labourer Dies in Kulgam

Observer News Service

KULGAM: A 35-year-old non local labourer from Bihar died Saturday morning in Damhal Hanjipora area of South Kashmir's Kulgam district.

Locals said that the deceased was working as a welder and died shortly after he complained of severe chest pain.

According to a senior police official the deceased was identified as Mohammad Azad Alam (35) son of Ghulam Mohi-ud-din, a resident of Bihar, who was working as welder at Bathipora, DH Pora.

Although Alam was immediately taken to District Hospital Kulgam but he was declared brought dead.

Officials said the body of the deceased will be handed over to his legal heirs after completion of all medico-legal.

Two Timber Smugglers Arrested In Budgam

Observer News Service



ed from Sugan Bathipora forest area of Khag by a police party from police station Khag.

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KASHMIR
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NO HOLDS BARRED



The three superstar Khans - Sharukh, Aamir and Salman have been trolled into dead silence by India's ruling party. An actor like Priyanka Chopra tweets on #blacklivesmatter and I totally agree that they do but I want to ask the cricketers and actors: Don't Indian lives matter to you?

The Clock's Ticking

DR AFROZ SHAH

Therefore, we ought to stop everything and help the healthcare professionals by following Covid-19 appropriate behaviour. And if such behaviour is delayed further, it will only worsen the situation on the ground and will definitely plunge the region into a major coronavirus infection crisis where people and our vital healthcare staff will be infected on a large scale, which is what seems to be the case currently in most of India

The coronavirus pandemic has engulfed us from all sides and the unprecedented situation it has created in India is a grave concern that should worry us. The numbers are rising, dead bodies are piling, and mourning is what you hear the most these days. It is like a war zone with burning and burial of corpses surrounding us from all sides.

The virus originated in China in December 2019 and travelled via people to countries and forced the entire world to review the facilities that could hinder its growth and development, and that in particular was related to the healthcare facilities. Right from December 2019, it was clear that the virus will have grave consequences in the developing world, and in particular where the health facilities are inadequate and people are poor. India was red-flagged very early, but the steps taken by the government were not sufficient to stop the pandemic from turning into a living hell. Now, India has emerged as the main virus spreading centre, which was envisaged much earlier by the experts but largely overlooked by the administration and people in general.

So, what are the choices with us now? Should we wait for the dead bodies to pile in front of us or should we learn lessons and start fighting back?

We have no time left to watch or complain about the lack of facilities, poor role of administration and so on. These things ought to be done later and through a proper legal and formal route. Now, is the time for all of us to unite and fight the virus. That ought to be our priority. Here are a few immediate steps that I suggest could help prevent the catastrophe from spilling out of control.

It is time to demonstrate how religious institutions help humanity in the crisis. Mosques need to play a proactive role and be ready to transform into community centers for the assistance of covid-19 patients. These can be turned into covid-19 facilities if need be. Similarly, auditoriums and stadiums are perfect places to transform into a COVID-19 facility. It can hold a large number of patients in one place. Community-level arrangements should also be made for availability of oxygen and responsibilities like the burial of the dead bodies so that the sanctity of the deceased is maintained. Public and private gatherings must be stopped immediately. Hospital visits must be avoided if possible. Mask wearing, social distancing, ventilation and all hand hygiene must be followed strictly. Help each other in this crisis: some may



need monetary help as well.

Kashmir is also at a critical juncture where things can turn ugly anytime, and it may be too late to turn, and we may find ourselves in the position similar to other states presently. Therefore, we ought to stop everything and help the healthcare professionals by following Covid-19 appropriate behaviour. And if such behaviour is delayed further, it will only worsen the situation on the ground and will definitely plunge the region into a major coronavirus infection crisis where people and our vital healthcare staff will be infected on a large scale, which is what seems to be the case currently in most of India. Therefore, it is important that the concerned administration should look into this immediately and make quick arrangements regarding the shortage of

medical supplies, human resources, and hospitals.

People have a special responsibility by helping healthcare workers to deal with the present crisis and in a concerned manner. They are fighting on multiple fronts and not just the virus but also the lack of facilities, shortage of staff, poor condition of hospitals. We should work together to avert the current crisis and we hopefully will.

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

The author is Assistant Professor, Structural Geology at the Department of Geosciences, Universiti Brunei Darussalam

Looking the Other Way

From Gautam Gambhir to Amitabh Bachchan: No word of succor from India's celebs as COVID-19 tragedy unfolds

SWATI CHATURVEDI

It's sometimes in our genes - we Indians like leaders, cricketers and movie stars who fool us again and again.

Witness the current COVID-19 catastrophe as India becomes the only country in the world with the highest number of COVID-19 infections - 316000 cases in a day. You would reckon that all members of Parliament would be providing succor and tangible help to their constituents as the primitive health care systems capsize to a historical low.

Indian Twitter has provided more help than the Indian authorities in the COVID-19 catastrophe. Let that sink in and then let me give you some examples of "stars" who have turned tail at the crisis fearing infection and those who simply prefer to rake in big bucks while doing commentary for Indian Premier League (IPL).

Take Gautam Gambhir, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member of parliament from East Delhi. He is safely swaddled up in a bio bubble while his constituents run from pillar to post. Worse Gambhir comes online daily to troll the hapless Delhi government beleaguered and crippled with a burgeoning oxygen crisis.

Insensitive attitudes

You would think that IPL would release Gambhir for his commenting duties if he put in a request. The all powerful Jai Shah, secretary of the BCCI and son of the most powerful man in India, Amit Shah, could make it happen but, apparently Gambhir has not even bothered to ask.

Worse he put out a tweet saying "people of East Delhi can get 'Fabiflu' from MP office..." So not only is the MP missing in action he also seems to be a hoarder of an essential medicine used to treat COVID-19 which has vanished from the market. How Gambhir is holding stock of an essential medicine is a question no one will ask.

This seems to be the pattern in the BJP. A 22 year Tanmay Fadnavis, nephew of Devendra Fadnavis, former CM of Maharashtra broke the queue for the COVID-19 jab (when it was only allowed for Indians over the age of 45). Fadnavis got both his vaccine shots and incredibly put out pictures on social media, since deleted.



Gambhir had earlier been accused of sending a body double to campaign when he couldn't take the cruel May heat in Delhi. Gambhir defeated Aatishi Marlena of the AAP who has done significant work in Delhi.

Fadnavis of course is the once and future CM of Maharashtra as he conducts "Operation Lotus" in the worst medical crisis that has hit his state to topple the Uddhav Thackeray led government.

Bollywood missing in action

Take the case of Sunny Deol ex-Bollywood hero and the BJP's member of parliament from Gurdaspur. Not even a cheep or a tweet has been heard from him during the farmers agitation against the Modi government's three farm Acts and now when people are dying with the total collapse of the health system.

Actor Dharmendra, Sunny's father, resigned from Bikaner constituency after fail-

Forget standing with the common man as COVID-19 cuts a swathe, resulting in historic death toll, actors and celebrities who have a social media following in millions are not even bothering to amplify desperate voices seeking hospital beds, drugs and oxygen for their loved ones

ing to either visit his constituency or the parliament. Dharmendra while campaigning for his son had made dramatic speeches that he would not forgive Sunny Deol if he let Gurdaspur down. As residents of Gurdaspur desperately seek help, both father and son have long since vanished.

Hema Malini, who tweets at @dreamgirlhema and who is the second wife of Dharmendra, represents Mathura as a BJP MP. Malini has not been heard of since the outbreak of COVID-19 either in the parliament or in her constituency as Mathura collapses.

Clearly voting for this extended family has not been good for the voters yet star candidates keep getting voted to office and then run away from their responsibilities.

Sachin Tendulkar, who was nominated to the Rajya Sabha, barely had an attendance record of two percent, forget raising any issues.

Yet he dutifully tweets in support of the Modi government from the pulpit. Gambhir, with his lack of concern, is only following in the footsteps of Tendulkar.

Hollywood actors seem to possess a social conscience and a spine unlike our lot. They take serious advocacy stands. Ronald Reagan, an actor, even became a successful Republican President and you can count on actors like the legendary Meryl Streep to take stands in public good. George Clooney, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie all actors have taken principled public stands.

Bollywood however, with some honourable exceptions - like writer Javed Akhtar and actor Shabana Azmi - led by the superstar of the millennium, Amitabh Bachchan, always takes a pro-government stand. Bachchan first lent his famous baritone and credibility to then Gujarat CM Narendra Modi and is now the brand ambassador of a host of marquee public campaigns of the BJP government like the Swach Bharat Abhiyan.

No connect with reality

Forget standing with the common man as COVID-19 cuts a swathe, resulting in historic death toll, actors and celebrities who have a social media following in millions are not even bothering to amplify desperate voices seeking hospital beds, drugs and oxygen for their loved ones.

Not one single cricketer or actor has even bothered to retweet a request. We see beautiful curated pictures of them going to the Maldives for a holiday and then pictures of the obligatory six pack and the fit bikini look but, that's it.

Sonu Sood is a rare actor with a social conscience who been helping people in distress but, actors like Ashay Kumar and Ajay Devgn, who always stand by the BJP government, are mum on the COVID-19 catastrophe. The bubble they live in is impervious to the tragedy unfolding in India.

The three superstar Khans - Sharukh, Aamir and Salman have been trolled in to dead silence by India's ruling party. An actor like Priyanka Chopra tweets on #blacklivesmatter and I totally agree that they do but I want to ask the cricketers and actors: Don't Indian lives matter to you?

Obituary: Maulana Wahiduddin Khan

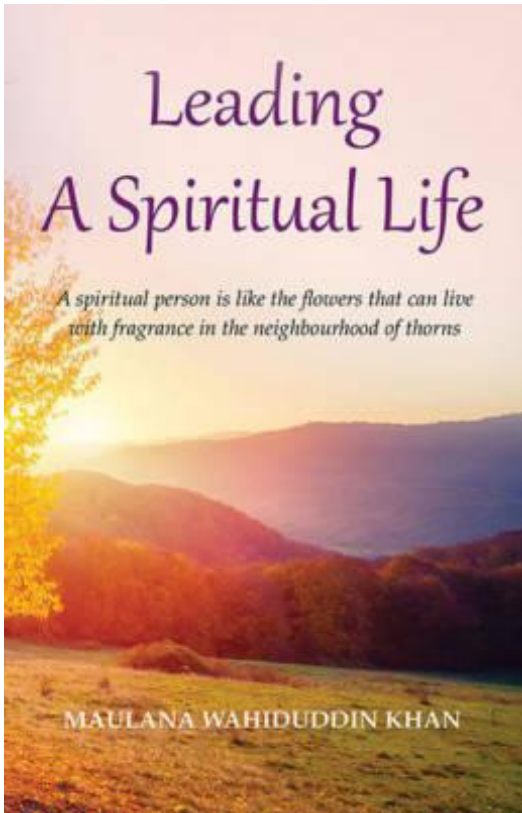
A Life Devoted To Fostering Trust & Goodwill

KO Web Desk

IN 2009, a publication by the Georgetown University, USA titled “The 500 Most Influential Muslims of 2009” described Maulana Wahiduddin Khan “Islam’s Spiritual Ambassador to the world.” His approach, the book points out, is “popular among Indians, both Muslim and non-Muslim.”

Internationally recognised for his contributions to world peace, Maulana Wahiduddin Khan was conferred with, among others, the Demiurgus Peace International Award, the Padma Bhushan, the Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavna Award and the National Citizen's Award in his life time.

Born in Azamgarh (UP) in 1925, Maulana left this mortal world on May..2021 in New Delhi where he lived most part of his illustrious life. Maulana was educated in a traditional seminary but from his early years, he showed a voracious appetite for modern knowledge, spending entire days in the library. As a result he became well versed in both classical Islamic learning and modern disciplines. His extensive research led him to conclude that the need of the hour was to present Islamic teachings in the style and language of the post-scientific era.

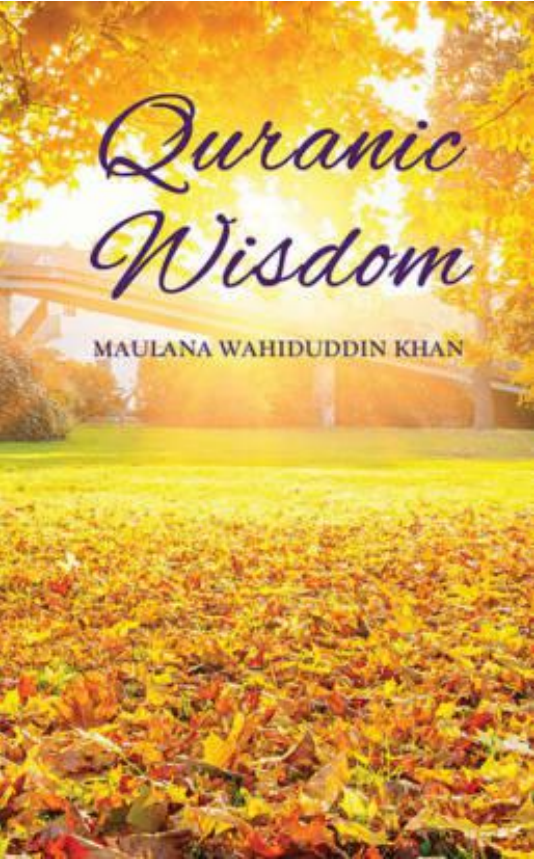


EDUCATION AND INTELLECTUAL CHALLENGES

During some of his interactions with people after he had graduated, he was deeply shocked to realize that, although his education had been completed, he was not able to respond to statements and questions put to him by those who had received scientific education. Realising that, without studying English and modern science, his education would be incomplete, the young Khan immersed himself in learning English and then went on to study innumerable books on science and contemporary thought.

WHY SCIENCE DOES NOT DISPROVE GOD THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS OF RELIGION

Upon completion of his research, in 1955, Maulana Wahiduddin Khan published his first book, Naye Ahd Ke Darwaze Par, or ‘On the Threshold of a New Era’. This book, the result of his exhaustive studies, was further elaborated upon in his next work, IlmeJadid Ka Challenge, or ‘Islam and Modern Challenges’, which was later published as ‘God Arises: Evidence of God in Nature and in Science’. The book is a unique contribution to Islamic literature in that it logically examines the basis of atheism and provides a scientific basis to religious beliefs such as the existence of God and the life Hereafter. Another important book of



It is because of his advocacy of peace on the subcontinent and throughout the world and his espousal of the cause of communal harmony that he was respected by all communities. Invited to meetings by all religious groups and communities within India and abroad, Maulana was, in effect, India’s spiritual ambassador, spreading the universal message of peace, love and harmony.

Maulana’s from this period is Al-Islam, or ‘The Vision of Islam’, which explains the purpose of religion and its transformative role in the life of a human being. Continuing to write since Maulana has authored over 200 books.

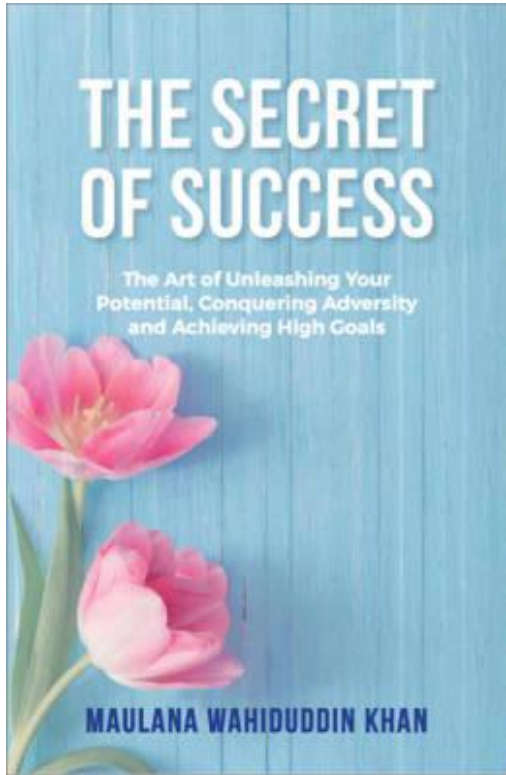
ISLAMIC CENTRE AND AL-RISALA MISSION

To give full expression to these positive ideas, he established the Islamic Centre at New Delhi in 1970. Subsequently, the organ of the Centre, Al-Risala – the monthly magazine – was launched in Urdu in 1976. This journal, consisting entirely of his own articles, quickly acquired a wide circulation throughout the Urdu-speaking world, and has done much to enlighten people about the peaceful ideas of Islam, to awaken in Muslims a new awareness of their responsibilities in the present age, to rekindle in Muslims the inner spirit of Islam and to promote positive thinking and action. The first issues of the English and Hindi versions of Al-Risala were launched respectively in 1984 and 1990. The English version continues to be published under the title Spirit of Islam.

FOSTERING TRUST AND GOODWILL

It is because of his advocacy of peace on the subcontinent and throughout the world and his espousal of the

Internationally recognised for his contributions to world peace, Maulana Wahiduddin Khan was conferred with, among others, the Demiurgus Peace International Award, the Padma Bhushan, the Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavna Award and the National Citizen's Award in his life time.



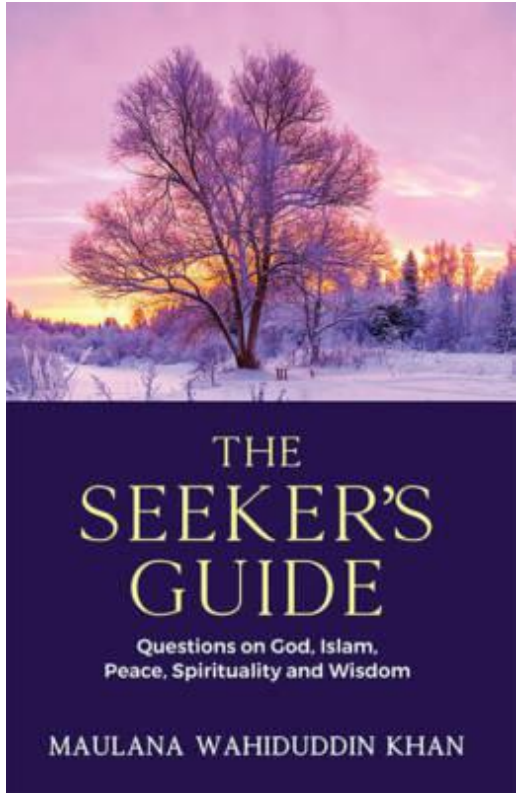
cause of communal harmony that he was respected by all communities. Invited to meetings by all religious groups and communities within India and abroad, Maulana was, in effect, India’s spiritual ambassador, spreading the universal message of peace, love and harmony.

QURAN IN CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH

Realising the need for a clear translation of the Quran, he translated the Quran into Urdu. This was subsequently translated into English. According to Maulana, there are more than a dozen translations of the Quran in English. However, the clarity that is there in the Arabic Quran is lacking in all of the translations. His English translations now widely popular as simple and easy-to-read. Maulana has also written a commentary on the Quran which is titled in Urdu Tazkirul Quran. The English version of the commentary is available as Quran Commentary. The focus is on extracting the spiritual meaning of the verses of the Quran, seeking nearness to God and applying Quranic guidance to daily life experiences.

POPULAR BOOKS

Maulana Wahiduddin Khan has authored over 200 books on Islam, prophetic wisdom, spirituality and peaceful co-existence in a multi-ethnic society, the most



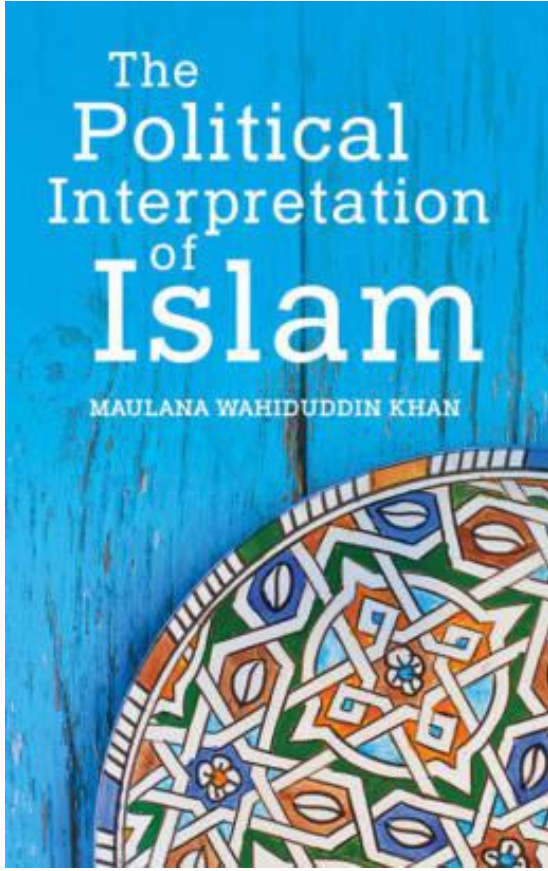
recent being The Prophet of Peace: The Teachings of Prophet Muhammad, Jihad, Peace and Inter-Community Relations in Islam, The Age of Peace. These books analyse the basis of violence perpetrated in the name of Islam, deconstruct the political interpretation of Islam and provide a pragmatic ideology of peace based on the Islamic scripture and the life of the Prophet. Many of his proposals have been utilised to de-escalate controversial disputes between communities in India and reinforce trust and goodwill among people from different religious backgrounds. Another genre that Khan is famous for is applied spirituality. His books such as Leading a Spiritual Life provide wisdom to those who seek to lead their life beyond materialism and choose to manage their life’s affairs instead of succumbing to tension and depression. Many of his articles on applying spirituality to resolve problems of our life are regularly published in the Speaking Tree column of The Times of India. These insights have great acceptability among people across diverse religious affiliations.

RELIGION AND FREEDOM OF THOUGHT

Some of the essential features of the modern age are democratic governance, secularism, pluralistic societies, freedom of conscience and scientific learning. Maulana realised that the traditional literature on Islam which was compiled in the medieval times needs to take into account modern changes. Some of the questions he answered in his writings are: Is Islam compatible with democracy and secularism? Can Muslims live peacefully alongside people of other faiths? Is it necessary to re-establish an Islamic state as the ultimate goal of Islam? Does the Quran sanction violence against non-Muslims because they are non-believers? Should those who speak against the Prophet be punished due to blasphemy? If a person leaves Islam for another faith, will he be liable to death?

A central theme found in Maulana’s writings is that Islam gives complete freedom to individuals. In Islam there is no concept of coercion, either at the individual level or state level. Faith is a matter of one’s conscious intellectual discovery and not compulsive following imposed by any external authority.

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The text with edits by KO Web Desk was originally sourced from <https://maulanawahiduddinkhan.com/books/>



People with high omega-3 index less likely to die prematurely

Agencies

Did you ever imagine that consuming fish oil or Omega-3 capsules can save you from premature death? A new research paper examining the relationship between the omega-3 Index and the risk for death from any and all causes shows that those people with higher omega-3 EPA and DHA blood levels (i.e. Omega-3 Index) lived longer than those with lower levels.

In other words, those people who died with relatively low omega-3 levels died prematurely, i.e., all else being equal, they might have lived longer had their levels been higher.

Numerous studies have investigated the link between omega-3s and diseases affecting the heart, brain, eyes and joints, but few studies have examined their possible effects on lifespan.

In Japan, omega-3 intakes and blood levels are higher than in most other countries in the world AND they happen to live longer than most. Coincidence? Possibly, or maybe a high Omega-3

Index is part of the explanation.

Studies reporting estimated dietary fish or omega-3 intake have reported benefits on risk for death from all causes, but "diet record" studies carry little weight because of the imprecision in getting at true EPA and DHA intakes. Studies using biomarkers - i.e., blood levels - of omega-3 are much more believable because the "exposure" variable is objective.

The new study published in Nature Communications is from the FORCE - Fatty Acids & Outcomes Research - Consortium. FORCE is comprised of researchers around the world that have gathered data on blood fatty acid levels in large groups of study subjects (or cohorts) and has followed those individuals over many years to determine what diseases they develop.

These data are then pooled to get a clearer picture of these relationships than a single cohort can provide. The current study focused on omega-3 levels and the risk for death during the follow-up period, and it is the largest study yet to do so.

Specifically, this report is a prospective analysis of pooled data from 17 separate cohorts from around the world, including 42,466 people followed for 16 years on average during which time 15,720 people died. When FORCE researchers examined the risk for death from any cause, the people who had the highest EPA+DHA levels (i.e., at the 90th percentile) had a statistically significant, 13 per cent lower risk for death than people with EPA+DHA levels in the 10th percentile.

When they looked at three major causes of death - cardiovascular disease, cancer and all other causes combined - they found statistically significant risk reductions (again comparing the 90th vs 10th percentile) of 15 per cent, 11 per cent, and 13 per cent, respectively.

The range between the 10th and 90th percentile for EPA+DHA was (in terms of red blood cell membrane omega-3 levels, i.e., the Omega-3 Index) about 3.5 per cent to 7.6 per cent. From other research, an optimal Omega-3 Index is 8 per cent or higher.

In the new paper, the authors noted that these findings suggest that omega-3 fatty acids



may beneficially affect overall health and thus slow the ageing process and that they are not just good for heart disease.

"Since all of these analyses were statistically adjusted for multiple personal and medical factors (i.e., age, sex, weight, smoking, diabetes, blood pressure, etc., plus blood omega-6 fatty acid levels), we believe that these are the strongest data published to date supporting the view that over the long-term, having higher blood omega-3 levels can help maintain better overall

health," said Dr Bill Harris, Founder of the Fatty Acid Research Institute (FARI), and lead author on this paper.

Dr Harris co-developed the Omega-3 Index 17 years ago as an objective measure of the body's omega-3 status. Measuring omega-3s in red blood cell membranes offers an accurate picture of one's overall omega-3 intake during the last four to six months. To date, the Omega-3 Index has been featured in more than 200 research studies.

Researchers find how climate change is driving some to skip having kids

Agencies

A new study drove by the University of Arizona found that overconsumption, overpopulation and uncertainty about the future are among the top concerns of those who say climate change is affecting their reproductive decision-making.

When deciding whether to have children, there are many factors to consider: finances, support systems, personal values. For a growing number of people, climate change is also being added to the list of considerations, says a University of Arizona researcher.

Sabrina Helm, an associate professor in the Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, is the lead author of a new peer-reviewed study that looks at how climate change is affecting people's decisions about whether to have children.

"For many people, the question of whether to have children or not is one of the biggest they will face in their lives," Helm said. "If you are worried about what the future will look like because of climate change, obviously it will impact how you view this very important decision in your life."

Helm and her collaborators wanted to better understand the specific climate change-related reasons people have for not wanting to have children. They started by analyzing online comments posted in response to news articles written about the growing trend of people forgoing having children due to climate change concerns.

They then sought out adults ages 18 to 35 who said climate change plays

an important role in their reproductive decision-making. They interviewed 24 participants about their concerns.

The researchers' findings, published in the journal Population and Environment, identify three major themes that emerged in both the online comments and the interviews.

1) Overconsumption: This was the most common concern expressed by interviewees, Helm said. Almost all participants said they worried about how children would contribute to climate change through an increased carbon footprint and overuse of resources that could become more scarce in the future, such as food and water.

2) Overpopulation: Overpopulation was the prevailing concern among online commenters, and it often came up in interviews as well, Helm said. Some participants said they felt having more than two children would be problematic and even selfish, as they would be "over-replacing" themselves and their partner. Some said they saw adoption as a more responsible choice. "Adoption was seen as the low-carbon alternative," Helm said.

3) An uncertain future: Interviewees and online commenters also frequently expressed a sense of doom about the future if climate change continues unchecked. Many said they would feel guilty or as if they were doing something morally or ethically wrong if they brought a child into a world with such an uncertain future.

While the "doom" perspective was prevalent, it was also balanced with expressions of hope, Helm said. Some interviewees and commenters said the very idea of children gives hope for a

better and brighter future. Others expressed hope that future generations could contribute to environmental improvement by increasing climate change awareness and action.

"There was a hope that future generations will get the job done and makes things better," Helm said. "But that puts a lot of burden on small children."

Understanding how climate change affects reproductive decision-making is part of a larger effort by Helm and other researchers to understand how climate change is impacting individuals mentally and emotionally overall. Helm noted that climate change anxiety is on the rise, especially in younger people.

"Many people now are severely affected in terms of mental health with regard to climate change concerns," she said. "Then you add this very important decision about having kids, which very few take lightly, and this is an important topic from a public health perspective. It all ties into this bigger topic of how climate change affects people beyond the immediate effect of weather phenomena."

Helm said many study participants expressed anger and frustration that their concerns aren't taken seriously by family members and friends, who might dismissively tell them they will change their minds about having kids when they're older or meet the right person.

"It's still a bit taboo to even talk about this - about how worried they are - in an environment where there are still people who deny climate change," Helm said. "I think what's been lacking is the opportunity to talk about it and hear other people's voices. Maybe this research will help," he added.

DISTRICT POLICE HQRS. GANDERBAL

Beehama, Ganderbal -191201, Fax 0194-2416443; dpoganderbal-jk@nic.in



e-NIT NO. 01 Of 2021
Dated: 22-04-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders in the two-bid format (Technical and Financial bids separately) are invited from manufacturers, authorized dealers, registered firms etc. for the supply of stationery items/ computer peripherals/ consumables etc. to District Police Headquarters Ganderbal for the current Financial Year, i.e. 2021-22. The tenders shall be affixed with Rs.10/- revenue stamps as per details shown in the tender documents. The tenders shall be accompanied with a CDR for an amount of Rs. 2,00,000/- (Rupees Two lakh only) pledged to the Accounts Officer, District Police Headquarters, Ganderbal.

2. The cost of tender documents is Rs. 2000/- (non-refundable) and shall be deposited in the shape of a crossed demand draft drawn in favour of the Accounts Officer, District Police Headquarters Ganderbal.

3. The tender documents can be accessed/ downloaded from 29-04-2021 (4:00 pm) to 14-05-2021 (4:00 pm) from the website

. The detailed list of items with specifications, terms and conditions etc. can be accessed/ downloaded as per schedule given above from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in>.

4. The tender offers/ bids shall be submitted in electronic form on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 30-04-2021 (10:00 am) to 14-05-2021 (4:00 pm).

5. The cost of the tender document shall be (in the shape of a crossed demand draft drawn in favour of the Accounts Officer, District Police Headquarters Ganderbal) and Earnest Money shall be (in the shape of a CDR pledged in favour of the Accounts Officer, District Police Headquarters Ganderbal) along with duly packed samples of every quoted product and all requisite documents, viz. Dealership/ Authorization Certificate/TIN Number/ copy of the PAN Card (self-attested) etc. shall be submitted in hard copy in the office of the Accounts Officer, District Police Headquarters Ganderbal on any working day from 30-04-2021 (10:00 am) to 14-05-2021 (4:00 pm).

6. The uploaded bids on the website shall be opened by the duly constituted Tender Opening Committee on 15-05-2021 (11:00 am) in the meeting hall of DPO Ganderbal in the presence of any such bidder(s) who may choose to attend. In case the scheduled date of opening of bids is declared to be a Government holiday, the bids would be opened on the next working day at the same time and place.

7. The rates quoted by the successful bidder(s) shall remain effective up to the last day of FY 2021-22, i.e. 31-03-2022 from the date of finalization of the contract. The bidders are also required to furnish a certificate to the effect that they are personally responsible for the reasonably and genuineness of the rates (including all taxes/ levies/ cess etc.) quoted by them.

8. The bidders shall not quote more than one rate for each product. Furthermore, in no case whatsoever, shall the bidders quote rates in respect of products in contravention of the specifications mentioned in this NIT. Such offers, if any, shall be summarily rejected by the TOC which would render the tender to be rejected.

9. The bidders shall furnish samples, in quadruplicate, of every product quoted which should conform exactly to the standards/ specifications mentioned in the tender document. The samples must be submitted properly in sealed and signed covers with complete details recorded thereon. The Department shall in no case pay any charges incurred by the bidders on submission of the sample products (to be submitted with the tenders). The disapproved samples shall, however, be returned to the "unsuccessful bidder(s) after finalization/ acceptance of the successful bid. However, the unsuccessful bidder(s) shall, without any notice, ensure to lift the samples within one month from the date of finalization of the contract failing which the unsuccessful bidder(s) shall forfeit his/ her/ their claim to said sample products.

10. The undersigned, or the Tender Opening/ Evaluation Committee, if deemed necessary so to do, may not approve all items of the NIT and may reject any, or several, or all bids, or any part(s) thereof, without assigning any reason whatsoever. Furthermore, since the estimated requirements are provisional/ tentative at best, the Department shall not be held under any legal obligation to place supply orders for all the products whose rates are approved.

11. Any change in the structure/ rates of Government taxes/ levies/ cess etc. shall be applicable under relevant Rules.

12. Conditional bids not in conformity with the terms and conditions of the NIT and annexure(s) thereto, or vague in nature, shall be summarily rejected.

13. The bidders must specifically mention the quality, make, trade mark etc. of each product for which the rates are quoted. The quoted rates should be inclusive of all applicable taxes/ levies/ cess etc; FOR District Police Lines (DPL) Ganderbal.

14. The technical bids must contain full details such as name and registered address of the manufacturer/ authorized dealer/ firm etc., registration number, CST/ GST/ TAN numbers, name of the authorized signatory; his/ her status in the company/ firm etc. and whether or not the company/ firm etc. is registered under the Sales Tax Act. Tenders without CST/ GST/ TAN numbers are liable to be rejected ab initio.

15. Principal manufacturers can participate directly or through their authorized dealers/ representatives/ subsidiaries. However, in case of any such successful bidder, the supply order shall be placed directly with the principal manufacturer.

16. The CDR(s) of un-successful bidder(s) shall be released only after allotment of the contract to the successful bidder(s).

17. The successful bidder(s) shall have to execute an agreement with the Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir, through the undersigned, within a period of five working days, relating to the detailed terms and conditions of the contract before placement/ issue of the supply order(s). In case the successful bidder fails to execute the agreement within the stipulated period, his/ her offer shall be deemed to have been cancelled and the security deposit forfeited in favour of the Government. In such case(s) the authorities shall be free to pass any such orders/ make arrangements as deemed appropriate, solely at the risk and responsibility of the successful bidder(s). The terms and conditions of the tender document shall mutatis mutandis form a part of the terms and conditions of the agreement/ contract/ supply order(s).

18. Before entering into an agreement with the Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir, through the undersigned, the successful bidder (s) shall have to pledge a security deposit equivalent in sum to five percent (5%) of the estimated contract value/ supply order(s). However, earnest money of the successful bidder(s) shall be adjusted against said security deposit.

19. The contract is liable to be repudiated at any time during its validity if the supplies are not made in accordance with the predetermined specifications, or are otherwise not to the entire satisfaction of the Department.

20. The quantities shown against the items in the annexure(s) to this tender notice are subject to actual requirements and availability of proper packaging so as to avoid damages during transport and delivery of the items to the consignee at the specified destination. In the event of any loss, damages, breakage or any other shortages noticed at the time of delivery/ inspection conducted by the duly constituted Survey Committee, no cost on this account shall be borne by the Department. Supply order(s) would be placed only when the requisite funds are available or are reasonably committed for release by the Competent Authority.

21. Full and final payments in favour of the supplier(s) shall be disbursed for the quantities actually supplied only upon receiving a satisfactory report/ certification from the duly constituted Survey Committee which may also have the goods inspected by technical/ domain experts if such need is reasonably felt.

22. The security deposit of the successful bidder(s) shall be released at the close of the Financial Year after the completion of the contract and after production of the following certificates by the concerned:-

a) Sales tax/ CST/ GST clearance certificate which shall be put to due scrutiny/ verification etc.

b) Latest Income Tax Returns (ITRs)

c) Certificate of "successful completion of the contract"

23. If any dispute, doubt, question or difference of opinion concerning the constitution, effect or meaning of any clause of this tender notice, or of the respective rights and liabilities of the parties concerned were to arise at any point of time hereafter, then every such dispute, doubt, question or difference of opinion shall be referred to such officer of the Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir for arbitration under the J&K Arbitration Act as may be nominated by the Government. The decision of the Arbitrator shall be conclusive and binding on all the parties concerned.

24. The approved supplier(s)/ contractor(s) shall not assign or sublet his/ her/ their contract(s), or any part(s) thereof, to any other agency/ entity.

25. The approved supplier(s) shall be deemed to have carefully examined the condition, specifications and make etc. of the goods to be supplied. If he/ she/ they have any doubts as to the meaning or purport of these conditions, or to any portion(s) thereof, the supplier(s) may consult this office and seek clarifications wherever required before signing the contract.

26. In case of any legal dispute(s) between the parties to the contract, the matter may be referred only to courts situated in Ganderbal and having jurisdiction to adjudicate in such dispute(s).

27. All other terms and conditions shall be identical to trijse laid down in F-25 of J&K PWD Code.

(Suhail Mir)
Sr. Superintendent of Police,
Ganderbal

No: Accts/NIT-1/21/7952-56

Dated:22-04-2021

DIPK-765/21

Government Medical College. Srinagar

10-Karan Nagar, Srinagar, Kashmir, (190010). Phone. No. 0194-2504114, Fax. 0194-2503115

Ref: Mission Director, NHM J&K's letter No: SHS/NHM/J&K/810-817 Dated: 20.04.2021

Advertisement Notice No 16 GS of 2021 Dated. 23-04-2021

a) Date of Commencement for submission of online applications 3 26-04-2021 from 1.00 PM.

b) Last date for submission of online applications- 02-05-2021 upto 4.00PM only.

Online applications are invited from eligible candidates (belonging to Kashmir Division) for hiring against the following positions on contract basis for a minimum period of three months under Emergency Response and Health system preparedness package (ECRP):

S. No.	Category of manpower	Nos	Eligibility criteria	Monthly Remuneration (in Rs.)
1.	Anesthesia Technician	10	10+2 with science or above qualification with degree in Anesthesia/Diploma in Anesthesia Assistant course from any recognized Institute/SMF	12000/-
2.	Staff Nurse	20	B.Sc Nursing from Govt. Recognized Institute Or Diploma in General Nursing (GNM) from SMF or any other recognized Institute	15000/-
03.	Microbiologist/Rese arch Scientist	04	MD/DNB Microbiology from MCI recognized Medical College/Institute or Ph.D Microbiology/Ph.D Biotechnology	50,000/-

In case of large Number of applications the applicants shall be short listed for written test/interview.

The hired candidates shall have to execute an agreement with this Institution to the effect that he/she will not leave the Department before the completion of three months contract. However, abandonment/termination of the arrangement in the specialty will require one month's prior notice on either side, failing which the remuneration shall not paid for one month to the hired persons which shall always remain deposit with the Department and shall be released on the completion of sanctioned term.

NOTE:-

1. The candidates must be in possession of all required documents and no document/certificate issued beyond the cutoff date shall be accepted/ entertained.

2. The hired persons will be purely on temporary/contract basis for a period of three months or till continuation of the package/scheme whichever is earlier and will automatically cease/terminate once the package/scheme is over. It is emphasized that the services are not being hired against any substantive post and as such won't confer any right upon the hired persons to regular/permanent appointment.

Instructions for applying online:-

a. The necessary instructions for filling—up of online form and submission of fee details shall be available on Government Medical College, Srinagar. Website (www.gmcs.edu.in).

b. A link for filling up of online application forms shall be available on the official website of Government Medical College, Srinagar w.e.f 26-04-2021 (1.00PM) to 02-05-2021 upto 04:00PM only.

c. Candidates are required to apply online through the official website of Government Medical College, Srinagar only.

d. The requisite original documents including domicile certificate issued by the competent authority on the format prescribed for the purpose must be produced at the time of document verification or as and when sought by Government Medical College, Srinagar.

e. The candidates are required to upload the images of their recent photograph and specimen signature which should be uploaded in (jpeg) format only.

f. Candidates have to deposit fee of Rs. 200/- through online mode only i.e. through Net Banking/Debit Card/Credit Card.

g. Applications of those candidates will not considered who do not pay the fee in online mode. h. Candidates must take a print out of the application form and fee receipt after successful filling up of the application form. i. Candidates cannot edit their application form after submission. j. Candidates shall ensure that their E-mail ID and Phone

Nos as specified in the online application form are active during the currency of selection process.

Principal/ Dean

No: GS-MC/All-Advt/Notices/ 748-52
Dated:23-04-2021.

DIPK-773/21

Finance Ministry Relaxes Spending Norms To Boost Capital Expenditure



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

In a bid to boost the economy grappling with the fresh COVID-19 wave, the finance ministry has relaxed the spending guidelines to enable ministries and departments to undertake capital expenditure totalling Rs 44,000 crore envisaged in the budget for 2021-22.

According to an office memorandum (OM) issued by the finance ministry on Thursday, the monthly/quarterly expenditure plan (MEP/QEP) ceilings and restrictions will not apply for expenditure under the capital heads under the budget.

To enable ministries/departments expedite capital expenditure, it said, the cash management guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance under the OM of 2017 have been relaxed.

"Monthly Expenditure Plan (MEP) or Quarterly Expenditure Plan (QEP) ceilings and restrictions on bulk expenditure items referred in the OM dated August 21, 2017, shall not be applicable for expenditure under the capital heads under the Budget. These relaxations shall take immediate effect and shall apply until further orders," it added.

According to the guidelines, the bulk expenditure items

of more than Rs 2,000 crore were timed in the last month of each quarter to utilise the direct tax receipt inflows in June, September, December and March.

Similarly, big releases of Rs 200 crore to Rs 2,000 crore were timed between the 21st and 25th of a month to take advantage of the GST inflows. These restrictions have been removed with the latest OM.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Budget 2021-22 had announced a sharp increase in capital expenditure and provided Rs 5.54 lakh crore, which is 34.5 per cent more than the Budget Estimate (BE) of 2020-21. "Of this, I have kept a sum of more than Rs 44,000 crore in the Budget head of the Department of Economic Affairs to be provided for projects/programmes/departments that show good progress on Capital Expenditure and are in need of further funds," she had said.

Over and above this expenditure, the government would also be providing more than Rs 2 lakh crore to states and autonomous bodies for their capital expenditure, she had said.

In the BE 2020-21, the government provided Rs 4.12 lakh crore for capital expenditure. It was revised upwards to 4.39 lakh crore.

Handicrafts Dept. To Help Artisans In Marketing, Social Media Agency Shortlisted: Govt



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: To aid artisans by providing help in terms of marketing and publicity, the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom is in the process of short listing the social media agency to take up this task of the world famed Handicrafts of Kashmir.

In line with other states and organizations across the country that have managed the marketing of their authentic and genuine products on the e-Commerce platforms, a meeting was chaired by the Director Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir, Mahmood Ahmad Shah to finalize the modalities for e-Commerce platform. During the course of the meeting, a wider discussion with

stakeholders vis-à-vis Tahafuz Society and Meeras Society wherein suggestions for e-Commerce platform were put forth brands like Kashmir Box, Jos & Fine, Me and Kashmir, Kashmir Loom participated. The inputs and suggestions put forth by the stakeholders and players on the online platform were received.

Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC), who are the technical consultants, were also present to record the suggestions. The aim of the exercise was to ascertain greater clarity for the road map to be chalked by the Department for social media and e-Commerce as this becomes imperative in wake of the merger of the Handicrafts and Handloom Departments.

A threadbare discussion on GI particularly with respect to the Kani Shawl and Paper Machie was also held with the representatives of Tahafuz Society and Pashmina Testing & Quality Certification Centre (PTQCC). The stakeholders informed that GI for the Kani technique has been obtained whereas further clarity on the textile/yarn needs to be achieved.

Among others, Joint Director Handloom Kashmir, Assistant Director Export Promotion, Assistant Director Handicrafts Budgam and Manager Government Central Market Srinagar besides, Director Indian Institute of Carpet Technology Srinagar and representatives of Craft Development Institute were present in the meeting.

Rupee Falls 12 Paise to 75.06 Against US Dollar In Early Trade

Agencies

The Indian rupee slumped 12 paise to 75.06 against the US dollar in opening trade on Friday as muted domestic equities and concerns over rising Covid-19 cases kept investors on edge. Besides, foreign fund outflows also weighed on investors' sentiment, forex traders said.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened lower at 75.02 against the dollar, and lost further ground and touched 75.06, registering a fall of 12 paise over its previous close. On Thursday, rupee had closed at 74.94 against the US dollar.

With a record single-day rise of 3,32,730 new coronavirus infections, India's total tally of Covid-19 cases climbed to 1,62,63,695, while active cases crossed the 24-lakh mark, according to the Union Health



Ministry data updated on Friday. The 30-share BSE Sensex was trading 79.39 points or 0.17 per cent lower at 48,001.28. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty slipped 5.05 points or 0.04 per cent to 14,401.10.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remained net sellers in the capital markets, as they pulled

out Rs 909.56 crore on Thursday, as per provisional data. The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading lower by 0.15 per cent to 91.9.

Brent crude futures, the global oil benchmark, edged higher by 0.58 per cent to USD 65.78 per barrel.

Power Grid To Announce First Invit Public Issue On Monday



Agencies

NEW DELHI: State-owned Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd will announce on Monday the public issue of its first infrastructure investment trust (InvIT) - PowerGrid Infrastructure Investment Trust, the PSU said.

PGCIL is the first state-owned company to offer an InvIT as part of the government's brownfield asset monetisation strategy, wherein the PSU will monetise its tariff-based competitive bidding (TBCB) assets valued at about 7,000 crore.

The InvIT is expected to at-

tract domestic and global investors, including sovereign wealth funds. InvITs are trusts that manage income-generating infrastructure assets, typically offering investors a regular yield and a liquid method of investing in infrastructure projects.

This will be the third InvIT, after IRB InvIT and India Grid Trust, to be listed in India. After the first tranche, a 10,000 crore second tranche for the InvIT is also in the works as reported by Mint.

The InvIT route was proposed by the Centre as an alternative fundraising route for state-run companies to manage funding requirements without having to depend on government support.

Govt Waives Basic Customs Duty, Health Cess On Import Of Oxygen And Related Equipment



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Taking a slew of measures to boost medical oxygen availability in the country amid a surge in COVID-19 cases, the central government on Saturday decided to waive basic customs duty and health cess on the import of oxygen and connected equipment for a period of three months with immediate effect.

It was also decided at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to exempt basic customs duty on the import of COVID-19 vaccines with immediate effect for a period of three months, a government statement said.

This will boost availability of these items as well as make them cheaper, it said, adding that Modi also directed the revenue department to ensure seamless and quick custom clearance of such equipment.

Modi emphasized that there was an immediate need to augment the supply of medical grade oxygen as well as equipment required for patient care both at home and in hospitals and asked all ministries and departments to work in synergy to this effect.

He was told that basic customs duty was exempted on the Remdesivir and its API (active

pharmaceutical ingredient) recently, and a suggestion was made that the import of equipment related to providing oxygen to patients needs to be expedited, the statement said, announcing the measures.

The items to benefit from the decision include medical grade oxygen, oxygen concentrator along with flow meter, regulator, connectors and tubing vacuum pressure swing Alabsorption (VPSA) and pressure swing absorption (PSA) oxygen plants, cryogenic oxygen air separation units (ASUs) producing liquid/gaseous oxygen.

Oxygen cannister, oxygen filling systems, oxygen storage tanks, oxygen cylinders, including cryogenic cylinders and tanks besides any other device from which oxygen can be generated are among several other items under this category.

The statement noted that the government has taken a lot of measures in the last few days to improve supply of oxygen and medical supplies.

"IAF planes are bringing in cryogenic oxygen tanks from Singapore. IAF is also transporting oxygen tanks in the country to reduce travel times. Similarly, in a major decision yesterday, free food grains will be given 80 crore Indians for the month of May & June," it added.

Ind Ra Revises Down India's FY22 GDP Growth Forecast To 10.1%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

India Ratings and Research on Friday revised down India's FY22 real GDP growth forecast to 10.1 per cent, from earlier projection of 10.4 per cent, citing the second wave of COVID-19 infections and slower pace of vaccination.

At a time when large parts of the country are experiencing tremendous pressure on medical infrastructure, the agency said it expects the second wave to start subsiding by mid-May.

Earlier this month, the Reserve Bank maintained its 10.5 per cent GDP growth estimate, but Governor Shaktikanta Das has flagged the rising cases as the biggest impediment to recovery.

Other brokerages and analysts have also been revising down their forecasts in the light of the second wave.

The economy is estimated to have contracted by 7.6 per cent in FY21.

India Ratings said the impact of the second wave will not be as disruptive as the first one, despite the daily case load touching three times of the first wave's peak, as lockdowns are set to be localised ones.

"Unlike the first wave, the administrative response is not abrupt, and is unfolding gradually in a graded manner.

"Also, households, businesses



and other economic agents are better prepared and there is a significant amount of learning by doing, which can help them withstand and navigate through the second wave of COVID-19 crisis," the rating agency added.

Additionally, the vaccine will also enhance safety and reduce the fear element among the vaccinated economic agents, it said.

Over 132 million vaccine doses have been administered as of April 21, the agency said, estimating that 1,768 million doses will be required, after the government announced that the jabs will be open for all adults from May 1.

The vaccination efforts will cost 0.12 per cent of the GDP to the union government and 0.24 per cent to the state governments, it said, adding that both vaccination production and the pace of vaccination are key in controlling the rising case load and for economic growth.

"Ind-Ra has, therefore, revised its GDP growth forecast for FY22 to 10.1 per cent from earlier forecasted 10.4 per cent," it said.

SHORT TAKES

Stayhappy Pharmacy Enters Kashmir Valley

NEW DELHI: Setting up with over 620 functional stores across the country, StayHappy pharmacy has now successfully barged into the territory of Kashmir with its unique brand of generic medicines. The medicine brand set forth in the province through the brand name "StayHappy Generics", collaborating with local chemist stores.

StayHappy Generics is an initiative with a belief to serve humanity by providing high-quality medicines at 'real and affordable' prices. It operates with a full-proof plan to scale up and reach every nook and corner in the country and to make "Healthcare for all" a reality.

Executive Director, Arushi Jain



remarked, "We are ecstatic about our new breakthrough as we multiply our presence yet again in a new township, which is none other than Kashmir this time. So far the response has been phenomenal leaving customers with repeat purchases and positive feedbacks endowing quality products. StayHappy is confident of further association with 500 more stores by the

next few months here at Kashmir."

Print media and Radio turned out to be instrumental in creating brand awareness, as primary platforms to proliferate the news of StayHappy Pharmacy's arrival in Kashmir. Despite facing ample challenges in a new region, Stayhappy has been able to keep hold of what StayHappy Generics does to connect deeper with

its consumers on a human level and generate demand. StayHappy generic medicines propagate the idea of savings on monthly medicine bills, rather than offering discounts; and promises quality medicines at low MRPs.

Stayhappy's Generics help in saving 30%-90% on medicine bills. Secondly, it had not just offered generic medicines to the patients, but also aiming to change the approach of millions and aim to spread awareness that Patient doesn't necessarily have to buy medicines by their brand names, and can easily switch to Stayhappy Generic Medicines, as the quality and effectiveness of Stayhappy medicines, remain unchanged as compared to Branded Medicines.

Ambani Buys Britain's Iconic Country Club Stoke Park For 57 Million Pounds

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd has bought Britain's iconic country club and luxury golf resort, Stoke Park, for 57 million pounds (about Rs 592 crore).

The acquisition adds to Reliance's current stake in Oberoi hotels and hotel/managed residences in Mumbai that it's developing. Over the past four years, Reliance has announced USD 3.3 billion in acquisitions with 14 per cent in retail, 80 per cent in technology, media, and telecom (TMT) sector, and 6 per cent in energy.

The UK-based firm, which owns a hotel and golf course in Buck-



hamshire, UK, will add to Reliance's consumer and hospitality assets, the firm said in a filing late on Thursday.

"Reliance Industrial Investments and Holdings Ltd (RIIHL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited, has on April 22, 2021, acquired the entire issued share capital of Stoke Park Limited, a company incorporated in the United Kingdom, for 57 million pounds," it said.

Stoke Park Limited owns and

manages sporting and leisure facilities in Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, UK. The facilities include a hotel, conference facilities, sports facilities and one of the highest rated golf courses in Europe.

"RIIHL will look to enhance the sports and leisure facilities at this heritage site, while fully complying with the planning guidelines and local regulations," Reliance said.

This acquisition will add to the consumer and hospitality footprint of the oil-to-telecom conglomerate. The group already has investments in EIH Ltd (Oberoi Hotels) and is developing state-of-the-art convention centre, hotel and managed residences in BKC Mumbai.

Govt Asks Twitter, Other Social Media Platforms To Remove Misleading Posts Around COVID

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The government has asked social media platforms, including Twitter and Facebook, to remove content and posts that were spreading misinformation and public panic around the pandemic, according to sources.

Twitter said it has notified the impacted account holders of its action taken in response to a legal request from the Indian government but did not give details of the affected accounts.

Sources said these flagged posts carried misleading information about COVID-19 pandemic, and were designed to incite public panic.

The development comes at a time when India is registering

a record number of coronavirus infections daily. The number of COVID-19 cases touched a new daily high of 3.46 lakh cases and 2,624 fatalities on Saturday.

When contacted, a Twitter spokesperson said when it receives a valid legal request, it reviews it under both Twitter Rules and local law.

If the content violates Twitter's Rules, the content will be removed from the service. If it is determined to be illegal in a particular jurisdiction, but not in violation of the Twitter Rules, we may withhold access to the content in India only.

"The legal requests that we receive are detailed in the bi-annual Twitter Transparency Report, and requests to withhold

content are published on Lumen, the spokesperson said.

Reports citing Lumen database (an independent research project studying cease and desist letters concerning online content) suggested that more than 50 posts - including those by a member of Parliament, MLA and filmmakers - were removed by Twitter on government request.

Meanwhile, Twitter said ahead of withholding the content, it has notified the account holders so that they're aware that the action has been taken in response to a legal request from the Government of India.

The microblogging platform emphasised that it is committed to the principles of openness and transparency, and that it

tackles misinformation based on the highest potential for harm.

It noted that it is tackling COVID-19 misinformation using a combination of product, technology, and human review.

Facebook and Instagram did not respond to queries.

According to sources, a number of posts and content were flagged by the government to Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and other websites on Friday.

These posts carried misinformation around COVID, were designed to incite public panic and create a feeling of ill-will towards health personnel, they added.

Details of the account holders and number of such posts flagged could not be immediately ascertained.

Bharat Biotech Prices Covaxin At Rs 600 For States, Rs 1,200 For Pvt Hospitals

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Bharat Biotech has fixed the price of its COVID-19 vaccine, Covaxin, at Rs 600 per dose for state governments and at Rs 1,200 per dose for private hospitals, the vaccine maker announced on Saturday.

In a statement, Bharat Biotech Chairman and Managing Director Krishna M Ella said the company is supplying the vaccine to the Central Government at Rs 150 per dosage.

"We would like to state that more than 50 per cent of our capacities have been reserved for Central Government supplies," Ella said.

Recovering cost is essential in the journey of innovation towards

other vaccines such as intranasal Covid-19, Chikungunya, Zika, Cholera and others, he added.

The company has tagged the vaccine between USD 15-20 for export markets.

Earlier this week, Serum Institute of India (SII) had announced a price of Rs 400 per dose for "Covishield" for state governments and Rs 600 per dose for private hospitals.

The company also said for the next two months, it will address the issue of limited capacity by scaling up vaccine production.

"Going ahead, 50 per cent of our capacities will be served to the Government of India's vaccination programme, and the remaining 50 per cent of the

capacity will be for the state governments and private hospitals," Serum Institute of India had said in a statement.

American vaccines in the private market cost more than Rs 1,500 per dose, while Russian and Chinese vaccines cost greater than Rs 750 per dose, it had noted.

Covishield comprises over 90 per cent of the 12.76 crore COVID-19 vaccines administered across the country so far, according to government data on Wednesday.

Of the 127,605,870 COVID-19 vaccination jabs administered till now, 11,60,65,107 are of Covishield, while 1,15,40,763 are Covaxin, according to the government's CO-WIN portal.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

Curfew Imposed

to 6 am was imposed in the urban areas of eight districts, which was extended to the municipal and urban local body limits of all the 20 districts in the Union Territory on April 20.

Besides extending the night curfew on April 20, the administration had ordered the closure of 50 per cent shops on alternate basis in municipal and urban areas and capped the passenger capacity in public transport at 50 per cent.

While the shopkeepers followed the order with some reservations, the transporters in the Jammu region went on an indefinite strike on April 21, demanding a 50-per cent hike in the passenger fare to save them from operational losses.

The Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) appealed to the Union Territory administration to review its decision pertaining to the opening of 50 per cent shops on alternate days, claiming that the schedule formulated by the administration is causing much inconvenience to both the trading community as well as the people at large.

Demanding a review of the order, the trade body suggested that the shops and other establishments should be allowed to work daily from 10 am to 6 pm with a two-day weekend lockdown on Saturdays and Sundays.

In view of the marriage season having commenced, the JCCI said people, especially those who have weddings in their families, are highly perturbed over this schedule, which needs an immediate review.

Expressing similar views, the Federation of Traders' Associations said there are some markets in Jammu that deal in single-stuff products and keeping the entire market closed on particular days causes great inconvenience to people.

Meanwhile, the Nehru Market and Kanak Mandi wholesale markets in Jammu city remained voluntarily closed on Saturday.

Ware House Nehru Market Traders' Association president Deepak Gupta said the decision to observe a weekend lockdown was taken in view of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

However, he said the association does not support the administration's decision of opening 50 per cent shops on alternate days as the move is not in favour of the general public and the traders.

J&K Logs 2,030

Udhampur 62, Rajouri 48, Doda 3, Kathua 57, Samba 48, Kishtwar 6, Poonch 27, Ramban 18 and Reasi 35 fresh cases of coronavirus.

Moreover, they said, 944 more patients have recovered—360 from Jammu Division and 584 from Kashmir Valley. There are 18064 cases—7579 in Jammu and 10485 in Kashmir, while 1, 38,184 patients have recovered from the infection so far, the officials said.

23 Hospitals Turned

dedicated hospitals in Jammu region, the order said.

Among the health institutions declared as COVID-19 hospitals in Kashmir Valley are the Army Hospital, JAKLI Centre, Rangreth with a bed capacity of 250, the chest disease hospital in Srinagar with a capacity of 104 beds, the 150-bed JLNH Hospital in Rainawari and the 50-bed Kashmir Nursing Home in Srinagar.

In Jammu district, the dedicated COVID-19 facilities include Gandhi Nagar Hospital (bed capacity 90) and Chest Disease Hospital (110).

The total number of COVID-19 cases in Jammu and Kashmir surged to 1,56,344 on Friday as 1,937 more people tested positive for the disease while the death toll climbed to 2,111 with a record daily jump of 19 fatalities, officials said.

Govt Announces

said in a tweet.

The vaccination of people in the 18-45 age bracket will begin from May 1.

Meanwhile, Financial Commissioner of Health and Medical Education Atal Dulloo on Saturday chaired a meeting at the Civil Secretariat here to review the situation and the implementation of five-pronged strategy to tackle the surge in infections.

Dulloo impressed upon the officers for effective implementation of the five-pronged strategy -- testing, containment, isolation and treatment, COVID-19-appropriate behaviour and vaccination -- to contain the spread of the virus, an official spokesman said.

"We have to gear up all our efforts at all levels, only then we will be able to tackle the surge of cases. Testing has to be increased significantly at all designated facilities and bring down the test positivity rate in each district, he said, addressing the meeting.

He said all the testing facilities have to make sure that the set targets are met on a daily basis and installation of oxygen generation plants needs to be expedited which would augment oxygen supply to hospitals.

Calling for an increase in the pace of

vaccination, Dulloo directed the officers to make all the necessary arrangements to accelerate the vaccination drive to the population.

"By vaccinating more people, we will be better equipped to fight the disease, he said, adding that they have an adequate supply of vaccines in all districts.

50% Staff

State Executive Committee.

"All heads of institutions shall devise rosters to ensure (same), as per directions to be issued by School / Higher Education Department in this regard," the order said, adding, "Such staff of educational institutions as are needed by the concerned District Disaster Management Authorities / District Magistrates for official duties shall not be exempted from duties on account of this order."

The decision was taken in a detailed review of the current COVID situation in Jammu and Kashmir conducted by the Lt Governor, Jammu and Kashmir, with the Chief Secretary, J&K, Financial Commissioner, Health; Administrative Secretary School Education, Administrative Secretary Higher Education, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir and other officers.

The order also reiterated that the gathering limit as ordered on April 18 shall continue to remain in force.

Pak PM Sends

has hit our region hard. On behalf of the people of Pakistan, I extend our heartfelt sympathies to the affected families in #India," Qureshi tweeted.

Pakistan continues to work with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries to foster cooperation to tackle the pandemic, he said.

Pakistan has reported 157 coronavirus deaths in the last 24 hours, the highest since last year, while the new number of cases recorded were 5,908, the health ministry said on Saturday.

Pakistan's Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry also expressed similar sentiments for the people of India.

In these difficult times our prayers are with people of #India may God be kind and may these difficult times get over soon. #coronavirus, he tweeted.

The tweets from the Pakistani leaders came amidst some signs of rapprochement in the relations between India and Pakistan over the Kashmir issue.

India's decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019 angered Pakistan, which downgraded diplomatic ties with New Delhi and expelled the Indian High Commissioner in Islamabad. Pakistan also snapped all air and land links with India and suspended trade and railway services.

The militaries of the two countries, in a surprise announcement on February 25, said that they have agreed to strictly observe all agreements on ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir and other sectors.

BSF Foils Arms

intervening night of February 24 and 25.

Despite the existence of a ceasefire agreement between Pakistan and India, Pakistan Rangers did not stop their nefarious activities against India and carried on with their ill motives on IB in Jammu.

Today (Saturday) alert BSF troops in Arnia foiled drones intrusion bid by Pakistan. Two drones/UAV were observed entering from the Pakistan side and were immediately fired upon by vigilant BSF troops, compelling them to retreat back to Pakistan territory. Deputy Inspector General of BSF S P S Sandhu said in a statement here.

Sandhu, who is also public relations officer BSF Jammu, said the BSF intelligence branch was receiving inputs about possible use of drones by Pakistan for ferrying arms and ammunition into India.

Accordingly, the troops are on alert and the border domination was exponentially increased, the officer said.

He said Pakistan Rangers have been regularly violating the IB through drone intrusions and trying to drop arms and ammunition in Indian territory but BSF have successfully repulsed such attempts in the past.

Last year on June 20, BSF shot down a Pakistani hexa-copter drone with a payload of five-and-a-half kilograms including a sophisticated US-made M4 semi-automatic carbine and seven Chinese grenades at Pansar border outpost in Kathua district.

Soon after the successful foiling of the drone intrusion attempt, the BSF officials said the whole area had been cordoned off and a search operation was carried out to ensure that there was no dropping from the drones before returning to Pakistan.

However, nothing objectionable was found on the ground so far, the official of the border guarding force said.

Pak Lists 5 Demands

Indian actions that could move the "communication" between the two countries forward.

First, a permanent halt to demographic change in Kashmir, where New Delhi in April 2020 introduced a new domicile law that would allow long-term migrants from other parts of the country to gain permanent residence.

"This would inevitably be necessary to move forward," a Pakistani source said.

Second, Indian authorities would have to release political and other prisoners being illegally held since it imposed a curfew in the Muslim-majority region.

Third, the removal by India of blockades on communication and movement in the Kashmir region.

Fourth, giving back full statehood rights to Jammu and Kashmir, which were also revoked as part of the August 2019 actions, and "recognising that it is subject to an internationally recognised territorial dispute with Pakistan".

Fifth, a reduction in forces deployment in Kashmir, where hundreds of thousands of security forces personnel have been deployed following the August 2019 imposition of lockdown after India's Article 370 was revoked.

"The markers I have mentioned, these are what we define as 'the enabling environment,'" said a source to Al-Jazeera

"This is the next step. Whatever conditions that India creates, must also be acceptable to the Kashmiris. Without this, it is unlikely that Pakistan can move forward."

The second Pakistani source quoted in the report says these "markers" were starting points for any further conversation.

"Let's say that they do not do any of these things. Then that's the end of it," the second source said.

Arindam Bagchi, India's foreign ministry spokesperson, declined to comment on the issue.

Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri, Pakistan foreign ministry spokesperson, did not comment on specifics of the current communication between the two countries, but repeated Islamabad's stance that "the onus is on India" to restart talks.

"For any meaningful and result oriented dialogue, there has to be a conducive and enabling environment," he told the Qatar based news network.

Notably absent from Pakistan's demands is the reimplementing of Article 370, which was revoked on August 5, 2019, by the Modi government.

The latest reports on India, Pakistan relations comes barely a week after the United Arab Emirates claimed playing a role in bringing down the tension between the two countries and getting their bilateral ties back to a "healthy functional relationship"

"They might not sort of become best friends but at least we want to get it to a level where it's functional, where it's operational, where they are speaking to each other," Emirati ambassador to the US Yousef al-Otaiba had said during a virtual discussion with Stanford University's Hoover Institution last week.

India and Pakistan in a surprise announcement said on February 25 that they have agreed to strictly observe all agreements on ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir and other sectors.

Ties between India and Pakistan nose-dived after a militant attack on the Pathankot Air Force base in 2016 by militants.

Subsequent attacks, including one on Indian Army camp in Uri, further deteriorated the relationship.

The relationship dipped further after India's war planes carried out an airstrike at Jaish-e-Mohammed training camp on February 26, 2019 in response to the Pulwama suicide attack in which 40 CRPF jawans were killed.

The relations deteriorated after India announced withdrawing special powers of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcation of the state into two union territories in August, 2019.

Last month, Pakistan's powerful Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa said that it was time for India and Pakistan to "bury the past and move forward as he asserted that the peace between the two neighbours would help to unlock the potential of South and Central Asia.

The powerful army, which has ruled Pakistan for more than half of its 70 plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign policy.

Gen Bajwa's remarks came a day after Prime Minister Imran Khan made a similar statement.

Tele-Psychiatric

strong mental and physical health.

"The counselling is one among the measures taken to enhance and boost the motivation of people to remain both mentally and physically healthy and shall enhance the motivation and positivity among the people particularly Covid-affected persons during the home isolation period," the official spokesperson said.

Among other doctors, he said, a team of consultants from department of Psychiatry IMHANS-K, GMC Srinagar shall include Dr Mohammad Maqbool (Prof &Head) who shall be available on his phone number- 7889818196.

The other doctors who will be available to take calls include

Dr Yasir Hussain- 7006690548

Dr Rayees Ahmad- 6005027377

Dr Junaid Nabi- 9797199799

Dr Altaf Ahmad- 7006244948

Dr Shabir Ahmad- 7006296837

Dr Fazle -9696028541.

Besides it, a team of Psychologists shall be available to the public on Monday, Thursday and Saturday respectively. They have been spared for 3 days only to ensure smooth running of other services, the official spokesperson said. The Psychologists include:

Dr Sadaqat Rehman- 9419038368

Masood Maqbool- 6006175374

Aijaz Ahmad- 7006314064

"The purpose of the counselling is to illuminate the people currently in home situation, guide about precautions, maintaining Covid behaviour and precautions besides assisting the general public in living a healthy life during the pandemic," the official spokesperson said.

He further said that in these unprecedented times, such steps would not only benefit the people in home isolation but would also be effective in breaking the chain.

The team shall be available between 10:30am to 4:00 pm daily.

"Moreover, Dr Iftikhar Hussain, In Charge ISM Covid-19 Kashmir has been instructed to ensure smooth supply and distribution of immune boosting medicines among general public and forces including Army, Police and paramilitary forces in all contaminated zones," the official spokesperson added.

Police Arrests 3

about a bank robbery at J&K Bank branch in Khare Sherabad.

He said that during the course of investigation with aid of modern and scientific methods of investigation including CCTV footage and human intelligence, investigating officers were able to identify the group involved in the commission of crime.

The police spokesperson said that three alleged militant associates LeT identified as Rahil Ahmad Parray of Kanihama, Arif Ahmad Mir of Mazhama and Naseer Ahmad Bhat of Singhpora were arrested in a joint operation with army's 29 RR on a specific input generated by police.

During further course of investigation, he said, it was revealed that the arrested trio were also involved in other three robberies, including Grameen Bank Ogmuna on March 12, Grameen Bank Panzinaara on March 16 and J&K Bank Chandipora on March 24 and had de-camped with total cash of Rs 9, 51,896.

"Investigation also revealed that the arrested trio were working on the hebest and directions of local active militants Yusuf Dar @Kanturu and Abrar Nadeem Bhat linked with LeT," he said.

He further claimed that the trio were also involved in looting of 3,50,000/- from a petrol pump at Budgam on February 18 and killing of a civilian namely Naseer Ahmad Khan at Buchipora Magam on April 11.

"On their disclosure the recoveries made include Cash Rs 24,500, 1 Chinese pistol, 2 magazines, 25 live rounds, two 12-bore rifles, 3 cartridges, 2 pouches, 1 multipurpose knife, 3 PPE kits, 1 weapon tying chain and three vehicles viz, Alto K-10 JK05G-5626, Alto-800 JK05G-4664, Alto K-10 without number plate were recovered. Further investigation into the matter is in progress," the police spokesperson added.

PMDP Sponsored

due to Centre's "cold attitude".

"So far we have been able to tender one project and two are under the process of tendering. How can we award the projects when the Centre has neither sanctioned the projects nor released funds? We have taken up the matter with both Centre as well as administration of J&K umpteenth times but there has been no positive response at all," he said.

He admitted that there has been negligible progress under the project so far.

"How can we tender out these projects when we are not sure about their funding? DPRs of these projects are ready. We have prepared DPRs of 19 projects and remaining are under process," he said— (KNO)

J&K BJP Chief

an AK assault rifle, a pistol and four grenades is seen talking.

"You are talking about liberating Azad Kashmir (Pakistan-controlled Kashmir) on a daily basis and building a temple there... you are spewing venom against Pakistan and Jihad (holy war). We will cut your tongue and hang it in Jammu city centre," the man in the video said.

"This is the last warning to you to desist from

making such statements otherwise your death is certain," he said.

Talking about the revocation of Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution by the Centre, the man in the video said "everything will be avenged".

Raina said that he will not be cowed down by such threats.

"We have taken a resolve to uproot militancy from Jammu and Kashmir to provide a peaceful atmosphere to the people, especially the residents of the Valley who have been facing Pakistan-sponsored violence for the past three decades," he said.

Pleasant Weather

3.6 degree Celsius amid 0.6mm of rain during the time, the official said.

Mercury settled at minus 1.6 degree Celsius against 0.8 degree Celsius on the previous night in Pahalgam while the famous tourist resort in South Kashmir received 3.6mm of rain during the time, he said.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a low of 2.7 degree Celsius against previous night's 1.8 degree Celsius while it had 3.2mm of rain during the time, the official said.

North Kashmir's Kupwara district recorded a low of 4.5 degree Celsius against 3.7 degree Celsius on the previous night which is below normal by 3.1 degree Celsius for this season, the official said.

Gulmarg, the world famous skiing resort in Baramulla district of north Kashmir, received 3.2mm of rain in the last 24 hours while the resort recorded a low of minus 3.4 degree Celsius against minus 2.0 degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said. The MeT office has predicted "dry and warmer" weather till 3rd May in both J&K and Ladakh.

"Weather is clear and dry in both J&K and Ladakh and is likely to continue till 3rd May," Sonam Lotus, Director of local Meteorological Department said.

Srinagar Bound

in a communiqué.

It further said that LMVs shall ensure that cross Nagrota (Jammu) between 0800 to 1300 hours and Jakheni (Udhampur) between 0900 to 1400 hours. No vehicle shall be allowed after the cut off timings. Regarding HMVs, it said, only stranded vehicles between Jawahar Tunnel and Banihal shall be allowed towards Jammu.

Soldier Injured

hospital Rajouri for specialized treatment.

A police officer confirmed the incident and said that proceedings have been initiated as regards the incident. (GNS)

Militant Held

of Chrar-e-Shareef town, a police spokesperson said Saturday. Bhat, he said, had recently joined militant outfit Al-Badr.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that the arrested militant was in close contact with the handlers of the Al-Badr across the border in Pakistan and also active militants of the outfit in South Kashmir," the police spokesperson said.

He said that arms and ammunition, including a Chinese Pistol with a magazine and 14 rounds, 2 AK magazines, 58 AK rounds and incriminating materials of Al-Badr were recovered from his possession.

"In this regard, a case FIR No. 24/2021 under relevant sections of law stands registered in Police Station Chrar-e-Shareef and further investigation is in progress," he added.

Youth Booked For

the arms license following which the wild-life department approached police of necessary legal action in the case.

"We have registered a case FIR number 71/2021 under section 7/27 Arms Act, 353, 51 WLF against the offender for possessing this rifle. The youth hasn't been arrested so far," a police official said. (KDC)

5 Detained For

A police team rushed to the spot and took the accused into preventive custody for breaching peace, they added.

The accused were subsequently brought to the Ramban police station for further inquiry into the matter, the police said, adding that a case was also registered against them.

They said all the accused were produced before a local court and released on surety bonds of Rs 10,000 each.

Ben Stokes Criticises Chepauk Track, Calls It 'Trash'



Press Trust of India

LONDON: England all-rounder Ben Stokes has criticised the slow track of Chennai's Chepauk Stadium and hoped that teams competing in the IPL do not end up regularly scraping to low scores because of wickets that are "trash".

Stokes, whose IPL stint with Rajasthan Royals was cut short by a fractured finger, feels that for an enjoyable T20 contest, a score in the range of 160 to 170 is paramount.

"Hope the wickets don't get worse as the IPL gets deeper into the tournament. 160/170 minimum not scraping to 130/140 cause the wickets are trash," Stokes tweeted after Mumbai Indians painstakingly reached 131

for 6 which was chased down by Punjab Kings.

Till Friday, Chennai has hosted nine IPL games and only twice has the team batting first scored in excess of 170.

Once, it was Royal Challengers Bangalore which posted a commanding 204 against Kolkata Knight Riders and the other time was KKR scoring 187 against SunRisers Hyderabad.

Otherwise, any score in the range of 145 to 150 has been good enough to win for teams batting first. Chennai will host its last IPL game of the season on Sunday when Delhi Capitals take on SunRisers Hyderabad before the caravan shifts to Ahmedabad and New Delhi.

'How SRH Play Rashid Khan Will Hold Key,' Says Mohammed Kaif

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: Delhi Capitals assistant coach Mohammad Kaif feels how his team plays star Sunrisers Hyderabad spinner Rashid Khan on a slow Chepauk surface will hold key in their IPL match here on Sunday.

Buoyed by their win over Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals will be looking to build on their momentum against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

"The way we play Rashid Khan is going to be the key for us on this pitch," said Kaif in a team release.

Kaif added that batting on the pitch in Chennai has been difficult, but the experienced their batting line-up is certainly up for the challenge.

"Shikhar has been batting really well and Smith batted well in the last game. Amit Mishra

bowled beautifully in the last game, and we have Ravichandran Ashwin as well.

"Marcus Stoinis bowled well with the new ball in the last match and the way Rishabh has been leading the side, especially on a turning track, has been a great sign."

When asked about all-rounder Axar Patel's return to the Delhi Capitals squad after recovering from COVID-19, Kaif said, "The balance of the Delhi Capitals squad is now perfect."

"He has been a key member of this franchise. He played a major role in the team finishing as runner-up last season and it will be no different this year. Axar, Mishra and Ashwin playing together will be a dream spin bowling attack for us."

India Women's Team Storms Into Final Of Archery World Cup

Press Trust of India

GUATEMALA CITY: The Indian recurve women's team of Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat and Komalika Bari stormed into the final and ensured its first medal in the Archery World Cup Stage one in Guatemala City on Friday.

The top-seeded Indian trio defeated its Spanish rivals in straight sets 6-0 with some consistent shooting to set up a gold medal clash with second seed Mexico on Sunday.

Deepika, Ankita and Komalika shot 55, 56 and 55 to prevail over Elia Canales, Ines De Velasco and

Leyre Fernandez Infante in straight sets. In the quarterfinals, they eliminated hosts Guatemala City by an identical 6-0 margin earlier in the day at the Sports Complex Los Arcos.

The men's team, which qualified as third seed, on the other hand lost out in the quarterfinals to their Spanish rivals 26-27 in a shoot-out after both teams were tied 4-4.

India are also in the medal hunt in three more events with newlywed Ananu and Deepika advancing into the mixed pair bronze playoff.

The two archers also made the individual recurve semifinals in their respective sections.

IPL 2021, CSK Vs RCB, Preview

CSK, RCB Set For High-Voltage, Top Of The Table Clash

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: It would be nothing short of a clash of the titans when Virat Kohli's on-a-roll Royal Challengers Bangalore takes on Mahendra Singh Dhoni's Chennai Super Kings in a top-of-the-table IPL showdown here on Sunday with two points and momentum at stake.

RCB has won all its four matches so far and sits on top of the standings. CSK, on the other hand, has hit back after losing its opener to claim three straight wins for the second spot in the points table.

RCB, boosted by a 10-wicket hammering of Rajasthan Royals, will be keen to continue its winning streak. However, the task is easier said than done as CSK is riding high with three good results of its own. Kohli and the highly-rated Devdutt Padikkal toyed with the Rajasthan Royals bowling the other day and will look to lay a strong foundation again for RCB against a varied CSK bowling attack.

RCB, which has more often not under-performed amid high expectations, has started well. And, Kohli will be aware of the importance of maintaining the intensity in a long league.

The RCB batting appears to be top heavy and reliant on the performances of Kohli, South African maestro AB de Villiers and Australian maverick Glenn Maxwell. Padikkal's good form also augurs



well for the team.

However, the RCB batting unit will front up to Deepak Chahar, who is known for his ability to strike early.

It remains to be seen if the team has what it takes to bounce back in case there is loss of wickets early in the innings.

The RCB bowling has done the job so far with Mohammed Siraj being impressive. However, they come up against a formidable CSK which bats deep and the importance of early wickets can't be emphasised enough.

Ruturaj Gaikwad emerged from three failures with an impressive knock against Kolkata Knight Riders and forms a strong opening partnership with Faf du Plessis.

A good start will help their cause and with an in-form Moeen Ali pencilled in at No.3 and Suresh Raina to follow, CSK has the fire-power to strike late as well.

Skipper Dhoni is yet to hit his straps but coach Stephen Fleming believes he would get better with every outing.

While Chahar has been in the thick of things at the start, spinners Ravindra Jadeja and Moeen Ali have also struck crucial blows. Shardul Thakur has proved expensive at times but is a vital cog in the CSK bowling unit.

Add to this the fact that the Wankhede stadium has seen mostly high-scoring games and the team that holds its nerves is likely to come up trumps on a track like this.

Delhi Capitals Take On Sun Risers Hyderabad On A Slow Chepauk

Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: Rishabh Pant's brute power will be put to test against Rashid Khan's bagful of tricks in an IPL encounter where Delhi Capitals will start as favourites against SunRisers Hyderabad due to their better bowling resources.

The much-criticised Chepauk track will host its 10th and final IPL game of the season in which both Pant and his opposite number David Warner would pray for a decent surface for their flamboyant baters.

With only a couple of first innings total in excess of 170 across nine games here, the slow and gripping surface at the MA Chidambaram Stadium tests the skills of the batsmen in a different manner.

Possibly, it's the ability to muscle the ball that will come in handy on this track and hence the DC skipper's role as a batsman will become all the more important.

While Shikhar Dhawan is in good form and Prithvi Shaw in not so great touch after the first game, the willow-wielders, who depend on sheer timing compared to power may struggle.

In fact, Hyderabad, after playing all its four games in Chennai, has only now started to crack the code of a slow track, evident during the team's comfortable victory over Punjab Kings after a hat-trick of defeats.

With Kane Williamson back in the mix, SunRisers seemed to have got a better balance in a set-up which is acutely short of quality India internationals.

With T Natarajan's death bowl-



ing unavailable for this season and Manish Pandey only able to manage a strike-rate of 112 odd, bulk of the responsibility is on overseas recruits Warner, Jonny Bairstow, Williamson and Rashid.

The wily Afghan has again been very consistent and his duel with Pant could be one of the most eagerly-awaited match-ups that can send the TRPs soaring.

SRH's weak link is certainly its bowling attack with none among Sandeep Sharma, Siddharth Kaul or all-rounder Vijay Shankar inspiring any sort of confidence whatsoever.

So DC will have 12 overs out of 20 on which they can feast upon if one takes away the eight bowled by Rashid and the seasoned Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

However, a bit of tweak in their XI also won't be bad even though they had comfortably beaten Mumbai Indians in a low-scoring game here only a few days back.

One area of slight concern will be Ashwin's form as he has been going at 8 runs per over in the past four games and only a single wicket to show for his efforts.

The Chepauk track could just give him some breathing space after mostly flat decks in Mumbai.

Similarly, Pant would also like to check out if Chris Woakes is a better option with his pace and also some all-round skills in place of Kagiso Rabada, who has been off colour till now.

Veterans Ajinkya Rahane and Ishant Sharma, however cruel it may seem, are expected to warm the benches unless both Lalit Yadav and Avesh Khan sustain a last-minute niggles.

For SunRisers, how Trevor Bayliss and VVS Laxman set up the batting order will be important. Kedar Jadhav is well past his prime but still could be way more effective than any of the youngsters, who haven't delivered this season.

Sachin Tendulkar Recovers From COVID-19, To Donate Plasma

Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Former India captain Sachin Tendulkar on Saturday said he has recovered from COVID-19 and will donate plasma when he is eligible.

Tendulkar, celebrating his 48th birthday on Saturday, tested positive for the virus on March 27 and had to be briefly hospitalised here as a precautionary measure.

"I would like to give a message, which the doctors have told me to give. Last year, I had inaugurated a plasma donation centre and their message, if plasma is given at the right time, patients can recover faster," Tendulkar said in a video posted on his twitter handle.

"I personally, when permissible, will donate it and I have spoken to the doctors," he added.

Tendulkar had been in home isolation after he was discharged from hospital on April 8.

A donor should not have any symptoms of the infection for at least 14 days prior to plasma donation.

The legendary right-handed batsman appealed to people who have

recovered from COVID-19 to donate their plasma, to help the others.

"And you all, who have recovered from COVID-19, consult your doctor and when permissible, please donate blood, it can reduce a lot of problems.

"We know what problems our family members, friends have, till we are unwell," added the iconic player. Usually, the donated plasma from COVID recovered patients is used for treatment of the patients who are positive for the virus.

Tendulkar also thanked the doctors for keeping him in a positive frame of mind during his treatment.

"...thank you so very much for your birthday wishes. It's truly made my day. Last month has been a tough month for me. I was tested positive and had to be isolated for 21 days.

"Your prayers and good wishes, my family's prayers and good wishes, friends, last but not the least, all the doctors and the staff with them, they kept me in a positive frame of mind and helped me recover. A big thank you to all of you," he said.

'2022 World Cup Will Be My Swansong,' Says Mithali Raj



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Indian women's ODI captain Mithali Raj on Saturday indicated that the 2022 50-over World Cup in New Zealand will be her "swansong" after 23 illustrious years in international cricket.

The 38-year-old Mithali, arguably, the finest woman cricketer that India has ever produced, also said that she is seriously looking for some good seam bowling options for the lively New Zealand tracks that will be on offer next year.

"It's been 21 years of international cricket and I know 2022 is my swansong, The World Cup," Mithali said during the virtual launch of the book '1971: The Beginning of India's Cricketing Greatness', published by Harper Collins and co-authored by Boria Majumdar and Gautam Bhattacharya.

"The last year is equal to the 20 years of my international cricket," she added. Mithali, the only women batter with 7000 plus ODI runs, also spoke about how she had to keep herself motivated during the COVID-19 times which also pushed the global event by one year.

"I know we are in difficult times but it takes a lot out of me to keep working on my fitness. I am not getting any younger, in fact I am getting older and I know the importance of fitness," Mithali said.

"The importance of being in a very good emotional and mental set-up, knowing that there still will be very few tours before the World Cup."

Indian women are set to play four bilateral series -- away

tours in England, Australia and New Zealand and a home series against West Indies sandwiched in between.

"Every tour (from now on) is important for me as a batter as to how I am going to get the team to regroup and build a team for the World Cup," she said.

"Yeah, I am very optimistic looking at the girls and in the manner they have been working with whatever facilities they have in these times and focus and enthusiasm that a series is coming up."

She admitted that fast bowling is one area that the team needs to improve upon and build a pool looking at the future as Jhulan Goswami also hits the business end of her career.

"We definitely need to look at a few players and prepare them for New Zealand, so yeah."

Mithali also got some words of advice from the legendary Sunil Gavaskar, who was a co-panellist during the discussion.

Gavaskar feels that Mithali and her bunch could take a leaf out of Virat Kohli's playbook of looking at opponent's eyes and giving it back without getting intimidated.

"I was with my wife at Lord's watching the 2017 Women ODI World Cup final. What I saw was that English girls came hard at your lower order and intimidated them with their attitude," Gavaskar said.

"I would want the girls to glare back at the opposition instead of looking down. I feel body language is a very important aspect. Look at Virat Kohli, he stares at opposition and the rest of the team does that."

Liverpool Fans Protest Outside Anfield Against American Owners

Agencies

LIVERPOOL: Banners bearing slogans calling for the removal of Liverpool's American ownership were on view outside Anfield before the team's 1-1 draw with Premier League opponents Newcastle United.

The latest protest came as more and more English football fans continued to show their dissatisfaction about the aborted Super League project on Saturday.

The protests on Anfield Road were muted compared to those by several hundred Arsenal fans outside Emirates Stadium on Friday ahead of its game against Everton. The sentiments were similar, however, with club owners the targets of criticism.

"Enough is Enough FSG Out" and "Henry, You have blood on your hands," were the words on some of the banners, referencing Fenway Sports Group and principal owner John Henry.

There were around 150 Liverpool fans outside the stadium and they greeted the players and management with warm applause as the



team bus arrived at Anfield.

That highlighted the separation supporters were making between the owners of England's so-called "Big Six" clubs who were behind the Super League, and the rest of the club.

"The part I have struggled with is seeing this club, a place I love

and am now proud to call my home, trashed -- and done so in a manner which suggests no redemption is possible. That I can't take," Klopp said in his notes in the matchday program.

"It was right to take apart the concept and it was fair to criticize it, along with those who came up

with it and also how it was presented. All legitimate in my view. The anger and disappointment was justified but there were times when the distinction between 'club' and this decision (and yes, those responsible for it) were too quickly blurred into one."

Chelsea is among the clubs that attempted the breakaway and more protests are expected before its game against West Ham later Saturday.

A statement published late Friday by Chelsea expressed "regret" at members of its hierarchy getting involved in the Super League proposals, though there was no apology.

It promised to involve supporters in any future discussions about "new mechanisms or structures" and to "safeguard fan representation in the club's work."

"The club does ask, however, that this dialogue is conducted in a respectful way," the Chelsea statement said. "The abuse which some club representatives have been the target of over the past few days is not acceptable."

Mohun Bagan 1969 Shield Final Hero Pronab Ganguly No More

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Former India and Mohun Bagan winger Pronab Ganguly, who is best remembered for his double strike against East Bengal in the club's 1969 IFA Shield win, died after suffering a cardiac arrest here.

Ganguly, 75, was having breathing problems for the past few days and suffered a cardiac arrest at his Park Circus residence on Friday, according to sources in his former club.

Ganguly was a member of the Indian team in the Merdeka Cup in 1969. After he switched over to Mohun Bagan from Howrah Union in 1967, Ganguly wowed the Kolkata Maidan with his deft dribbling skills and amazing ball control.

He played eight seasons on the trot for the Mariners. His best moment came under Amal Dutta's 4-2-4 formation in the high-voltage 1969 IFA Shield final when his brace handed Mohun Bagan a 3-1 win over arch-rivals East Bengal.



Sukalyan Ghoshdastidar had scored the other goal.

Despite playing as a left-winger, Ganguly had a penchant for scoring goals and showed his talent in his second match of the Calcutta League for Mohun Bagan when his free-kick downed Rajasthan Club.

With him in the team, Mohun Bagan won every major trophy -- Calcutta League, IFA Shield, Durand Cup, Rovers Cup. His career highlights also include a brilliant hat-trick in the Rovers Cup.

He was also successful for Bengal in Santosh Trophy, participating from 1967 to 1969 and 1971, winning the title in 1969 and 1971.

In 1969, Ganguly was brilliant in the Santosh semi-final against a strong Andhra Pradesh team, scoring four times over two legs.

After retirement he was involved as a coach with Calcutta Cricket and Football Club and also several academies. He was bestowed with Mohun Bagan's Lifetime Achievement award in 2020.

Thousands Of Indians Return To UAE Before Midnight Flight Suspension

Thousands of Indians returned to the UAE this weekend before flights to the Emirates are suspended from midnight on Saturday. People who travelled to meet relatives, on business or vacation have snapped up tickets, often paying more than Dh4,000 (\$1,088) – six times the usual cost of a one-way fare.

UAE authorities have said the decision covers all incoming flights from India for 10 days on national and overseas airlines.

This follows a worsening Covid-19 situation in India.

Some categories are exempt, including UAE citizens and diplomats, who are permitted to return as long as they adhere to quarantine and testing rules.

Godly Babukutty, an agent at Epic Travel in Dubai, said his team had handled more than 300 passengers who booked to return on Saturday on flights with airlines including Air India Express, SpiceJet and IndiGo from southern India. "All airlines have put on extra flights because the requests have shot up," he said.

niece's wedding when she heard the news.

"It was a limited celebration of 50 people that starts on Sunday, but I decided to get the first flight back to Dubai.

"It's not worth it to lose my job over this," she said, declining to give a surname.

Several states, including Delhi and Maharashtra, have enforced strict stay home restrictions to stem the spread of coronavirus cases. But smaller cities continue to allow gatherings of up to 500 people.

India's total number of cases has crossed 16 million, the world's second highest total after the US.

It recorded 346,786 new cases on Saturday, the biggest daily jump in the world, with 2,624 deaths in the past 24 hours.

Several UAE residents said they were unable to get PCR test reports in time to make the Saturday deadline.

Dr Rahul Gupta, an anaesthetist, who is visiting relatives in Agra, in north India, has informed the Dubai hospital he works in



A one-way ticket that usually costs Dh600 to Dh800 has soared to Dh4,400 from Mumbai to Dubai on some airlines.

"We have charged Dh1,700. These special flights go back empty, so the charges have increased.

"People are willing to pay because it's an emergency. They are worried they will lose their job if this lasts longer than 10 days," said Mr Babukutty.

"There are also women and children coming back to be with their family."

Dubai resident Kumari cut short a visit to north India for a

about the delay.

"I have a ticket but no test so I cannot board the flight. We came to visit my mother-in-law who is unwell but now I'm tense about how to get back to the UAE.

"Labs in this city do not have the code that the UAE requires."

The India flight ban was announced on Thursday, days after Dubai updated PCR testing rules requiring a negative test result no more than 48 hours instead of 72 hours before travel.

Results must be from an accredited laboratory that issues results carrying a QR code.

We Will Hang Anyone Blocking Oxygen Supply: Delhi High Court



Agenceis

The Delhi High Court on Saturday asked the Centre about the preparedness to deal with the expected Covid-19 second wave peak in mid-May, terming the massive rise in cases as a "Tsunami", and warned it will "hang" any person who tries to obstruct oxygen supplies to hospitals here. Talking tough, a bench of Justices Vipin Sanghi and Rekha Palli, said this during a special hearing on a holiday on the issue of mounting oxygen crisis in various hospitals in Delhi.

The court said the viral disease has a low mortality and those who have a low immunity will eventually die but the problem comes when people who could be saved are also dying. "The mortality rate needs to be reduced."

Referring to a study by a team of scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, the court noted its assessment that the peak of this COVID wave will come in mid-May.

"We are calling it a wave, it is actually a Tsunami," the court said, and asked the Centre about the preparedness in terms of infrastructure, hospitals, medical staff, medicines, vaccines and oxygen as on date for the peak.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, said there might be a rapid rise in the number of cases in May and June and the country needs to be ready for the worst.

He said the Prime Minister and others are working on it and have

decided to import oxygen and are also exploring the remotest possibility of generating oxygen from wherever it is possible.

The court was hearing submissions by the counsel for Maharaja Agrasen Hospital, Jaipur Golden Hospital, Batra Hospital and Saroj Super Speciality Hospital here over shortage of oxygen for treating seriously-ill Covid patients.

"We will hang that man. We will not spare anyone," the court said while telling the Delhi government to give one instance of any official at the central, state or local administration obstructing the pickup of oxygen supplies.

The court told the Delhi government to inform the Centre also about such officials of the local administration so that it could take action against them.

It also asked the Centre when the 480 metric tonne (MT) of oxygen per day allocated for Delhi would see the light of the day.

"You (Centre) had assured us (on April 21) that 480 MT per day will reach Delhi. Tell us when will it come? The 480 MT per day is still to see the light of the day."

The query came after the Delhi government said it was getting only 380 MT oxygen per day over the past few days and it received only around 300 MT on Friday.

During the hearing, the court also questioned the Delhi government officers as to what endeavour they have made to secure tankers to get the supply of oxygen allocated to it by the Centre.

20 Critically Ill Patients Die In Delhi's Jaipur Golden Hospital Amid Oxygen Scarcity



Agenceis

Twenty critically ill patients died overnight at Jaipur Golden Hospital in Delhi amid a serious oxygen crisis, officials said on Saturday.

"The oxygen pressure has dipped as we are running out of stock," Dr

D K Baluja, the medical director of Jaipur Golden Hospital, said

He said the hospital has over 200 patients and they had only half-an-hour of oxygen was left at 10:45 am.

It received the last refill of oxygen around midnight, after hours of delay.

"Nobody has promised anything. Everybody is saying we will do our best," the medical director said when asked if the hospital received any help from the government.

Dr Baluja said the hospital has over 200 patients and 80 per cent of them are on oxygen support. Around 35 patients are in the ICU, he said.

Why India Is Facing An Oxygen Crisis As Covid-19 Cases Mount

Agenceis

By air, by train and by road, India is scrambling to move large quantities of medical oxygen to hospitals in its capital New Delhi and other areas hit hard by a record surge of Covid-19.

Are hospitals running out of oxygen?

The main problem is that medical oxygen is not reaching hospital beds in time. This delay is a product of where production units are located, a stretched distribution network, and what critics have said is bad planning.

Several hospitals in Delhi, which has no significant oxygen production capacity, made frantic public calls this week seeking emergency supplies.

With Covid-19 cases also swamping its neighbouring states like Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, oxygen facilities there are over-stretched attempting to meet local demand.

To fulfil Delhi's current needs, additional medical oxygen now has to be trucked in from industrial zones in eastern India.

Why are oxygen deliveries getting delayed?

The facilities from where Delhi will now receive oxygen are spread across seven states, some more than 1,000 km (625 miles) away, according to a court document.

Given the hazardous nature of the substance, all liquid oxygen must be transported in a limited number of specialised tankers, requiring advance planning to ensure deliveries are made on time, a gas industry source told Reuters.

In recent days, as a scramble for oxygen among states worsened, local officials in some regions disrupted movement of tankers in a bid to keep supplies for themselves.

In part due to such blockades,



Delhi only received about 177 tonnes of oxygen on Wednesday against its allocation of 378 tonnes, an official said.

But the industry source said that Delhi had also dragged its feet on planning ahead, without factoring in the time it takes to move oxygen cross-country by road.

"This problem wouldn't have happened if they had acted 2-3 weeks ago," the source said. Delhi's government did not respond to questions about the planning.

Does India have enough oxygen?

India has a daily production capacity of at least 7,100 tonnes of oxygen, including for industrial use, which appears to be enough to meet current demand.

This week, the government allocated 6,822 tonnes of liquid oxygen per day to 20 of the country's worst-affected states, compared to their combined demand of 6,785 tonnes, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office said on Thursday.

India's total medical oxygen demand was just 3,842 tonnes as of April 12, as the surge in cases really took hold.

States are typically allocated supplies by an inter-ministerial group of bureaucrats mandated to monitor and facilitate the flow of essential medical kit during the pandemic.

Man Arrested For Killing Wife By Pouring Boiling Water On Her



Agenceis

CAIRO: Saudi prosecutors are interrogating a man accused of savagely beating his wife and pouring boiling water on her, resulting in her death, local newspapers reported.

The suspect, an African resident in the Saudi region of Mecca, was exposed after a government hospital notified police that a woman, holding an African nationality, had been brought to the hospital with serious burns and signs of physical abuse.

Investigations showed that the woman had been severely abused by her husband in their house in the governorate of Al Taif. Her family transferred Thursday to the hospital where she died a day later. Mecca police arrested the suspect who is being questioned before referral to court.

Supreme Court Should Have Acted Sooner, Sena On Kumbh, Rallies Amid Covid

Agenceis

MUMBAI: The Shiv Sena on Saturday said the COVID-19 situation in the county wouldn't have worsened had the Supreme Court taken timely cognisance of election rallies in West Bengal and the Kumbh Mela in Haridwar.

The party's remarks come after the court's order asking the Centre for a national plan on oxygen supply and vaccination amid the pandemic.

"It is good that the court has stepped in. However, had there been a timely intervention about election rallies and road shows of the Prime Minister, home minister and other leaders in West Bengal and the religious congregation in Haridwar, people wouldn't have been left to die in agony," the Sena said in an editorial in its mouthpiece "Saamana".

Citing the death of 25 COVID-19 patients in a hospital in Delhi due to oxygen shortage, the party asked who should be held responsible for the situation, if not the Centre.

"This is the situation in the national capital. Who is responsible for this situation if not the central

government?" it said, highlighting that a leading British daily had described the scenario as "India's descent to Covid hell".

Had the Centre focused on tackling the second COVID-19 wave instead of the Assembly polls in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam and Puducherry, the situation would not have deteriorated, it added.

The Uddhav Thackeray-led party also condoled the loss of lives in hospital tragedies in Bhandara, Mumbai, Virar and Nashik.

"Modi and his colleagues wanted to turn India into a heaven. Today, we see only crematoriums and burial grounds. There are mass funeral pyres and hospitals themselves are on fire along with the patients. Is this a hell?" it stated.

Meanwhile, speaking to reporters, Sena leader and Saamana's executive editor Sanjay Raut blamed the country's top leadership for the health crisis.

"Our leadership is not willing to go beyond winning elections and politics. They feel this is the ultimate success. Had the focus been on tackling the pandemic, we wouldn't be in such a situation," the Rajya Sabha member said.



COVID-19: Umrah Pilgrimage Rituals Taking 80 Minutes To Complete On Average

Agenceis

CAIRO: The duration of performing the Umrah or minor pilgrimage is estimated at 80 minutes on average, according to a Saudi state religious agency.

The Umrah, which can be undertaken round the year in the Grand Mosque, comprises two key rituals: Tawaf or the circumambulation of the Holy Kaaba; and Sa'i, which is walking seven times back and forth between the hills of Safa and Marwa.

The General Presidency for Affairs of the Two Holy Mosques explained in a report that the average duration of Tawaf reaches 27 minutes, while that of Sa'i takes up to 47 minutes. Moving from the Tawaf site to that of Sa'i takes six more minutes.

The holy month of Ramadan is usually a peak Umrah season.

Saudi authorities have increased the capacity of the Grand Mosque to reach 50,000 Umrah pilgrims and 100,000 worshippers per day in current Ramadan.

The number of tracks designated for encircling the Holy Kaaba has also increased by 11 tracks to reach 25 to ensure safe distancing among pilgrims and help them

perform the ritual comfortably.

In October, Saudi Arabia set into motion a plan for gradual resumption of the Umrah after suspension of around seven months amid stringent precautions against COVID-19.

The first phase of the plan, which began on October 4, allowed 6,000 Umrah pilgrims from inside the kingdom per day into the mosque.

The second went into effect on October 18, allowing about 40,000 worshippers and 10,000 pilgrims a day into the site. As many as 20,000 Umrah pilgrims and 60,000 worshippers per day were allowed into the mosque according to the third phase that started in November.

Earlier this month, Saudi authorities announced that only "immunised" people against COVID-19 will be allowed to perform the Umrah and visit the Prophet's Mosque starting from Ramadan 1.

The Ministry of Haj and Umrah has defined the eligible "immunised" worshippers as those who have received two doses of vaccination against COVID-19; those receiving a single dose of inoculation at least 14 days in advance; and those who have recovered from the virus infection.

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