



P6 THINK

KNOWLEDGE GAMES, MUSLIM YOUTH AND LACK OF TRADITIONAL SCHOLARLY INTERVENTIONS

The torrent of knowledge that has been unleashed in our times has brought with it an array of issues dwelling upon faith and religion. The inability to deal with these questions and to arrive

P7

ON INNOVATION: WHAT MAKES PEOPLE CREATIVE

Knowing what motivates people to be creative is essential for any manager, teacher, or student concerned with creativity and, ultimately, innovation. So let's take a look at some extremely creative people. What about Leonardo da Vinci, for example,



P10 SPORTS

SCARY HOW PEOPLE BEHAVE ON SOCIAL MEDIA: WASIM AKRAM

Pakistan pace legend Wasim Akram said one of the reasons he never accepted any permanent coaching assignment with the national team is because he can't

**Quote!**

If you dream it, you can do it

— Walt Disney

NEWS DIGEST**LG Grooms People On Navratri**

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday extended his heartfelt greetings on the auspicious occasion of Sharad Navratri. "Navratri signifies the triumph of good over evil," the LG said, as per an official spokesperson. "It is an occasion to nurture righteousness within and to radiate peace, love, and harmony," he added. **● More On P11**

Soldier Hangs Self At Jammu Camp

JAMMU: An Army man allegedly died by suicide inside a camp in the outskirts of Jammu, officials said on Wednesday. Sepoy Sonavane Ganesh was found hanging with a rope at the camp in Domana area on Tuesday evening, the officials said. The body of the deceased was sent to the Government Medical College (GMC) hospital. **● More On P11**

2 'Militant Associates' Held In Kupwara

SRINAGAR: Government forces have arrested two suspected underground workers of militants from Kupwara district in north Kashmir and recovered arms and ammunition from their possession, officials said here on Wednesday. Safer Ahmad Sheikh and Zameer Hussain Sheikh were apprehended at Hajitara near the **● More On P11**

SSB Trooper Injured In Misfire

SRINAGAR: A Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) trooper was critically injured on Wednesday when his service rifle went off accidentally in Jammu city. Constable Sonagra Hasmukh of 7th Battalion SSB was critically injured when his service rifle went off at a park outside the civil secretariat, Jammu on Wednesday around **● More On P11**

Heightened Security In Srinagar After Serial Killings

Aqub Javed

SRINAGAR: The government forces on Wednesday stepped up security arrangements in this capital city following a spate of killings, including the assassination of a famous pharmacist, evoking widespread condemnation from mainstream camp and separatist parties.

According to reports, the government forces, including police, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the specially trained Special Operations Group (SOG) personnel on Wednesday carried out surprise security checks in various parts of this capital city.

Forces, reports said, conducted surprise checks and identification parades at many parts of the city to keep a check on militants. At Hari Singh High Street



File Photo: Abid Bhat

(HSHS), policemen were seen frisking pedestrians and checking their belongings thoroughly.

Reports of random checking were also reported from SK Park, Budshah Bridge, Maulana Azad link road and other places in this capital city. Besides frisking the

people, cops were also seen demanding identity proof from them.

The heightened security in Srinagar comes amid a spurt in civilian killings over the last three days. Police claim that the killings are being executed by militants to "spread terror

and to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere" in the Valley.

On Tuesday, suspected militants shot dead a prominent pharmacist and two others, including a non-local vendor in three back to back attacks within an hour in this capital city and north Kashmir's Bandipora district, setting alarm bells ringing in the security establishment.

The three killings came three days after suspected militants shot dead two people in back to back attacks in Srinagar's Karan Nagar and Batamalo areas of this capital city on Saturday last.

Majid Gojri was shot dead by suspected militants around 5:30pm Saturday near Madina Complex in Karan Nagar area of the city. Barely two hours later, gunmen appeared in SD Colony, Batamalo and shot dead Muhammad Shafi Dar.

J&K Logs 127 New Cases, 2 Covid Deaths

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir reported on Wednesday 127 fresh cases of novel coronavirus while two more persons succumbed to the deadly infection in the Union Territory during the last 24 hours.

According to the officials, 73 new cases of Covid-19 were reported from Kashmir Valley and the remaining 54 from Jammu division, taking the total number of people infected since the outbreak of pandemic last year in J&K to 330118.

In the Valley, officials said Srinagar reported the highest 44 cases of coronavirus followed by Baramulla with 8 Budgam 7, Anantnag and Ganderbal **● More On P11**

PDD Revenue Up By 23% Till Sept 2021

Power Supply To 41781 Defaulters Cut

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir power development department (PDD) has witnessed over 23 percent increase in revenue generation as Rs 1176 crore revenue has been realised this year so far compared to Rs 954 crore last year, a senior official said Wednesday.

Principal Secretary, PDD, J&K, Rohit Kansal revealed these details during a meeting chaired by the Union Secretary Power, Alok Kumar

to review the progress of various power sector related works and issues in the Union Territory, an official spokesperson said Wednesday.

At the outset, Kansal, he said, gave a detailed presentation on the progress of the power sector in distribution, transmission and Hydro projects across J&K. Kumar, he said, was also briefed about the energy demand and consumption in the Union Territory.

According to the official spokesperson, **● More On P11**

Govt Shifts 4 More JKAS Officers

Kabra Relieved Of Additional Charge

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Four JKAS officers were transferred by the government on Wednesday in the interest of administration with immediate effect.

According to an order, Nazim Zai Khan, JKAS, Secretary in the Skill Development Department, has been transferred and posted as Secretary to the Government, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, relieving Shaleen Kabra, (IAS), Principal Secretary to the Government, Home Department of the additional charge of the post.

Rajesh Kumar Basotra, JKAS, Additional **● More On P11**

Re-Registration Of 15-Yr-Old Cars To Get Costlier From 2022

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: From April next year, car owners will have to shell out eight times more amount at Rs 5,000 for renewing registration of cars that are more than 15 years old as the central government steps up efforts to phase out old and polluting vehicles.

The road transport



highways ministry has issued a notification for the renewal of the certificate of registration of old vehicles and this new rule is part of the government's overall plan to roll out the National Automobile Scrapage Policy.

According to the notification, renewal of certificate of fitness for a bus or truck older than 15 years will cost nearly eight times higher charges than owners of the commercial vehicles currently pay.

While charges of registration renewal of a 15-year-old car would be Rs 5,000 compared to the current fee of Rs 600, **● More On P11**

Govt Asks Employees To Post Grievances In Stipulated Time

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Wednesday asked its employees to present any grievance within stipulated time, lest same would be time-barred and would not be entertained.

In a circular issued here, the government also asked all the Administrative Departments not to entertain any such claims which are time-barred and close all such old cases which cannot be resolved on account of inordinate delay.

"It has been observed that in service matters, applications/claims are being presented

by a Government Servant to Competent Authorities for consideration after delay of a considerable period of time. Such stale claims are not legally tenable, as such are not required to be entertained by the concerned Department," reads the circular. It also noted law laid down by Supreme Court of India in numerous judgments.

"It is, therefore clarified that whenever, in any matter connected with his/her service rights or conditions, a Government servant wishes to press a claim or to seek redress of an alleged grievance, the same should be addressed to the competent **● More On P11**

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Kashmir's 'Go-To Chemist' Remembered For His 'Crisis-Management'

Zaid Bin Shabir

Hours after his father was fatally shot at his Srinagar drugstore, Dr. Siddharth Bindroo sat calm and composed in his Indira Nagar residence.

Swarmed by mourners of all faiths, the son of the slain chemist recalled how his father became the 'people's pharmacist' with his humane handling of some harshest times.

Growing up, Siddharth said, his family was of the opinion that their father, Makhn Lal Bindroo, was some kind of a politician, as he would be always swarmed by people.

"He was loved by all for his humility and humanity," Dr. Siddharth said.



"It was because of his kind and compassionate character that he became one of the most loved and go-to chemists in Kashmir." Amid tributes and tears, the mourners—the majority of



whom: Muslims—passed through the metal detectors guarded by the alert sentries. They wore mournful faces—some sobbing akin to inconsolable kids. Making their way into the

pitched tent, the masked mourners recount their interactions with the fallen chemist and talked high about his life.

Last night when the news of ML Bindroo's killing spread, it came

as a blow to many. While politicians univocally condemned the killing, many Kashmiris recalled the deceased's community compassion and expressed sympathies with his family. Some even recalled his 'pro-people' treatment making him to help the poor and the needy.

"He was a household pharmacist for a reason," said Mohammad Shafi, Bindroo Medicate's long term customer. "His drugstore had every possible medicine making it one-stop shop for all."

While there's apparently no argument on the pharmacist's legacy, his tribesmen in the tent idolized his life as part of their poignant farewell speech.

"He was a philanthropist who never compromised **● More On P11**

Prices Of Petrol, Diesel; LPG Hiked Again

LPG Price Hiked By Rs 15/Cylinder; Petrol, Diesel At All-Time High



Press Trust of India

SRINAGAR: The price of cooking gas LPG on Wednesday was hiked by Rs 15 per cylinder in line with a surge in international fuel prices.

Rates of both subsidised and non-subsidised LPG prices were hiked, oil company officials said. Cooking gas now costs Rs 899.50 per cylinder in Delhi.

Simultaneously, petrol price was increased by 30 paise per litre and diesel by

35 paise a litre.

Petrol now costs Rs 102.94 per litre in Delhi and diesel is priced at Rs 91.42 a litre. Livemint reported Mumbai continues to have the highest fuel costs, explaining, "Petrol is being retailed in the financial capital at Rs 108.96 per litre and diesel at Rs 99.17 per litre."

Global benchmark Brent Crude jumped to \$82.53 per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate rose to \$78.87 a barrel.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday, PTI reported **● More On P11**

Still With NC: Rana Puts Speculations To Rest, For Now

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: National Conference leader Devender Singh Rana on Wednesday said he was still with the party amid speculations that the businessman-turned-politician was likely to join the BJP.

Rana, who is NC's provincial president of the Jammu region, said he would share details with the media when there is anything.

As I talk to you, yes, Rana told reporters here when asked if he was

still a part of the National Conference.

The Jammu-based NC leader said he met party president Farooq Abdullah and vice president Omar Abdullah at their Gupkar residence here. I was here for condolences. And it is always a pleasure to meet Farooq and Omar sahib, he said.

For the past few days, speculations have been rife that Rana, who is the brother of Union minister Jitendra Singh, was leaving the NC and **● More On P11**

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2

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‘When People Break From Herd To Make Better Decision’

Researchers have found that when people saw others in their group hesitating before making a choice, they were about twice as likely to break from the group and make a different choice.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Management Science'. "When we see other people hesitate before making a choice, that tells us they were conflicted, that they weren't entirely sure they were making the right decision," said Ian Krajbich, co-author of the study and professor of psychology and economics at The Ohio State

University.

"That makes people less confident in the group consensus and frees them to make decisions based on their own information. That can help groups to escape bad outcomes," added Krajbich.

Krajbich conducted the research with Cary Frydman, associate professor of finance and business economics at the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business. Their study was published this week in the journal Management Science. The findings have implications for group behaviour in politics, finance, fashion

-- any situation where there might be herd behaviour, Krajbich said.

"Even if it appears at first that everyone is following the same trend, hesitation may reveal that they are not all on the same page," he said.

"If people start to notice that others are hesitating before joining the herd, that can stall the momentum or shift it entirely," he added.

For example, think about a political campaign in which a candidate is seeking endorsements from popular politicians. Slow endorsements that come late in a campaign could indicate weak support and are less



convincing than endorsements that come earlier in a campaign, Krajbich said. The study involved 72 college students. They participated in groups of eight.

In each of the 30 rounds, the eight participants were given identical virtual bags containing three balls, each marked either "A" or "B" (the study was conducted on computers). One at a time, each participant pulled one ball, saw which letter was on it, and then guessed which letter appeared most frequently in the bag. For example, imagine that the first group member

pulled out a ball that was marked A. It would make sense for that person to guess that the bag contained more A balls.

Each person following could see what the previous participants guessed -- but not what letters were on those earlier balls.

That left some participants later in the chain with a dilemma, Krajbich said.

Say you were fourth in line and you pulled an A ball. That would suggest there are more A balls in the bag. But you see the previous three people guessed B.

You have to decide whether

to go with your information that suggests guessing A or to go with the herd and guess B.

That's where hesitation comes in, Krajbich said. If you see that the previous person in the chain waited a while before choosing B, that may be an important signal.

That previous person may have also pulled an A ball, like you did, and hesitated before choosing B with the herd. In that case, choosing A might actually make sense for you.

That's exactly how many participants interpreted situations where their information conflicted with the group, Krajbich said. When their predecessor responded slowly, participants chose against the herd about 66 per cent of the time, compared to only 33 per cent of the time when their predecessor chose quickly.

In cases where the group was making the wrong decision, this often led people to break from the herd and make the correct choice, he said.

Indian Institute of Carpet Technology Srinagar
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Extension of E-tender Notice

Due to poor response to this office e-tender Notification published in daily Aftab on 17-09-2021, fresh e-tenders are hereby invited from registered/ authorized dealers firms having GST registration with TIN No. etc for supply of different types of Raw materials and Tools & Equipments required under Technology Up-gradation Scheme sanctioned by National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India.

The complete tender document under the title **“Procurement of Raw material and Tools & Equipments”** is available on www.jktenders.go.in. Interested bidders/ tenderers may view / download e-bid document and submit their e-bids online, strictly as per the details given below:

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01-10-2021
2.	Document downloading Start Date	01-10-2021
3.	Clarification Start Date	01-10-2021
4.	Clarification End Date	11-10-2021
5.	Bid Submission Start Date	01-10-2021
6.	Bid Submission End Date	11-10-2021
7.	Bid Opening Date and Time (Technical)	12-10-2021 (1200hrs)
8.	Bid Opening Date and Time (Financial)	13-10-2021 (1100hrs)

Sd/-
Director

Jammu & Kashmir Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (SICOP)
(AJ&K Government Undertaking)
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Dated: 01-10-2021

CORRIGENDUM

e-NIT No.: 47aa-SICOP (GMM) of 2020 Dated 12.06.2021
Work Name: - Rate Contract for Interior Works Turnkey.
Due to poor response to the tender, the above mentioned e-NIT is retendered.

Sd/-
General Manager (M&A) SICOP Kashmir

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
R&B CONSTRUCTION DIVISION No. 1ST SRINAGAR.
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
FOR MACADAM WORKS

NIT No._56_ of 2021-22/_9107-9124

DATED:05-10-2021.

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K 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 comp	Class of Contractor	Ref. to T.S	Ref. to Auth. /A.A	M.Head
1	2	3	4	6	8			
1.	Upgradation / Macadamization of road from NIT to checki Saderbal and SSP road towards Sirsyed Gate, Girls Hostel and Masjid by way of providing and laying 50mm thick bituminous macadam in patches / stretches and 40mm dense bituminous concrete in full. (Machine mixed to be laid with paver)	70,38, 000/-	1600/-	04 days	AAY with HMPO Regd. HMPO AAY (Civil) having agreement Deed with Regd.HMPO	U/P	Auth.# SE/	3054 (M&R) Potholes 2021-22
2.	Restoration of road potholes Dargah inner links from shrine to Naseem Bagh, by way of providing and laying 50mm thick compacted bituminous macadam in patches / stretches and 40mm thick bituminous concrete in full. (Machine mixed to be laid with paver) Including cost of Tar.	5,69,900/-	300/-	01 day	AAY with HMPO Regd. HMPO AAY (Civil) having agreement Deed with Regd.HMPO	U/P	Auth.# SE/	3054 (M&R) Potholes 2021-22

Position of Funds:-Available. (Formal LOI /AOC will be issued after funds are released on BEAMS).

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 details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	05/10/2021
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	06.10.2021 from 10.00 AM.
3	Bid submission Start Date	06.10.2021 from 10.30 AM.
4	Bid Submission End Date	11.10.2021 upto 4.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	12.10.2021 at 11:00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer (R&B) Construction Division No.1St Sgr.

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan in favour of Executive Engineer (R&B) Construction Division No. 1st Sgr. (tender inviting authority) and Bid security Declaration as per format given in SBD. The Performance Security Deposit has to be submitted by the lowest bidder LI (3% of quoted cost) within two (2) days from the date of Opening of Bids which will be released after successful completion of work with DLP.

3. 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 Executive Engineer (R&B) Construction Division No. 1St Sgr. (tender receiving authority).

4. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids

5. The earnest money shall be forfeited, if:-
a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraws his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.
c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
d. Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

6. 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 to acquaint bid submission process.

6. 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.

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

6. 4. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.

6. 5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid.

6. 6. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the technical bid.

6. 7. The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT and SBD.

6. 8. All other terms and conditions shall be strictly as per SBD circulated vide letter No. CE/RBK/HD/29158-88 dated 10-02-2018 No. 9107-9124

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Pope Expresses "Shame" After Damning Church Sex Abuse Report

Agencies

Vatican City: Pope Francis on Wednesday expressed his "shame" at the sexual abuse of children by French Catholic clergy, laid bare in a devastating report this week.



"I wish to express to the victims my sadness and pain for the trauma they have suffered. And also my shame, our shame, my shame for the inability of the Church for too long to put them at the centre of its concerns," the pontiff said in his general audience.

"I pray and we all pray together -- to you Lord the glory,

to us the shame. This is the time for shame."

Francis urged the clergy to keep working to ensure such situations "are not repeated", offering his support to French priests to face up to "this trial that is hard but healthy".

And he invited French Catholics to "assume their responsibilities to ensure that the Church is a safe home for all".

An independent commission on Tuesday revealed that French Catholic clergy sexually abused around 216,000 minors over seven decades since 1950, a "massive phenomenon" that was covered up by a "veil of silence".

The commission's two-and-a-half-year inquiry and 2,500-page report prompted outrage as the Catholic Church in France and around the world faces a growing number of abuse claims and prosecutions.

The pope issued a statement through his spokesman Tuesday expressing his sorrow for the victims, but went further in a personal message delivered during his weekly general audience at the Vatican.

Iran 'concerned' by Israeli 'presence' in the Caucasus

Agencies

Tehran: Iran has "serious concerns" about Israel's presence in the Caucasus, as tensions mount between Iran and Azer-

Wednesday.
'Baseless accusations'

The day before the drills were launched, Amirabdollahian told his Azerbaijani counterpart that Iran would not



baian over Baku's ties with Israel, a major arms supplier.

Iran's new Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, who is in Moscow for talks with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov, said on Wednesday that Iran "certainly will not tolerate geopolitical change and map change in the Caucasus".

"We have serious concerns about the presence of terrorists and Zionists in this region," Amirabdollahian told reporters in Moscow.

Tension has been high between Iran and Azerbaijan, which share a 700km (430 mile) border, since mid-September.

Iran's army and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) have recently mobilised forces and held military drills close to its northwestern borders with Azerbaijan amid lingering tensions following Azerbaijan's 44-day war with Armenia last year.

Azerbaijan and Turkey, in response, launched a joint military drill starting on

tolerate Israel's presence or activity "next to our borders" and vowed to take any necessary action.

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev said on Tuesday that Baku "will not leave unanswered" Tehran's "baseless" accusations of an Israeli military presence on its soil.

Iran's Tasnim News Agency, affiliated with the IRGC, said on Tuesday that the representative office of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Baku was closed by Azeri officials.

Iranian state-run news outlets later denied the report, saying only a religious gathering centre was closed due to COVID-19 protocols.

Before his meeting with Lavrov, Amirabdollahian said Iran expects Russia "to be sensitive about any potential changes in borders across the region, and be sensitive about the presence of terrorists and the movements of the Zionist regime that threatens regional peace and stability".



Over 5 Billion People Could Face Water Shortage By 2050: UN

Agencies

Geneva: More than five billion people globally are expected to face a shortage of water by 2050, a United Nations (UN) agency report has warned.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), on Tuesday, said that climate change increases the global risk of water-related hazards like floods and droughts, and the number of people affected by water scarcity is also expected to soar.

"According to figures cited in the report, 3.6 billion people had inadequate access to water at least one month per year in 2018. By 2050, this is expected to rise to more than five billion," the report titled "The State of Climate Services 2021: Water" said.

It further highlighted the need for urgent action to improve cooperative water management, embrace integrated water and climate poli-

cies and scale up investment in this precious commodity which underpins all the international goals on sustainable development, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

"Increasing temperatures are resulting in global and regional precipitation changes, leading to shifts in rainfall patterns and agricultural seasons, with a major impact on food security and human health and well-being," said World Meteorological Organization Secretary-General Prof. Petteri Taalas.

In the past 20 years, terrestrial water storage - the summation of all water on the land surface and in the subsurface, including soil moisture, snow and ice - has dropped at a rate of 1cm per year.

According to the report, the biggest losses are occurring in Antarctica and Greenland, but many highly populated lower latitude locations

are experiencing significant water losses in areas that are traditionally providing water supply, with major ramifications for water security.

The situation is worsening by the fact that only 0.5 per cent of water on Earth is useable and available freshwater.

Water-related hazards have increased in frequency over the past 20 years. Since 2000, flood-related disasters have risen by 134 per cent compared with the two previous decades. Most of the flood-related deaths and economic losses were recorded in Asia, where end-to-end warning systems for riverine floods require strengthening.

The number and duration of droughts also increased by 29 per cent over this same period. Most drought-related deaths occurred in Africa, indicating a need for stronger end-to-end warning systems for drought in that region, the report added.

Tikait Demands Arrest of All Accused; Warns of Nationwide Agitation

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: BKU leader Rakesh Tikait on Wednesday demanded the resignation of Union minister Ajay Mishra and the arrest of all accused in the Lakhimpur Kheri incident, warning that a nationwide agitation will be launched if authorities failed to implement within a week the agreement made with the farmers.

Tikait, who is among the prominent leaders of the agitation against the Centre's agri laws, had brokered the agreement between the authorities and the farmers on October 4, here, after which they had ended their protest and the families of the four deceased farmers had agreed to their post-mortem.

After reaching an understanding, Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar, in the presence of Tikait, had informed of the government's decision to give Rs 45 lakh



each to families of the victim farmers and set up a judicial probe under a retired High Court judge.

"Our protest has not ended. We will wait till eight days since the agreement and if the demands are not fulfilled a nationwide agitation would be launched," Tikait told reporters at a Gurdwara in Lakhimpur city on Wednesday.

The deadline coincides with the 10th-day Antim-Arda ceremony (post-death ritual) in the Sikh community.

An FIR under section 302 of IPC (murder) has already been registered against the union minister's son Ashish

Mishra and others in the incident in Tikonia police station.

Tikait said the pact with the government was reached after consulting the victims' families and farmers, and everybody had expressed "satisfaction" over it.

The Samyukta Kisan Morcha leader had reached the incident site in the wee hours on Monday, after four farmers were mowed down by an SUV when they were agitating against the visit of deputy chief minister Keshav Prasad Maurya for a function in the union minister's native place on October 3.

Besides the four farmers, two BJP workers, the minister's driver and a local journalist were also killed in the violence.

On Tuesday, Tikait visited the family of Gurvinder Singh, one of the four dead farmers, in Bahraich and backed their demand for a second post mortem which the government agreed to, and his last rites were performed this morning.

Centre Tells SC NEET Exam This Year As Per Old Patern

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: The Centre on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that in the interest of students, it has decided to implement changes in the pattern of the NEET-Super Specialty examination from academic year 2022-23.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Vikram Nath and BV Nagarathna recorded the submission of Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati and disposed of pleas of students who challenged the Centre's earlier decision to implement changes in the examination pattern of NEET-Super Specialty from this year.

The bench, however, said it is leaving the question open on the validity of the changes made in the pattern of the examination.

On Tuesday, the top court had given one last chance to the Centre to put its "house in order" and take a call on reversing the changes made to the NEET-Super Specialty examination 2021.

An anguished top court had said that the medical profession and education had become a business, and now, the regu-



lation of medical education had also gone that way which is the nation's tragedy.

The apex court was not satisfied with the justification given by the Centre, National Board of Examination (NBE) and the National Medical Commission (NMC) for making the last-minute changes after the notification for the examination was issued in July.

The top court was hearing a batch of pleas of 41 post-graduate doctors and others who had challenged the last-minute changes made to the syllabus after the notification was issued on July 23 for the test to be held on November 13 and 14. PTI

Hundreds throng passport office in Kabul



Agencies

Kabul: Hundreds of Afghans flocked to the passport office in Kabul on Wednesday, just a day after news that it would re-open this week to issue the documents, while Taliban security men had to beat back some in the crowd in efforts to maintain order.

Taliban officials have said the service will resume from Saturday, after being suspended since their takeover and the fall of the previous government in August, which stranded many of those desperate to flee the country.

"I have come to get a passport but, as you can see here, there are lots of problems, the system is not working," one applicant, Mahir Rasooli, told Reuters outside the office.

"There is no official to answer our questions here to tell us when to come. People are confused."

A spokesman for the Taliban officials running the passport department did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Poverty and hunger have worsened since the Islamist movement took over Afghanistan, which already suffered from drought and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Half a million people have been displaced in recent months, the United Nations says, and the number will only grow if health services, schools and the economy break down.

The hundreds who descended on the passport office came despite advice that distribution of passports would only begin on Saturday, and initially only for those who had already applied.

The crowd pressed against a large concrete barrier, trying to hand documents to an official who stood atop it, in a scene reminiscent of the chaos at Kabul airport in the last stages of evacuation after the withdrawal of US troops.

The official urged them to return home and come back on Saturday.

"I am here to receive a passport, but unfortunately I couldn't," said a man in the crowd, Ahmad Shakib Sidiqi. "I don't know what we should do in this condition."

NEWS MAKERS

Pakistan army appoints Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum as new ISI chief

Islamabad: In a surprise military shake-up, the Pakistan Army on Wednesday announced that the powerful spy agency ISI chief Lt Gen Faiz Hameed has been appointed as Peshawar Corps Commander -- a crucial position in view of the Taliban's takeover of neighbouring Afghanistan.

Lt Gen Nadeem Anjum was appointed as the new Director-General of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in place of Lt Gen Hameed, who was transferred as Peshawar Corps Commander, said the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) -- the media wing of the Pakistan Army.

The ISI chief is appointed by the prime minister but as part of a tradition he executes this power in consultation with the Pakistan Army chief.

The post of ISI chief is



considered one of the most important in the Pakistan Army, which has ruled the country for more than half of its 73 plus years of existence and has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign policy.

Initially, the Army said in a statement that Lt Gen Hameed was posted out but his replacement on the key post of the ISI chief was not immedi-

ately announced.

Lt Gen Anjum, who belongs to the Punjab Regiment of the Pakistan Army, has served as Karachi Corps Commander as well as the commandant of Command and Staff College Quetta.

He is considered as a battle-hardened who commanded the Frontier Corps Balochistan as its Inspector General and oversaw many operations against terrorists.

Media reports said that his subordinates call him the "man with glacier brain but sharp reflexes". He is stated to be a good listener and good observer who speaks concisely.

His predecessor Lt Gen Hameed from the Baloch Regiment was appointed as head of the spy agency on June 16, 2019. He had previously served in the ISI as the head of internal security.

Haqqani Group Leader Visits Gaznavi Grave, Praises His Somnath Act

New Delhi: Two tweets by a Haqqani Network scion which glorified the destruction of statues in Somnath have stirred social media users and given food for thought to intelligence agencies here.

Making a reference of his visit on Tuesday to Ghazni, a city past its prime, Anas Haqqani glorified Mahmud Ghaznavi and his act of breaking the Somnath temple idol.

Haqqani's first tweet in Pashto went unnoticed where he made no reference to Ghazni's foray into Somnath though he did say that the medieval age ruler had been a breaker of idols. His second tweet, an hour later, was in English and it specifically mentioned that he had "smashed the idol of Somnath".

This set the social media on fire with some Afghans berating him for digging up the past, others hailing his statement and Indians largely pointing out that the Somnath Temple today shines in full glory whereas Ghazni is a dust bowl.

However, intelligence analysts here differ from social media users. The tweet

was posted on a day when Kashmir was rocked by the assassination of a septuagenarian Kashmiri Hindu and a labourer from mainland India. Intelligence agencies believe the Haqqani Network is guided by the ISI and point out that three members from the same family were inducted in the Taliban Cabinet shortly after ISI Chief Gen Faiz Hameed visited Kabul.

The Haqqani Network's willingness to serve ISI's interests leads sources here to treat Anas Haqqani's statement as more than just exultation. They wonder if there is an ISI link between Haqqani's statement and the killings of the most defenseless of civilians in Kashmir -- an aged Hindu and a labourer from Bihar.

A next generation leader of the Taliban, Anas is the younger brother of the Haqqani Network supremo Sirajuddin who carries a \$ 10 million bounty on his head. Said to be fund raiser for the Taliban in Arab countries, Anas was arrested by the Americans and spent five years in Bagram prison where he was twice sentenced to death but released in 2019.

Robots Now Patrol Singapore Streets To Deter "Undesirable Social Behaviour"

Singapore: Singapore has trialled patrol robots that blast warnings at people engaging in "undesirable social behaviour", adding to an arsenal of surveillance technology in the tightly controlled city-state that is fuelling privacy concerns.

From vast numbers of CCTV cameras to trials of lampposts kitted out with facial recognition tech, Singapore is seeing an explosion of tools to track its inhabitants.

Officials have long pushed a vision of a hyper-efficient, tech-driven "smart nation", but activists say privacy is being sacrificed and people have little control over what happens to their data.

Singapore is frequently criticised for curbing civil liberties and people are accustomed to tight controls, but there is still growing unease at intrusive tech.

Union MoS Law & Justice Concludes 2-Day Rajouri Visit



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI: The 2-day visit of Union Minister of State for Law and Justice S.P. Singh Baghel concluded on Wednesday here. The visit came as a part of the public outreach initiative to J&K UT.

On the second day of his tour, the MoS visited Town Hall Rajouri where he facilitated and honoured the Safai Karamcharis for their tireless efforts in keeping the city clean and thereby contributing to the Swachh Bharat Mission. He also facilitated the beneficiaries of PMAY-U there.

At Balidhan Bhawan, the Minister while interacting with the public said that the Union Government is making best efforts to ensure that benefits of development reach all sections of the society without any discrimination.

"There is no dearth of employment in the Government sector but the students should be able to grab the job opportunities," the Minister said.

During his visit to the High School Tatapani, the Minister interacted with the students and staff and stressed upon the teachers for providing quality education to the students.

While inaugurating the upgradation of the changing room

facility at Tattapani hot spring, the Minister advised the concerned to take concrete measures for better beautification of the hot spring as it has immense medical tourism potential. He also asked for putting the project in District Capex for more development of the spot.

The Minister also interacted with the public and their representatives at the PWD Dak Bunglow, Kalakote who apprised him of several issues and demands of their areas.

"J&K is moving forward on the path of integrated equitable development with the establishment of the three tier system of Panchayat Raj", the Minister said in his address.

Regarding the resolution of public grievances concerning the PDD sector, the Minister asked for setting up a grievance cell exclusively for the power sector so that the genuine public issues can be redressed in time.

ADDC Pawan Kumar, ADC Rajouri Sachin Dev Singh, ACR, Tahir Mustafa Malik besides

President MC Rajouri Mohd Arief, DDC Member Thanamandi Abdul Qayoom Mir, DDC Member Darhal Iqbal Malik, Vice President MC Rajouri Bharat Bushan Vaid and several councillors accompanied the MoS during his visit.

Union MoS SJ&E Visits Bandipora, E-Inaugurates Various Projects

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA: Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale on Wednesday e-inaugurated various developmental projects in Bandipora. The visit is as a part of Central Government's outreach to J&K.

During his visit, the Minister formally e-inaugurated the 1000 LPM Oxygen Generation Plant at Government District Hospital Bandipora installed at the cost of Rs 6.75 Crores. He also inaugurated the complex of Government Middle School Saderkoot Bala and Government Primary School, Sadunara.

The Minister also released a book on domestic violence compiled by Mahila Shakti Kendra Bandipora and One Stop Centre Bandipora in collaboration with the district administration.

Urging people to take benefits from various Central Government schemes, the Minister said that the Government has undertaken several initiatives



for the overall development of the people with special focus on empowerment of the disadvantaged and marginalised sections of the society.

He said that the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been implementing various schemes for the social, educational and economic development of the target groups with considerable improvement.

Later the minister interacted with public delegations who highlighted their grievances and raised several demands before the Minister. Athawale assured that the government will attend to their grievances on priority basis.

Later the minister also visited sector headquarter BSF at Madder and interacted with BSF Jawans. He hailed their services in protecting the lives of the people and the integrity of the country.

Athwale was accompanied by Chairman District Development Council Abdul Gani, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Owais Ahmad, Director General Social Welfare Department B. A. Dar, Additional District Development Commissioner Ali Afsar Khan, Senior Superintendent of Police Mohammad Zahid, Additional Deputy Commissioner Zahoor Ahmad Mir, and other senior officers of the district.

Curfew in Gund Khwaja Qasim Over Fears of Group Clashes

AUQIB JAVEED

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir police on Wednesday imposed restrictions in Gund Khawaja Qasim quarter of Patan over fears of group clashes during a religious congregation.

The restrictions, according to police, were imposed to stop a religious gathering at Imambargah 'Azakhaneh Zehra' of Gund Khawaja Qasim on the occasion of 28th Safar, the martyrdom anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) and his grandson Imam Hassan (AS), according to Shia tradition.

Reports said that a group of supporters of the former MLA, Imran Reza Ansari came from nearby Kanterbug village to hold the gathering at Gund Khawaja Qasim Imambargah. However, the government forces, deployed in advance, foiled their attempt.

Imran Ansari, President, Shia Association and his uncle Ab Ansari were put under house arrest at their respective residences in Srinagar.

They had called on their supporters to march to Gund Khawaja Qasim to hold the majlis at the Imambargah there. However, according to residents of Gund Khawaja Qasim the former MLA and his uncle were forcefully trying to hold

the gathering at the Imambargah without the permission of the local Auqaf committee.

"They also tried it last year also but the local Auqaf denied them permission in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, however they were adamant which led to the clashes between two groups," said Syed Muzafar Rizvi, president of the local Auqaf committee.

Rizvi, said vested interests have turned Imambargah at the Gund Khwaja Qasim into a dispute between the people of neighbouring Kanterbug village and Gund Khawaja Qasim for their petty political gains.

MORE ON PAGE 11

Director Agriculture Visits Hailstorm Affected Areas Of Kupwara

Assures affected farmers of every possible technical assistance

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

KUPWARA: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Chowdhary Mohammad Iqbal on Wednesday visited the hailstorm affected areas of north Kashmir's Kupwara district.

The Director on the occasion toured several villages including, Tarathpora, Panzgam, Shaharkoot, Pachkoot, Kalmoona and took stock of on ground scenario of field crops. He visited several ar-



reas to assess damage caused by the hail storm to the standing crops, particularly paddy fields.

During the visit, the Director interacted with the af-

ected farmers and assured them of every possible technical assistance by the department. He said that an advisory has already been issued to the farmers to han-

dle the post hailstorm situation. He asked the farmers to follow and implement the instructions given to them by the departmental experts and concerned field officers, so that the impact of the losses could be minimized.

He instructed the concerned field officers to complete the impact assessment assignment and prepare the list of affected farmers so that it could be submitted to the government for further necessary action.

Rescue Operation For Missing JCB Conductor Enters Day 3

AGENCIES

GANDERBAL: Authorities in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district on Wednesday continued the rescue operation on the third day to trace out the body of a missing conductor, who went missing after a JCB plunged into river Sindh near Hung Sonamarg on Monday morning on Srinagar-Leh highway.

An official told news agency KNO, that the police, SDRF unit and local volunteers intensified the rescue operation on the second day to find the missing conductor in river Sindh near Hung Sonamarg.

He said that the rescue operation was called off last evening due to darkness and on Tuesday morning Sonamarg police, SDRF unit Ganderbal restarted the operation to trace the body of the missing conductor.

On Monday a JCB vehicle skidded off the road and fell into nallah Sind at Hung area of Sonamarg, resulting in injuries to driver Shahid Ahmad Gasi a resident of Guzhama Ganderbal while conductor namely Irfan Ahmad Bhat a resident of Bakura Ganderbal had went missing.

Farooq Visits Family Of Late M. Maqbool Bhat In Ganderbal

Congress, Apni Party condole demise

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President and Member of Parliament from Srinagar Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday visited the residence of former MLA Ganderbal Late Muhammad Maqbool Bhat to offer condolences with his family on his demise.

Sharing in the grief of the bereaved family, he prayed for peace to the departed. On the occasion, Dr Farooq recalled the contribution of Late Maqbool Bhat to district Ganderbal's development.

He said the deceased will be remembered for his pious nature and concern for the people of Ganderbal. He also offered Fatiha for the deceased on the occasion.

Among others Party General Secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar, Provincial President Nasir Aslam Wani, Senior leader Mian Altaf, Provincial Secretary Showkat Ahmed Mir, Senior VP Muhammad Syed Akhoun,

District President Ganderbal Sheikh Ishfaq Jabbar who also offered their condolences to the family.

Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) on Wednesday expressed profound grief over the demise of Ex. MLA Mohd Maqbool Bhat of Tulmulla Ganderbal.

In a condolence message J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Ghulam Ahmad Mir described Mohd Maqbool Bhat a fine human being, who has rendered countless services to people of his area especially poor.

"The deceased will be remembered long for his honesty and concern for the wellbeing of the people," Mir added and conveyed deepest condolences to bereaved family.

JKPCC shared the grief with family and friends of the deceased and prayed for everlasting peace to departed soul.

Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari on Wednesday expressed deep shock and grief over the demise of ex-MLA Mohammad Maqbool Bhat from Tulmulla-Ganderbal.

Apni Party Aghast Over Negligence At Medical College Baramulla

'Demands probe in recent mysterious death of a youth'

AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Apni Party Spokesperson, and mentor Baramulla-Kupwara districts, Javid Baig on Wednesday expressed deep anguish over the complacent approach adopted by medical staff at Government Medical College Baramulla.

In a statement, Baig said the local residents are suffering immensely due to the dereliction of duty by the staff members of Medical College Baramulla which has even resulted in the death of a youth.

"Recently a 28-year-old youth named Rashid Ahmad Dar resident of Kralhaar-Baramulla died because of

the medical negligence he met at the Baramulla hospital. He was later on shifted to Srinagar where he was declared dead," Baig observed.

He said that such reprehensible incident remains a blot on our society and those involved in this heinous carelessness must be dealt with sternly.

Baig also urged the Dis-

trict Administration to initiate a probe in this matter on a fast-track basis so that justice is delivered to the bereaved family who lost a breadwinner for them.

He also urged the Department of Health to incorporate new upgradation requisite for the smooth functioning of the said hospital.

Advisor Bhatnagar Visits IUST To Inaugurate International Workshop

Awards students on 6th Annual Day of Nursing College



OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

AWANTIPORA: Syed Mantaqi Memorial College of Nursing and Medical Technology, a constituent college of Islamic University (IUST) Wednesday organized a Three-Day International Workshop on 'Bridging Excellence in Cardiac Nursing Practice' on the occasion of its Annual Day celebrations during which Advisor to Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor J&K (UT), Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar was the Chief Guest.

Speaking during the occasion, Advisor Bhatnagar lauded the role of frontline professionals, especially nurses towards the healthcare services specially during the challenging COVID-19 pandemic.

The Advisor in his speech also appreciated the growth of IUST and expressed confidence that the University would do even better in the future. He added that the university has a lot of potential in delivering quality technical and skill education.

The Advisor in his address remarked that the vision of LG is to have a transformation in the education and skills sector, keeping in mind the new education policy. He added that the government will facilitate the University for developing centres of excellence.

Vice Chancellor, IUST, Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo in his address emphasized the role of nurses with their human capi-

tal as they collaborate with a healthcare team to effectively perform treatments and medical procedures.

"Nurses should be well versed with the technicalities in addition to their humane touch and IUST could take lead in providing capacity building opportunities to professional from this field," he said.

"IUST is making successful attempts in creating a state-of-the-art infrastructure for developing collaborations with important institutions of national repute," he added.

The VC said that IUST has made appreciable effort in health sector especially during the Covid pandemic, which is evident from the fact that the university developed frugal ventilator RUHDAAR and splitters during covid pandemic.

Former HOD Department of Cardiology, SKIMS, Dr. Khurshid Aslam who was the keynote speaker during the inaugural session deliberated on the Cardiac Health amid Covid Pandemic with special emphasis upon the role of healthcare professionals especially during the emergency situations like COVID 19.

Among others, Dean Academic Affairs Prof. A H Moon and Registrar IUST Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Principal of the college Asmat Parveen, faculty of the institute, students and others were present on the occasion.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL ENGINEERING WING ANANTNAG

e-Tender Notice No: 98 of 2020-21 Dated 25-09-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Of Union Territory Of 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	Estimated/ Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Documents	Class of Contract	Time for Completion	Major Head	Panchayat/ Gram Sabha
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	C/O Irrigation ladh near L/O Mohammad Yousuf Ganie to L/O Mohammad Akram Rather at Lalan Chechripora Block Anantnag	2.00	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Chechripora
2.	C/O Irrigation ladh near L/O Ghulam Nabi Magray to Ghulam Hassan Magrey (Samadjoor Ladh) at Lalan Chechripora Block Anantnag	2.85	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Chechripora
3.	C/O Irrigation ladh near L/O Mohammad Yaqoob Wani to L/O Nazir Ahmad Sofi at Lalan Chechripora Block Anantnag	2.00	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Chechripora
4.	C/O Irrigation ladh Near L/O shakeel Ahmad Ganie to L/O Muzaffar Ahmad Shah Chechripora	1.00	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Chechripora
5.	C/O Irrigation ladh near L/O Mohammad Kamal Magray to onwards Lalan Chechripora Block Anantnag	2.00	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Chechripora
6.	C/O Irrigation ladh near H/O Mohammad Amin to H/O Ab Hameed Lone at Lalan Chechripora Block Anantnag	1.95	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Chechripora
7.	C/O Public Park at Herpora Thanvi mohalla Pushwara T.B.Shah Block Anantnag	2.00	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	T.B.Shah
8.	C/O Bund and Crate wall near Masjid Shareef Shah Mohalla Harnag Khandipahri Block Anantnag	1.50	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Khandipahri
9.	C/O Tile lane from Shop of Nazir Ahmad Ganie to Masjid Shareef Payeen at Wapoh Sofigund Block Anantnag	1.50	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Sofigund
10.	C/O Earthfilling of park /graveyard main to Sheikhpura Bon Dialgam Block Anantnag	2.75	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Bon Dialgam
11.	C/O Filling of Park near Masjid Shareef Alliepora Khandipari Block Anantnag	1.50	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Khandipari
12.	C/O Ghat at Veshaw Nallah Shalifer Shamsipora Block Anantnag	1.50	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Shamsipora
13.	C/O Lane from main road to H/O Gull Bhat and bashir Bhat to different spots at Ruhoo Block Anantnag	2.00	200.00	DEE/Registration Certificate by DDC/Competent Authority	30 days	District Capex Budget	Ruhoo

Position of A/A: **Accorded**

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	25-09-2021
2.	Online Bid submission Start Date	25-09-2021 from 4:00 PM
3.	Online Bid Submission End Date	16-10-2021 upto 04:00 PM
4.	Date & time of opening of Online Bids	18-10-2021 at 11:00 AM or any convenient day in the office of the Executive Engineer REW Anantnag
5.	Note: Hard copy of original Tender Document Fee Receipt, Bid Security Self Declaration Form and other relevant documents in original shall be deposited before opening of online bids.	

SPECIAL CONDITION:

Only the eligible contractor of respective Panchayat Halqa shall take part in the tendering process in light of the Government Order No. 251-FD of 2020 Dated: 17-09-2020. Bidders must upload a certificate from concerned Block Development Officer of residence proof that he/ she is residing in the respective panchayat.

- The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer REW Division Anantnag (tender receiving authority).
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids
- The L1 is required to deposit a Performance Security @ 3% of advertised value in the shape of CDR in favour of allotting authority (Executive Engineer REW Anantnag) at the time of finalization of allotment/ agreement with the Department.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- 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 to acquaint bid submission process.
- 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.
- The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No bid will be accepted in physical form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original / photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically/ by registered post / through courier before the date specified in Para-1.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents in soft copies with the technical bid and no documents in terms of Hard Copies shall be entertained.
- Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.
- The tender / bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirements as laid down in NIT.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

No. REW-A/WS/NIT/2021-22/6558-67
Dated: 25-09-2021
DIPK-10019/21

-Sd-
Executive Engineer
Rural Engineering Wing Anantnag

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K O V I E W

Lingering Stand-Off

Air Chief Marshall Vivek Ram Chaudhari said on Tuesday that India is ready to face any two-front scenario, obviously referring to the ongoing stand-off with China and Pakistan. Air Chief Marshall said that the new infrastructure created by the Chinese side in the region will not affect India's combat readiness. The theatre commands, the IAF chief added, are being planned to integrate the capabilities of the three services and to ensure optimal utilisation of their resources.

India's border conflict with China along the Line of Actual Control is now over 18 months old and the Line of Control with Pakistan has always been prone to flare-ups - albeit, the cease-fire agreement between the two neighbours early this year has largely restored the calm. But there is little hope that the border calm with Pakistan will last unless the two countries build on the agreement and restore the long-stalled dialogue. The conflict along the LAC is showing no sign of being resolved anytime soon. The Air Chief acknowledged that there is increased Chinese People's Liberation Army Air Force presence across eastern Ladakh but "it is not going to make much difference."

Over the last year, India has also massed its troops and defence equipment along its side of the LAC which has made it impossible for China to stage further incursions. This has also prevented the LOC-ization of the LAC that was expected to happen as a result of over a year-long stand-off. There are huge geo-political stakes for both the countries that can't be ignored. A lingering state of confrontation between the two will not be in the interest of either. More so for India which would not want a 3800 km border with China become an extension of LOC with Pakistan. India has to do a tough balancing act between its thickening relationship with the US and that with the China. Truth is China's rise on the global stage has become a reality.

For the world, China's emergence as a global power is a fraught prospect with far reaching implications for the way international business is conducted. More so, when China brings to the table an alternative system: a communist capitalism versus west's capitalist capitalism and democracy. What makes this global shift imminent is that Beijing is already rewriting the rules of the game and with each passing day advancing to seize what it sees as the Chinese century.

A pragmatic way out to resolve the lingering stand-off is through negotiations, even if it takes time. As we are already in second year of the stalemate, it will be in the interest of India and China to reach an understanding that also holds on the ground. But this can only happen if Beijing approaches the dialogue seriously.

O T H E R O P I N O N

When Facebook Crashed

For a little over six hours on Monday, Facebook's family of products virtually ceased to exist. Its eponymous social media platform, WhatsApp, and Instagram stopped working in what has been described as the worst outage of an internet service in terms of duration and impact. Estimates, based on the company's reported second quarter earnings, suggest Facebook lost roughly \$100 million in those hours. But that is likely to be a fraction of the damage globally. The company's three products together have 3.5 billion active users, influencing communication and commerce at scale. When the services went down, people were left unable to communicate with colleagues and businesses lost contact with clients. Companies that use Facebook's networks to underpin some of their own services were left in the lurch, and one of the world's most effective advertisement machineries ground to a halt.

The company attributed the problem to a bad technical configuration of some of its servers, which set off a domino effect that eventually knocked all its platforms entirely off the internet. Reports said the outage was so sweeping that it locked Facebook's employees out of their company mails, the office messaging applications and even from the office building as their key cards stopped working. Naturally, in terms of internet culture, people on other social media poked fun at Facebook's predicament. At one point, Twitter's Jack Dorsey tweeted to ask how much it would cost to buy facebook.com as website registry services automatically determined it to be free for sale.

But Monday's outage was more than the loss and the schadenfreude it led to. It underscores the degree to which large parts of the world have come to depend on a company that is already under intense scrutiny. Facebook has faced fines and investigations for monopolistic practices and its employees have on multiple occasions blown the whistle on internal company practices that harm users and society at large. It also highlights the supranational power of Big Tech. A similarly widespread outage of, say, Google - which serves as the gateway for millions of people looking for websites every second - or Amazon Web Services - which is the world's largest cloud computing service provider - will likely have a comparable, if not worse, impact on global commerce and communications. The Facebook outage is a reminder of the fragility of the digital ecosystem, which in past decades has seen power increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few.

Hindustan Times

Knowledge Games, Muslim Youth And Lack Of Traditional Scholarly Interventions

Amir Suhail Wani

The torrent of knowledge that has been unleashed in our times has brought with it an array of issues dwelling upon faith and religion. The inability to deal with these questions and to arrive at their sustainable answers has jeopardised the institution of religion and inadvertently the fu-

A PROFESSOR FROM University may be called upon for a lecture at a traditional seminary to make the students aware about the impulses and requirements of modern times. Likewise, a Muhaddith, a Mufasir, a Faqih may be made to interact with students of secular institutions of learning so as to give them an outline of what traditional sciences look like, how they are to be approached and how they are to be appropriated in the wake of contemporary challenges

ture of man.

It so happened, a few years ago that my quest to understand Islam steered me to numerous seminaries and scholars. Having read the books written by Western authors and scholars, most of them outside the pale of Islam, sowed the seeds of skepticism and uncertainty in my mind. Interacting with my friends on these issues didn't bring any answers. It rather revealed that my friends, like myself, were struggling against the same odds. There emerged a definite pattern while interacting with scholars those days; the questions were either deemed nonsensical, not qualifying for an answer or the answers offered turned out to be far from satisfactory. While narrating my own story, I am sure to have struck the cords of hundreds and thousands of those college and university going students who find themselves in the midst of this challenge without any aid to come out or resolve these.

Carlyle said that the future of religion is the future of man. Thus, it places an incumbent responsibility on the scholars to revisit religious thought in the light of recent advancements in human knowledge. But the prevalent institutions of religious studies are so structured that they don't leave open any such possibility, where scholars can subject themselves to regular updation. But the youth, brought up in the ambience of modern academia as they are, find themselves at odds while interacting with scholars from the background of traditional learning.

The bilateral exchange in which



Photograph by Justin Sullivan/Getty

students come up with their specific questions and the nature of answers they expect can be, for the sake of brevity summed as:

Confronted with plethora of religious and secular ideologies, our youth is in utter delusion with regards to the uniqueness, universality and peculiarity of Islam. The arguments floating from other shores are at times more concrete than what our scholars usually tend to offer. So, the first responsibility of our learned scholars is to understand Islam not only in its traditional idiom but with its all emergent versions and in all possible frames so as to assert the ideological and pragmatic vitality of Islam. Any failure in this regard shall amount to an intellectual revolt within the tradition - a revolt that's overtly operational all over the Muslim lands.

Youth aren't satisfied, by virtue of their specific academic upbringing, by the quotations from traditional sources. Despite the fact that they aren't entirely correct in their approach, they tend to seek scientific and rational answers to their questions. They seem to be least interested in metaphysical gymnastics and grammarian dissection of a text. The very nature of their questions makes traditional answering patterns quite redundant. Additionally, their acquaintance with Western sciences unnecessarily makes them revolve under the spell of self-constructed intellectual superiority and mistakenly so.

The challenge at hand is a herculean one and so the society, the intellectuals and those who share a common concern to this end need to reboot themselves to tackle the issues of atheism and consequent moral relativism. The response needs indeed to be one rooted in intellect and not mere rhetoric or emotional wordplay. This isn't a far cry and is realisable.

An active, continuous and positive exchange of ideas and individuals needs to be started between traditional madrasas and modern day universities. A professor from University may be called upon for a lecture at a traditional seminary to make the students aware about the impulses and requirements of modern times. Likewise, a Muhaddith, a Mufasir, a Faqih may be made to interact with students of secular institutions of learning so as to give them an outline of what traditional sciences look like, how they are to be approached and how they are to be appropriated in the wake of contemporary challenges.

The department of Islamic Studies as it exists in various universities across the state may be calibrated as per the intellectual requirements of society. These departments ought to be aware of the fact that their purpose is not to prepare men of pulpit or the men of jurisprudence but they ought to prepare minds who can counter, by virtue of their intellectual capacity the intellectual crisis that we are going through on the front of faith. At this point, it becomes important to emphasise that the role of teachers here is not to indoctrinate students to their specific ideology but to instill in them the spirit and sense of independent critical evaluation within the pattern specific to religion itself.

Both inside and outside academia, authors like Allama Iqbal, Khalifa Abdul Hakeem, Ameer Ali, Frithjof Schoun, Burhan Ahmad Farooqi, Schimmel, Gulen, Maulana Maudoodi, Javed Ghamdi and their likes need to be read, understood and appreciated on a wider scale. The list indeed reflects my personal reflections but in any case, the point of emphasis is to open up our minds to those authors who have understood and consequently approached Islam, keeping

in mind the modern sensitivities. The readers may come up with an equally well weighed parallel list of authors for their own benefit at their respective places.

Orientalists have appeared like an unavoidable externality and unnecessary evil vis a vis the Islamic discourse over a past century and so. They have dominated the Islamic narrative both outside Islam and within Islamic intellect. Thus, it becomes incumbent upon scholars both from traditional and modern school of thought to keep themselves well informed about "oriental poison" and offer it a rebuttal in most appropriate scholarly idiom.

Our learned scholars need to understand that the very nature of modern times has left little scope for condemning each other. Their mutual condemnations and war within the house has to be given up in case we are sincerely interested in addressing the challenges that threaten our faith and institutions of faith at large. There is no wisdom in being polemical but only in accepting and tolerating the different opinions thriving within the religion and to accord to each view its due share of intellectual and moral respect. We need to bear in mind the words of Allama Iqbal that "Don't fight the interpretations of the truth when truth itself is in danger".

These are the least and minimum number of steps we expect scholars from all schools of thought to take in unison so as to avert the impending clouds of disbelief and religious unrest among youth.

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

The author is a freelancer, R&D Engineer and comparative studies scholar

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The New Addiction Of The 21St Century

Vijay Garg

Many technocrats, such as Steve Jobs, send their children to schools in the San Francisco Bay Area where the use of technology is banned. Perhaps they are aware of the dangers of using technology in the early years of their lives. Many scientists also believe that because touch screen technology is new and its effects have not been thoroughly researched, it is not yet known what the dangers may be in old age.

Addiction expert Nicholas Cadar believes that screenwriting is just like drugs. Excessive screening stops the baby's development and raises dopamine levels in the brain. Remember dopamine is a neurotransmitter, which gives a feeling of bliss. But when its

level rises more than necessary, the brain begins to recognize the thing (screen or drug, etc.) with which its level has risen, and there is a possibility of addiction. You are eager to get it.

A pediatrician in Winnipeg, Dr. Grant McDougall also believes that watching too much screen is too harmful for children. He said that he has a lot of children who are obese due to excessive screen viewing. He advised us to stop watching the screen and play with our children. In a month you will see a change in their behavior. Experts at the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority also believe that excessive screen viewing, along with other illnesses, can lead to symptoms such as a child's inability to walk in society, inability to solve problems, and sudden onset of anger.

Here are some tips to help you reduce

your child's (and your) screen time:

Be a role model for the child. It's hard, but it has to be done. If children see you reading a book, playing something outside, playing outdoors or doing housework, they will do the same, but if children see you using a phone, iPad, TV, they will also spend more time on the screen.

Perform your parental duties. Encourage children's good habits and prevent bad habits, even if you have to work a little harder. Explain to them why you are stopping them.

Set a time for children (and yourself) to see the screen as much as you can. On the phone you can download an app that lets you know how much time you spent on the phone in a day. One such app for the iPhone is called Moment.

Play with children, read books, talk to them. Note the change in your chil-

dren's behavior. Excessive screen viewing can irritate children. Tell them right away that it's not right.

A survey has found that in most households, people watch TV while eating. Let's see. This trend needs to be reversed. When the whole family is together at the dinner table, it should be a valuable time to talk to each other and not to watch TV. Looking at the TV screen while eating. The only good thing is to turn off the key.

Never turn on the TV in the children's bedroom. Should not be and try not to be in your bedroom. Of course we can't deny the screen from our lives and the lives of our children, but controlling screen time has now become a necessity. If you haven't thought about it yet, don't delay.

Vijay Garg
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On Innovation: What Makes People Creative?

Muzamil Farooq

Knowing what motivates people to be creative is essential for any manager, teacher, or student concerned with creativity and, ultimately, innovation. So let's take a look at some extremely creative people. What about Leonardo da Vinci, for example, the well-known 15th-century artist and scientist? He created beautiful paintings as well as nice blueprints for various types of innovations, such as aeroplanes, long before they were built. He is regarded as one of the greatest minds that ever lived. How about Thomas Edison? Among many of his novel inventions, he invented the light bulb and the motion picture camera, both of which were implemented in various products and found to be extremely useful. What about the well-known artist Salvador Dali? He was well-known not only for his beautiful surrealist paintings, but also for his sculptures and jewellery. What do these individuals have in common? What inspires these creative geniuses? Some argue that creative geniuses are slightly insane, and that it is the madness that drives them to be creative.

Let's take a look at what inspires people to be creative. Teresa Amabile, a Harvard scientist, developed a model that specifies the factors that are important for people to become creative as early as the 1980s. She specified three variables. The first is expertise, which includes technical, procedural, and intellectual knowledge of the domain in which one works. The second factor is motivation, or the willingness to complete a task. Finally, the third factor is creative thinking abilities, which refer

THERE IS ALSO INTRINSIC
motivation, which is when you do something simply because you enjoy it and would do it anyway if you didn't get anything out of it other than joy and satisfaction. And we know that intrinsic motivation has some advantages

to how effectively and imaginatively people can approach problems. According to the Amabile arc, all three of these factors are required for creativity to emerge. So, rather than having just one of them, you need to have all three to some extent in order to be creative.

Let's take a closer look at these three components. When people consider expertise, they frequently believe that there is such a thing as too much knowledge. And perhaps this is true in the sense that some people have been working in a job for too long and have learned so much that they can no longer think outside the box. But, in all honesty, what is far more of a problem is a lack of knowledge. Why is a lack of knowledge such a problem? For example, if you don't know enough about a subject, you won't know what has been done before, so you might be working on something that isn't novel. You also have no idea where the boundaries in this area are because you have insufficient expertise. So you could be



working on something spectacular and not even realise it, and then abandon it because you don't see the value of your idea. Or you're unsure what's feasible. Maybe you're working on a solution that simply doesn't work, and because you don't realise it, you keep working on it for far too long. Finally, you might not know what's useful and come up with ideas that are completely unrelated. It is therefore difficult to be creative unless you have sufficient knowledge and expertise to speak for these four elements.

Let's take a look at the second aspect of motivation. People frequently distinguish between two types of motivation when discussing motivation: extrinsic motivation and intrinsic motivation. Extrinsic motivation refers to doing a task not because you enjoy it, but because of something you gain from it. Consider the carrot and the stick. Maybe you work because you want money or a promotion, or maybe you work to keep your house from being foreclosed on because you owe money on it. All of this is an example of extrinsic motivation. You engage in an

activity, but you do so in exchange for a reward. There is also intrinsic motivation, which is when you do something simply because you enjoy it and would do it anyway if you didn't get anything out of it other than joy and satisfaction. And we know that intrinsic motivation has some advantages. For instance, if you are more intrinsically motivated, you are more likely to overcome obstacles that arise. You are more willing to overcome them and go the extra mile. You are more willing to continue after a failure, and this is an important aspect of creativity, failing, failing, failing before you can succeed. Intrinsic motivation increases your willingness to work hard and think about the problem continuously, and all of these factors combine to make intrinsic motivation such an important component of creativity. So, if you want to be creative, it helps to be intrinsically motivated.

Let's take a look at the final aspect of creativity. The final component is called creative thinking skills, and it is all about how adaptable and imaginative you can be when approaching problems. This is

difficult because many people live their lives like robots, as if everything is pre-programmed for them, which makes sense because it is very efficient. For example, when we say goodbye to someone, we simply wave and say bye bye. This is something we do automatically. We don't have to consider it. This is also true for many of the things we do. We don't consider them; we just do them. While this is beneficial because it is efficient, it works against you if you want to come up with a creative solution. Being creative may be difficult if you behave like a robot. When you use automatic scripts and schemas from your head, you stop thinking too soon before you find the best solution. You also make far too many assumptions about what is going on. In some ways, it's better to think like a child, like someone who hasn't learned all of these assumptions, all of these automatic scripts and schemas, a person who sees a box and thinks it's more than just a box.

It's a fortress. It's a ship. That kind of thinking, thinking outside of the box, is exactly what it takes to create and be creative. So, let's sum it up. What inspires people to be creative? Is this insane? Perhaps for some, but for others, there are three critical elements. Having enough knowledge, being intrinsically motivated, and having creative thinking skills are all necessary for being creative. Creativity is the generation of novel and useful ideas, while innovation is the successful implementation of these ideas within a company. In other words, every innovation begins with a creative idea, and with the mentioned three elements of creativity, the good news is that everyone has the ability to be creative.

The author is a Student M.Sc. Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship at NIT Srinagar

Cloth Vs N95: Which Coronavirus Mask Should You Wear?

Dr Amir Khan

Mask wearing has been a hotly debated topic, but most scientists agree that face coverings do help reduce the spread of the coronavirus, though the degree to which they do so depends on the quality of the masks themselves.

Because about one in three people who have COVID-19 display no symptoms at all, widespread use of masks remains important. A study which reviewed the evidence on mask wearing found in favour of widespread mask use by infected people as a way to help reduce community transmission, concluding that the available evidence suggests that near-universal adoption of any face covering at all, in combination with complementary public health measures, could successfully reduce the community spread of COVID. Models suggest that public mask wearing is most effective at reducing the spread of the virus when compliance is high.

At the start of the pandemic, there was a worldwide shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) and governments advised the general public not to buy N95 or FFP2 masks so that they would remain available for front-line staff. N95 respirators, named for their ability to filter 95 percent or more of tiny 0.3-micrometre (µm) particles, are the mainstay of protection against airborne bacteria and viruses. The European equivalent FFP2 mask, which filters about 94 percent of aerosol particles, is also very effective.

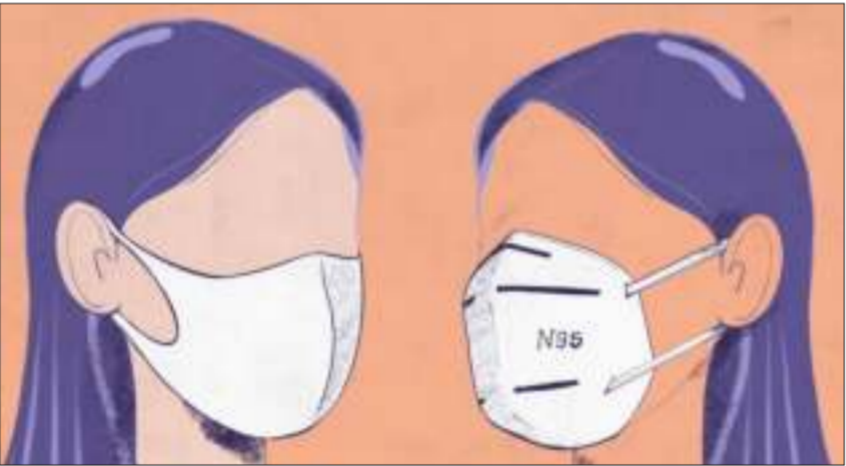
When this advice was being given out, there was little understanding or agreement that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, was airborne; much of the focus was on droplet spread. The advice for the public was that cloth masks were appropriate in helping reduce the spread of large droplets.

But now, with the knowledge that the virus is mainly transmitted through tiny aerosol particles that can linger in the air for hours, is it time for governments and health authorities to update their advice? The short answer is: "Yes." If you are able to access N95 or FFP2 masks, you should wear one, but any face covering at all is better than none.

It is vital that the best fitting and most effective masks are saved for those working on the front line, but now that there is no longer a shortage of such masks, the evidence for wearing properly fitted N95 masks in any indoor space where large crowds are likely to gather or where there is poor ventilation becomes more compelling.

With the highly transmissible Delta variant, the need for effective masks in public settings is more urgent. The vaccines certainly do help reduce transmission and serious illness from the virus, but combined with other preventive measures, we can significantly reduce the spread of this virus further. Effective masks play a part in this, and it is worth investing in N95/FFP2 masks to replace your usual cloth or surgical mask. However, if you cannot get your hands on an N95/FFP2 mask then a cloth or surgical mask is better than no mask at all in preventing the spread of COVID.

When thinking of buying an N95/



FFP2 mask, how well the mask fits is imperative. There is no point having a mask with a highly effective filter that does not fit around your face, allowing air and aerosol particles to move freely around the edges. It is also important that it is comfortable so it can be worn for long periods of time without causing irritation. There are videos available online for those who have bought these masks showing how to fit them correctly. People do worry about reusing N95 masks but we now know that the virus is less likely to survive on surfaces such as the front of a mask, so it is most likely safe to reuse them a few times.

Buying N95/FFP2 masks is not as easy as it sounds, with many counterfeit versions available and very little regulation. There is also no official guidance on exactly what N95/FFP2 mask to buy and where to buy it from, so it is difficult to distinguish between legitimate and counterfeit products.

It can be confusing knowing exactly which mask is best. The N95 and FFP2 high filtration masks outperform cloth and surgical masks both in studies and real-world settings when it comes to reducing the spread of aerosol particles – both for the wearer and for those around them.

Any face covering is better than none at all, but if you are able to get medical grade masks and wear them properly, then these are the right ones for you. If you opt for a cloth or surgical face mask, then ensure it has at least three layers for maximum protection.

Progress report: Should I wash my shopping? – Rethinking how COVID is spread

When the pandemic began, we were flooded with a deluge of advice on how to reduce the risk of getting the coronavirus. Much of this advice was based around the initial theory that it was mainly spread through droplets – referring to larger, heavier globules of fluid that infected people cough, sneeze or breathe out and that tend to drop out of the air onto surfaces within a distance of 1 to 2 metres. This theory influenced advice around social distancing, mask wearing and hand washing.

While droplets certainly can and do carry the virus, it has become evident that the main route for the spread of COVID is via smaller, lighter aerosol particles that infected people cough, sneeze and breathe out but which linger in the air, getting breathed in by new uninfected

human hosts.

So, does that mean the previous advice is now obsolete? The short answer is: "No."

Other routes of transmission still have a part to play in the spread of the coronavirus, even if they are more like supporting actors in a play where airborne transmission is the star. Where cases are high, and certainly in indoor spaces, social distancing – or staying 1-2 metres (3.3-6.6 feet) apart from people who are not in your bubble – remains important as droplet spread is still possible.

At the start of the pandemic, there was a strong push for mask wearing, hand washing (who can forget singing "happy birthday" twice while washing their hands?), and buying cleaning products to keep surfaces – and in some cases, groceries – wiped down and sterile.

The spread of a disease via contaminated inanimate objects, such as kitchen surfaces or boxes delivered to our doors, is known as fomite spread. The theory in terms of the coronavirus is that droplets produced through coughs and sneezes containing the virus land on surfaces and get transferred onto the hands of people who touch them; these same people go on to touch their faces and potentially spread the virus. But is this advice about fomite spread still accurate today?

There is increasing evidence that in the real world fomite transmission is not a common route through which the virus is spread. Much of the advice that was given about keeping surfaces clean was based on studies done under strict control in laboratories that bear little resemblance to real-life scenarios. One study showed that the longest time severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) survived on surfaces was six days, but this was done by placing a very large initial virus sample on the surface being tested.

Other studies conducted in controlled labs showed survival rates of the coronavirus to be between two and four days, but all of these had relatively large samples dumped onto innate surfaces. None of these studies presents scenarios akin to real-life situations. Two studies seeking to determine whether fomite spread was a factor in spreading disease were conducted in hospitals in northern Italy where only standard cleaning procedures were carried out. Both studies took place on wards where patients who tested positive for COVID-19 were being cared for. Several objects and surfaces were swabbed, and – with the exception

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of some of the breathing equipment used by COVID-positive patients – no virus was cultured from them.

Adding to the growing evidence that fomite transmission plays a relatively small role, if any, in the spread of the virus, a large study looking at the role of fomite spread in Brazil collected samples from mask fronts, mobile phones, paper money, card machines, sewage, air and bedding during the ascendant phase of the epidemiological curve of COVID-19 in Barreiras city, and did not detect any trace of SARS-CoV-2 in any of the samples analysed. The study concluded that, so far, the environment and inanimate materials had not played an important role in COVID transmission in the area.

The virus appears unlikely to last long enough on innate surfaces for this to be a contributing factor to the spread of COVID. That being said, good hygiene is never a bad idea and keeping hands and surfaces clean may help slow the spread of other diseases that rely more on fomite transmission. But it may be time to stop wiping down your home deliveries and shopping.

With regards to the coronavirus, the focus must be on airborne transmission, particularly in indoor areas. Schools, offices, shopping centres and hospitals must ensure the safety of the people they accommodate by looking at ways to filter air adequately and keep ventilation flowing so any airborne viral particles are taken out of the atmosphere. Until governments and regulatory bodies take airborne transmission seriously, we are likely to see continued infections and reinfections of COVID-19.

Good news: YouTube cracks down on anti-vaccine videos

As a doctor who often appears on UK television advocating for COVID-19 vaccines, I am no stranger to online abuse from people who disagree with me. I have even experienced verbal abuse in the street and had threatening letters sent to my surgery. On sharing my experiences with other UK media medics, I was not all that surprised to learn they had similar things happen to them – one very prominent doctor had a mob of anti-vaxxers show up at their home and threaten not only them, but their family and neighbours also. It was a very frightening experience for this person.

Most people who strongly believe that vaccines do harm rather than good are usually victims of misinformation, and there is no shortage of misinformation in the public domain. Social media companies claim to be doing all they can to crack down on information about the vaccines that is not based on evidence – of course, the anti-vaxxers claim this is all part of a wider plan to control the narrative, but it is not.

Any vaccine information should be sought from reputable websites and sources, and these should only be based on robust clinical studies. None of us is saying vaccines do not cause any side effects as all medicines do. But all the scientific data shows the benefits of the vaccines for approved groups of people outweigh any potential harms, by a long way.

So, when I heard YouTube say it was going to remove all vaccine misinformation and close the accounts of several prominent anti-vaccine influencers, I was relieved. Perhaps this will mean less abuse of front-line staff.

But how effectively this ban will be implemented remains to be seen. Facebook had similarly announced that it would crack down on false information about COVID-19 and the vaccines, but the results have been mixed. I am still bombarded with links to Facebook accounts claiming vaccines cause all sorts of nonsensical side effects.

While I welcome any efforts social media firms take to tackle anti-vaccine misinformation, I wish they had done this months ago. Misinformation has been allowed to flourish and spread on a scale never seen before and my worry is that the damage may already have been done. After all, it is hard to put the genie back in the lamp, and the large-scale anti-vaccine protests we have seen are proof of that. But as the old saying goes, it is better late than never.

Personal account: Britain's fuel crisis
Reader's question: How many people have been vaccinated globally?

We all know this is a global pandemic. Part of tackling it is having a global response, and vaccines are a massive part of this. By vaccinating people, not only are we reducing their risk of becoming seriously sick with the virus, but we are also protecting global healthcare systems and economies.

As of October 5, 2021, 6.36 billion doses of the COVID-19 vaccines have been given out globally. That means 45.8 percent of the world population has received at least one dose of a COVID vaccine. The United Arab Emirates and Portugal are the two countries with the highest vaccination rates, both countries having started early with vaccinating adults and younger age groups.

It is an incredible feat; to bring this pandemic to an end, a large share of the world needs to be immune to the virus and we are making good progress. Humans have long relied on the global use of vaccines to eradicate deadly diseases and COVID is no different.

The vaccines are relatively safe and highly effective. The challenge is to make vaccines available to the poorest and hardest to reach communities. But through global and charitable efforts, this is possible.

Al Jazeera

Study finds parental beliefs may impact child Dev

Agencies

A new study has found that parental knowledge and beliefs can impact their children's brain development.

The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Nature Communications'.

University of Chicago Medicine paediatrician Dana Suskind, MD, along with University of Chicago economists John List, PhD, and Julie Pernaudet, PhD investigated one potential source of discrepancy in child skill level: disparity in parents' beliefs about their influence over their children's development.

Through experimental studies involving hundreds of families across the Chicagoland area, the researchers show parental knowledge and beliefs differ across socioeconomic status. But these beliefs can, with the right intervention, be changed. Moreover, these changes can have measurable effects on child outcomes. The results may offer policymakers insights into addressing an important contributor to disparities in child skill development.

"Neuroscience clearly shows that building early brain connections in children relies on the nurturing 'serve and return,' meaning the interactions between adult and child," said Suskind, Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics and Co-Director of the TMW Center for Early Learning and Public Health.

For this reason, differences in parental engagement can lead to differences in children's brain development and their capabilities later on.

"There are many deep, structural drivers of inequality that have enormous impacts on child development. At the same time, we know that parental input plays a major role in early foundational brain development," said Suskind.

"However, little research has been centred on understanding, number one, what parents know and believe in the first place, and, number two, whether or not changing what parents know and believe maps onto changes in child input and child outcomes," added Suskind.

Suskind and her collaborators decided to investigate what underlies parental beliefs about their role in their child's development. Then, the team asked whether these beliefs could even be changed, and, if so, what method of doing so might be most effective.

To do this, Suskind and her team conducted two field experiments, from 2016 to 2019, with families living in and around Chicago. The first experiment began in pediatric clinics serving underinsured or uninsured families with newborn children.

As parents sat in the waiting room before their children's first, second, fourth- and sixth-month check-ups, some were asked to watch 10-minute videos. A subset of the parents—the control group—watched videos about child safety or no video at all, while the "treatment" group watched videos on the parents' role in very early child development, brain malleability and practical tips for parents to improve involvement.

The second experiment was more intensive. A group of parents of very young children from a variety of socioeconomic circumstances, this time recruited from a range of locations, such as grocery stores and daycares, as well as medical clinics, received monthly two-hour-long home visits for six months.

The visits involved watching a video on a development topic and doing an activity demonstrating how to apply the topic with their child, as well as a discussion of feedback and goals. This experiment's control group received information and home visits on child nutrition.

Throughout both experiments, the researchers documented parents' knowledge and beliefs about how much influence they had over their children's development. Additionally, parents' actual investments and child outcomes were measured.

To do this, they used a tool called SPEAK, developed and validated by Suskind and collaborators, which is the scale of parental expectation and knowledge of child development.

With this tool, now used around the world by other researchers, Suskind and her team measured parents' understanding of their children's early cognitive and brain development and of their own ability to affect that development. The researchers also measured parents' actual inputs, employing audio and video recordings of parents as they interacted with their children.

At the start of the experiments, Suskind and collaborators found that the more education or higher socioeconomic status parents had, the more knowledge they had of how their investments could affect their child's skill levels.

"On average, the more education a parent had, the more their knowledge and beliefs were aligned with what the science shows. The more aligned their beliefs were with the science, the more facilitative behaviour there was," said Suskind.

However, within six months of starting the experiments, the beliefs of the treatment groups had shifted significantly from those of the control groups, although both were made up of parents of similar demographics. Moreover, the more intensive home visiting program saw more than twice the impact.

"With these different tiers of intervention. We could shift what parents know and believe and by doing so, shift their behaviour in the positive direction," said Suskind.

As parents began to believe their investments mattered, they began to invest more heavily in their children's development. Suskind and her team saw statistically significant improvements in parent-child interactions over the span of both experiments.



Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Directorate of Information & Public Relations

Media Complex , Polo Ground, Srinagar/ Rail Head, Jammu

0194 2476816; 01942485175 (fax) Sgr/ 01912479692; 01912479643 (fax) Jammu

Tender Notice

Sealed tender bids affixed with Rupees 10 Revenue Stamp are invited from the reputed firms / parties for providing services on contract basis for day to day Housekeeping and cleaning of 2nd & 3rd floor, rooftop along with the auditorium, lawns and ground at Media Complex Jammu for the period of one year w.e.f 01.11.2021 to 31.10.2022.

The tenders should be accompanied with earnest money deposited in shape of CDR for Rs. 5000/= (Rupees Five Thousand only) drawn in favour of on any scheduled Bank pledged to the Accounts Officer, Directorate of Information J&K. The detailed Tender document containing terms & conditions etc. can be had from the office of the undersigned on cash payment of Rs.500/= (Rupees Five Hundred only) which can be downloaded from this office website www.jkdirinf.in. The tender document completed, in all respects, should reach at Directorate of Information & Public Relations, Media Complex Rail Head, Jammu or Directorate of Information & Public Relations, Polo View, (opposite Sher-i-Kashmir Park) Srinagar by or before 11.10.2021 upto 4.00 P.M which shall be opened on the same day or any other subsequent day convenient to the Directorate of Information & PR in presence of the tender bidders who may wish to be present. The downloaded tender document should be supported with Demand draft (DD)/Treasury challan of Rs. 500/- favoring Accounts Officer, Directorate of Information and Public Relations as cost of Tender document

(Abdul Ahad Bhat) Assistant Director Information (S&MO)

Directorate of information

No: INF/Stores-l1/2016[22.29-15 dated: 05/10/2021 DIPK-10101/21

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

WATER WORKS DIVISION SRINAGAR

GIST OF NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

E-N.I.T No:- 24 / WWD OF 2021-22 Dt:- 05.10.2021

Executive Engineer Water Works Division Srinagar on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K (U.T), invites tenders by e-tendering mode from approved & eligible 'DEE Class' registered Contractors of Union Territory of J&K.

Position of A.A.A. 'Accorded'

S. No	Name of Work	Estd. Cost (lacs)	Cost of Tender (in Rs.)	Head of Account	T.O.C	Class of Contractor
1	Laying and fitting of 50/25mm dia G.I pipeline from 450mm dia M.P line at Rehmat Colony near Masjid Rehmat Lal Bazar.	0.56	50	Imppt. Ext.	10days	DEE
2	Improvement, Extension of water of supply to Rangpora Malla Bagah Srinagar and adjacent area by way of laying and fitting of 80mm dia G.I pipeline.	0.39	50	Imppt. Ext.	10days	DEE
3	Improvement, augmentation and extension of water supplies to Sheikh Colony Arampora Qamarwari by way of laying and fitting of 25/20mm dia G.I pipeline.	0.31	50	Imppt. Ext.	07days	DEE
4	Improvement of water supply by way of laying & fitting of 20mm dia Service line at Kachlach Pora Amda Kadal	0.18	50	Imppt. Ext.	07days	DEE
5	Improvement of water supply to Alamdar Colony Labazar Srinagar by way of laying and fitting of 25/20mm dia G.I pipeline.	0.17	50	Imppt. Ext.	07days	DEE
6	Impmts. of water supply to Chotta Bazar Kani Kadal by way of laying & fitting of 20mm dia G.I pipeline.	0.06	50	Imppt. Ext.	05days	DEE
7	Improvements of water supply to Shala Kadal Kani Kadal near Marriage Hall by way of laying and fitting of 25mm dia pipeline.	0.05	50	Imppt. Ext.	05days	DEE
8	Improvements of water supply to Jami Mohallah, Takia Nizam of upper Brain.	0.05	50	Imppt. Ext.	05days	DEE
9	Providing shunt line of 20mm dia G.I pipeline for tail end portion of Bulbul Sahib Aali Kadal Srinagar.	0.04	50	Imppt. Ext.	05days	DEE

Note:- For further details, bidders are requested to refer to E-NIT No:- WWD / 24 of 2021-22 Dt: 05-10-2021. Instructions published on website: <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> The dates showing 'bid submission date/closing date' etc. are given below:

1	Date of publishing	05-10-2021
2	Document downloading date	05-10-2021 / 1600 hrs
3	Bid submission start date	05-10-2021 / 1630 hrs
4	Bid submission closing date	12-10-2021 / 1600 hrs
5	Date and time for opening bids	13-10-2021 / 1400 hrs
6	Place of opening of bids	Office of The Executive Engineer Water Works Division Srinagar.

Note: Bid security declaration 'Self Attested' be uploaded with the bid as per Appendix II as per Finance Deptt. Govt. of U.T. of J&K letter No. A/Misc. (2018)-III-895/ dt. 22-12-2020.

The bid uploaded without challan of Tender Document Fee shall be rejected straightaway

No: WWD/ 4701-13

Dated: 05-10-2021

DIPK-10113/21

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

Water Works Division Srinagar.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

PWD(R&B) DIVISION KULGAM

NIT No. 107/2021-22/RnB/Kul/e-tendering/6866-86 dated 05-10-2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-:

S. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (in Rs)	Time of completion	Major Head of Account	Class of Contractor
1	Earth work in cutting/ filling for Development of Watoo Adibal road	15.00	600	20 days	State Sector	Bee, Cee & Dee

Position of AAA: Accorded

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms- and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:

S.No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice .	05-10-2021
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 07-10-2021 (10:00AM) To 13-10-2021 (04:00PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 07-10-2021 (10:00AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 13-10-2021 (04:00PM)
6	Date and time of opening of bid (online)	13-10-2021 (4.30 PM)

In the office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Kulgam

Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Kulgam (Major Head 0059-Rev/Misc) [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Kulgam (Tender receiving Authority).

- All the Bidders have to submit Bid Security Declaration Form instead of Earnest money as per the Circular of Finance Department (Bid security Declaration Form Is as per Annexure "A" below).
- The 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 3% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of work.
- 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 Executive Engineer R&B Division Kulgam
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical Bid
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.
- a. 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 to acquaint bid submission process.
- b. 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 vendors.
- c. The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No Financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
- d. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned in Para-1.
- e. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with bid.
- f. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents including tender document fee in terms of soft copies with technical bid.

Note:- Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

- The department will not be responsible for delay in online submission due to any reasons.
- Scanned copy of cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Kulgam (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division Kulgam must be uploaded with the documents of the bid. The Original Treasury Challan (Cost of Tender Document) and other relevant bid documents shall be obtained from the lowest bidder before the fixation of the Contract.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually.
- Price escalation and taxes: The %age quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees, shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on R&B e-Tendering portal to store such documents as are required.
- All other terms and conditions are as same as laid in PWD Form 25.

No: 6887-89

Dated: 05-10-2021

Sd/-

Executive Engineer

(R&B) Division Kulgam

DIPK-10102/21

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL WELFARE

Kashmir, Old Secretariat, Srinagar-190001, Phone No. 0194-2473761,

0194-2950499 e-mail; dirswkmr@gmail.com

Subject:- 15 days extension for submission of On-line scholarship applications under Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme from students belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBC), Economically Backward Classes (EBC), Physically Challenged (PCP) & Denotified Nomadic & Semi Nomadic Tribes (DNTs) for the year 2021-22.

NOTICE

In view of requests from the students of various institutes, the 15 days extension is given for submission of online scholarship applications under Post-Matric Scholarship from students belonging to Other Backward Classes, Economically Backward Classes, Physically Challenged (PCP) & Dr. Ambedkar Post-Matric Scholarship to Denotified Nomadic & Semi Nomadic Tribes (DNTs) categories for the year (2021-22) on State Portal under URL:- <https://jk.gov.in/jkeservices> from 06th October, 2021 to 20th of October, 2021.

The applicants are advised to take print-out of the duly filled-in application form, after submitting it on-line and submit the same to the concerned Institution/College/University alongwith all requisite documents. The concerned Head of Institution/College/ University will verify the on-line applications with hard copies and forward the same to the concerned Domicile District Social Welfare Office for further scrutiny/verification and also for record and reference.

REVISED TIME-LINE FOR STUDENTS FOR SUBMISSION/ VERIFICATION OF ON-LINE APPLICATIONS:-

S.No.	Activities	Last Date
1.	Submission of Online applications by students.	20 th October, 2021
2.	Submission of hard copies of online applications alongwith all required documents by the student to concerned Institute.	30 th October, 2021
3.	Verification/forwarding of On-line Applications by Institutes & submission of hard copies to concerned (Domicile) District Social Welfare Office.	5 th November, 2021
4.	Scrutiny/Verification of On-line application forms with Hard copies by concerned (Domicile) DSWO	15 th November, 2021

Other terms and conditions as laid down in previous Notification issued vide No:-DSWK/Sch/2021/1535-1634 Dated:-03-05-2021 shall remain unchanged.

Sd/-

(Bashir Ahmad Dar, KAS)

Director General

Social Welfare Department

Kashmir

DIPK-10077/21

No:-DSWK/Sch/2021/4851-4901

Dated:- 05.10.2021

Telegram Founder Says Over 70 Million New Users Joined During Facebook Outage

AGENCIES

New York: Messaging app Telegram gained over 70 million new users during Monday's Facebook outage, its founder Pavel Durov said on Tuesday, as people worldwide were left without key messaging services for nearly six hours.

Facebook blamed its outage, which kept its 3.5 billion users from accessing services such as WhatsApp, Instagram and Messenger, on a faulty configuration change.

"The daily growth rate of Telegram exceeded the norm by an order of magnitude, and we welcomed over 70 million refugees from other platforms in one day," Durov wrote on his Telegram channel.

Durov said some users in the

Americas may have experienced slower speeds as millions rushed to sign up at the same time, but that the service worked as usual for the majority.

EU antitrust chief Margrethe Vestager said the outage demonstrated the repercussions of relying on just a few big players and underscored the need for more rivals.

Russia said the incident showed Moscow was right to develop its own sovereign internet platforms and social networks.

WhatsApp's nearly six-hour long outage on Monday hit trading of assets from cryptocurrencies to Russian oil, market players said, although a quick shift to alternative platforms such as Telegram limited severe disruption.

No Donald Trump In Forbes 400 Rich List For First Time In 25 Years: Report

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: Former US President Donald Trump and real estate mogul dropped off from the Forbes 400 list of America's richest people for the first time in 25 years, the magazine reported.

A Forbes report said that Trump has the same amount of wealth as he had a year ago, but he is down USD 600 million since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Trump's wealth is worth around

USD 2.5 billion, leaving him USD 400 million short of the cutoff to make this year's Forbes list.

The report said that Trump had the golden opportunity during the time of the US presidential polls. "Fresh off the 2016 election, federal ethics officials were pushing Trump to divest his real estate assets. That would have allowed him to reinvest the proceeds into broad-based index funds and assume office free of conflicts of interest," Forbes report said.

RBI's Interest Rate-Setting Panel Starts Deliberating Next Monetary Policy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI: Reserve Bank's rate-setting panel started its three-day deliberations on the next bi-monthly monetary policy on Wednesday amid rising global commodity prices and the need to contain inflation at home.

The decision of the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) would be announced on Friday by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday.

Experts are of the view that the central bank will maintain the status quo on policy rates for the eighth time in a row. The policy repo rate or the short-term lending rate is currently at 4 per cent, and the reverse repo rate is 3.35 per cent.

Ranen Banerjee, leader (Public Finance and Economics) at PwC India opined that the latest statements by the US Fed Chair on possible actions if inflation does not wear off by H1 of 2022 is a clear commencement of chatter around rate action after the clarity on taper timing.

"This will have a bearing on the stance of the MPC as it will also be worried on the inflation front given the oil, natural gas and coal prices showing no signs of abetting and rather continuing to have an upward bias," he said.

However, it is very unlikely that there will be any rate action given the inflation is within the tolerance band and the 10-year yields keep hovering slightly



above 6 per cent, Banerjee said.

M Govinda Rao, Chief Economic Advisor of Brickwork Ratings, said with the consumer price inflation easing from 5.59 per cent in July to 5.3 per cent in August, improved supply situation on the back of the pandemic-led restrictions being relaxed, and capacity utilisation still in the recovery mode, there is no immediate pressure on the MPC to either alter interest rates or change the accommodative stance.

When asked for his opinion, Dhruv Agarwala, Group CEO, Housing.com, Makaaan.com and PropTiger.com, said even though most growth indicators currently show positive signals, the RBI is expected to maintain a status quo on key policy rates to maintain financial stability and boost demand during the ongoing festive season.

He also said that home loans are currently available at interest as low as 6.50 per cent annual interest.

"The continuation of this historically low interest rate regime for the entire festive season is a must for India's real estate sec-

tor, the second biggest employment generating sector in India, to regain its strength," Agarwal added.

The RBI has projected the CPI inflation at 5.7 per cent during 2021-22 -- 5.9 per cent in the second quarter, 5.3 per cent in third, and 5.8 per cent in the fourth quarter of the fiscal, with risks broadly balanced. CPI inflation for the first quarter of 2022-23 is projected at 5.1 per cent.

The CPI inflation was at 5.3 per cent in August. The inflation data for September is scheduled to be released on October 12.

Suman Chowdhury, Chief Analytical Officer, Acuit Ratings and Research said: In line with market expectations, RBI will continue with its accommodative monetary policy in October 2021 although it is likely that it may take some further steps to recalibrate the excess liquidity in the monetary system over the next 1-2 quarter.

He further said while the high frequency indicators for August and September reveal that economic activity is reaching its pre-pandemic levels and the risks of another wave of the COVID are gradually on a decline, the recovery momentum is still uneven and not well anchored across all sectors of the economy.

Sharing his pre-monetary policy view, Sandeep Bagla, CEO, TRUST Mutual Fund said the next two CPI inflation readings are likely to be below 5 per cent.

Bank Of India Holds Loan Outreach Programme In Srinagar

CEO says Valley has vast potential to tap



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR: Kashmir Valley has a vast untapped potential for banking business growth that needs to be tapped immediately to pass on the benefits of various banking products to the customers, Bank of India MD and Chief Executive A K Das said here on Wednesday.

Das was speaking at a programme where the bank undertook an important initiative to extensively take mainstream banking to the people of the Kashmir Valley by organising a 'Customer Outreach Programme' here.

The outreach programme marked the beginning of a series of similar programmes planned across the country during this festive season by Bank of India, predominantly with a view to take banking to the doorsteps and for the bank to be an active partner in the ongoing economic revival process.

Das interacted with several existing and potential customers.

"The Valley has vast untapped potential for banking

business growth, which needs to be tapped immediately to pass on the benefits of the various banking products viz. housing, vehicle, education, agriculture etc. and other banking schemes like PM SVANidhi, MSME Mudra loan and social security schemes to the common man," he said.

The MD and CEO emphasised that it will not only boost and accelerate the socioeconomic growth of the region but will also contribute to uplift the livelihood of the people at large.

He said the bank will continue its efforts to support and provide quality banking facilities to its customers.

Das, in the presence of Field General Manager A K Jain, also distributed sanction letters to several beneficiaries under various loan products/ schemes of the bank.

The BoI is actively considering opening one more branch in the Valley to enter mainstream banking with fully digitised facilities.

In addition, BoI is also opening its first branch in Leh in the UT of Ladakh on October 22.

Gaming Apps Block Access In Karnataka As Ban Takes Effect

Agencies

BENGALURU: Sequoia Capital-funded Mobile Premier League (MPL) was among the first few gaming startups that began blocking access to users in Karnataka on Wednesday following a ban on online gaming.

The law, which came into effect late on Tuesday, bans online games involving betting and wagering, and "any act or risking money, or otherwise on the unknown result of an event including on a game of skill".

The latest ban has intensified concerns that growing state regulations could hit the nascent but booming gaming sector in India, where foreign investors have pumped in millions of dollars in recent months.

On Wednesday morning, MPL's gaming app showed messages to users in Karnataka that said: "Sorry! The law in your state does not permit you to play Fantasy sports", "Fantasy games are locked" and "cash games are locked".

The gaming app offers



fantasy cricket and football games and allows real-money wagering on them.

Dream11, one of India's most popular gaming apps backed by Tiger Global, was still operational, but Paytm First Games was not.

Dream11 declined to comment, while MPL and Paytm did not immediately respond.

Karnataka, home to some of the world's biggest tech companies and India's tech capital Bengaluru, is the latest state that has banned such online games after Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Tamil Nadu had also imposed such bans, but its bill was struck down by its high court.

An industry source had told Reuters earlier that

these states were important for the gaming business and account for roughly 20% of the total business for companies. Roland Landers, the chief executive of the All India Gaming Federation, said "the industry will challenge this in court and seek legal recourse".

Two other industry sources told Reuters on Wednesday that gamers and some companies were planning to file court challenges against the new Karnataka law.

The law imposes hefty fines and prison terms on violaters and has been implemented amid growing concerns that online gaming platforms, like gambling, are addictive and can cause financial harm.

Cabinet Approves Bonus Equal To 78 Days' Wage For Over 11 Lakh Railway Employees

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a productivity-linked bonus equivalent to 78 days' wage to eligible non-gazetted Railway employees, Union minister Anurag Thakur said.

The bonus for the financial year 2020-21 will benefit about 11.56 lakh non-gazetted Railway employees, he said.

An expenditure of nearly Rs 1,985 crore will be incurred on this.

The bonus is usually announced ahead of Dussehra and Puja festivities.

The wage calculation ceiling prescribed for payment of PLB to the eligible non-gazetted railway employees is Rs 7000/- p.m.

The maximum amount payable per eligible railway employee is Rs. 17,951 for 78 days.

About 11.56 lakh non-gazetted Railway employees are likely to benefit from the decision.

Railway Board Chairman and COO Suneet Sharma, later at a press conference, said that

the bonus will be disbursed as usual before Dussehra.

He said that the payment of these bonuses, specially after a tough year that saw railwaymen battling against coronavirus and still reporting for duty, would encourage them to work harder.

Many rail employees reported to work despite the fear for their personal welfare. They were frontline workers. This payment of bonus will encourage them to work harder, said Sharma. The Productivity Linked Bonus on Railway covers all non-gazetted railway employees (excluding RPF/RPSF personnel) who are spread over the entire country.

Last year, the Indian Railways had disbursed a bonus worth 78 days' wages to its 11.58 lakh non-gazetted employees after Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Union Cabinet had approved disbursement of productivity and non-productivity-linked bonus for 2019-2020 to more than 30 lakh central government employees.

India In Last Stage Of Finalising Details On Global Minimum Tax: Fm

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said India is "very close" to arriving at the specifics of the two-pillar taxation proposition at the G20 and is in the last stage of finalising the details.

A total of 130 countries had in July agreed to a overhaul of global tax norms to ensure that multinationals pay taxes wherever they operate and at a minimum 15 per cent rate. The Finance Ministry had then said that some significant issues including share of profit allocation and scope of subject to tax rules are yet to be addressed and a 'consensus agreement' is expected by October after working out the technical details of the proposal.

The proposed two-pillar solution consists of two components - Pillar One which is about reallocation of additional share of profit to the market jurisdictions and Pillar Two consisting of minimum tax and subject to tax rules.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SPECIAL SUB DIVISION GUREZ

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

E- Nit No. 09/REW of 2021-22

Dated: 30/09/2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Of Union Territory Of J&K , e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved andeligible Contractors registered with UT of J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Acctt	Panchayat / Gram Sabha
1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10
1	Construction of Lanes/Drain at Dassi ward No 5 &6Gulshanpora Baktoor under BDC Grants.	1.99	200/-	3 % FDR/ CDR of Advt. Cost by 1 st lowest bidder , after opening of bid.	10 Days	DEE OTHER	BDC Grants	Block:-Bagtore Pyt. Halqa :- Bagtore
2	Construction of Lanes/Drain at Banjaran Gulshanpora Baktoor under BDC Grants.	1.49	200/-	3 % FDR/ CDR of Advt. Cost by 1 st lowest bidder , after opening of bid.	10 Days	DEE OTHER	BDC Grants	Block:-Bagtore Pyt. Halqa :- Bagtore
3	Construction of Lanes/Drain at Ward No 7 Tarbal Gulshanpora Baktoor under BDC Grants.	1.79	200/-	3 % FDR/ CDR of Advt. Cost by 1 st lowest bidder , after opening of bid.	10 Days	DEE OTHER	BDC Grants	Block:-Bagtore Pyt. Halqa :- Bagtore
4	Cement concrete/ Tile Path at Ward No 3 Kanzalwan Baktoor under PRI Grants.	1.99	200/-	3 % FDR/ CDR of Advt. Cost by 1 st lowest bidder , after opening of bid.	10 Days	DEE OTHER	PRI Grants	Block:-Bagtore Pyt. Halqa :- Kanzalwan
5	Cement concrete/ Tile Path at Ward No 2 Kanzalwan Baktoor under PRI Grants.	1.58	200/-	3 % FDR/ CDR of Advt. Cost by 1 st lowest bidder , after opening of bid.	10 Days	DEE OTHER	PRI Grants	Block:-Bagtore Pyt. Halqa :- Kanzalwan
6	Cement concrete/ Tile Path Ganie Mohalla/ Wani Mohalla PhasellGulshanpora Baktoor under PRI Grants.	2.29	200/-	3 % FDR/ CDR of Advt. Cost by 1 st lowest bidder , after opening of bid.	10 Days	DEE OTHER	PRI Grants	Block:-Bagtore Pyt. Halqa :- Bagtore
7	Cement concrete/ Tile Path from Bhat Mohalla to Ganie Mohalla at Dassi Gulshanpora Baktoor under PRI Grants.	2.29	200/-	3 % FDR/ CDR of Advt. Cost by 1 st lowest bidder , after opening of bid.	10 Days	DEE OTHER	PRI Grants	Block:-Bagtore Pyt. Halqa :- Bagtore
8	Cement concrete/ Tile Path at Khar Mohalla Gulshanpora Baktoor under PRI Grants.	2.29	200/-	3 % FDR/ CDR of Advt. Cost by 1 st lowest bidder , after opening of bid.	10 Days	DEE OTHER	PRI Grants	Block:-Bagtore Pyt. Halqa :- Bagtore
9	Cement concrete/ Tile Path near H/O Fayaz and others at Dagan Gulshanpora Baktoor under PRI Grants.	1.99	200/-	3 % FDR/ CDR of Advt. Cost by 1 st lowest bidder , after opening of bid.	10 Days	DEE OTHER	PRI Grants	Block:-Bagtore Pyt. Halqa :- Bagtore
10	Cement concrete/ Tile Path near H/O Talib Hussainand Ab Majeed at Halqa Kanzalwan (Izmgar) Baktoor under BDC Grants.	1.79	200/-	3 % FDR/ CDR of Advt. Cost by 1 st lowest bidder , after opening of bid.	10 Days	DEE OTHER	BDC Grants	Block:-Bagtore Pyt. Halqa :- Kanzalwan

Position of AAA: **Accorded**

Position of funds: **Partiality Available**

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02-10-2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	02-10-2021
3.	Bid submission Start Date	02-10-2021 from 10:00A.M.
4.	Bid Submission End Date	11/10/2021 at 4:00 P.M.
6.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) -	12/10/2021 at 11:00 A.M.
7	Note: Hard copy of original Treasury ChallanReceipt , 3% EMD/CDR of Advt Cost and other bid relevant documents within three days after opening of bid by the 1st lowest bidders.	

Special Condition: As per Govt. Order No: 238 -FD OF 2021 Dated : 07-09-2021: **Special Condition:**
Participation/Allotments of works can be limited to members of Gram Sabha of each panchayat upto amount of 3.00 lacs only and participants should be registered with District Development Commissioner BANDIPORA

1.

The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer Special Sub Division Gurez (tender receiving authority).

2.

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

3.

The earnest money shall be forfeited, If:-

a.

Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.

b.

Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.

c.

Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.

4.

Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.

4.1.

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

4.2.

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.

4.3.

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

4.4.

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

4.5.

Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents with the bid. Besides, original / photocopies of documents related to the bid be submitted physically / by registered post / through courier before the date specified in Para-1.

4.6.

Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents in soft copies with the technical bid and no documents in terms of Hard Copies shall be entertained. However, the earnest money an tender document fee is to be submitted in both soft as well as hard copies. However, in case of any clarification, the bidders shall have to produce original documents in support of soft copies if need arise.

4.7.

The earnest money in favour of unsuccessful/ Non-responsive bidders shall be released only after ensuring submission of tender document Fee in original, irrespective of Hard Copies, failure of submission of Tender documents fee by the bidder using the site shall entail him for blacklisting.

10.3.1.1

Abnormal /bad weather or Serious loss or damage by fire or Civil commotion, strike or lockout (other than among the labour engaged by the contractor) affecting any or the trades employed on the work, or Non availability of departmental stores. Any other cause which in the absolute discretion of the accepting authority is beyond the contractor's desire.

10.3.1.2

On contractor's representation based on the grounds as detailed above the time for completion of the work may be extended by a period considered reasonable by the Department.

10.3.1.3

Extension of time shall be also admissible in the event of temporary suspension of work.

11

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

12

All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form)

No. EE/SSDG/ 3623-32

Dated:- 30/09/2021

DIPK-9947/21

Executive Engineer

Special Sub Division Gurez

Scary How People Behave On Social Media: Wasim Akram

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KARACHI: Pakistan pace legend Wasim Akram said one of the reasons he never accepted any permanent coaching assignment with the national team is because he can't tolerate the online abuse that coaches have to endure due to the failure of the side.

"I can't stand misbehaviour from anyone and I am not stupid I see how people misbehave and insult coaches/seniors on the social media if the team is not doing well. I don't think I have the patience for that," he said during an interview in CricketPakistan.com.pk YouTube channel.

Wasim said while he could understand the passion of the cricket fans but he couldn't understand the bad language and insults that are used on social media.

"I just think we need to ponder on the fact that whatever we say on social media reflects on what we are," he added.

The former left-arm fast bowler said people need to understand that the coaches and support staff can only plan, guide and motivate the players but at the end of the day the players have to perform on the field.

"Sometimes you do well, sometimes you lose. But tell me do we see this sort of extreme reaction or misbehaviour in other countries. Have you seen Ravi Shastri being treated this way on social media? It is pretty scary for me the way people behave on social media," Akram said.

The former skipper, however, said being with the Karachi Kings franchise in the Pakistan



Super League allowed him to work with most of the players.

"So it is not as if I am totally cut off from the players. They call me when they want any help or advice and I love contributing to Pakistan Cricket," he said.

Akram also dismissed fears burn out concerns of left arm pacer, Shaheen Shah Afridi.

"I don't think he will burn out, in fact he is getting better. He has pace, height and knows how to swing the ball both ways with the new ball and he has now improved on his bowling sense, length and has got situational awareness. He is a great talent and he will take a lot of wickets for Pakistan," he said.

"As far as rest is concerned I think just ask him whether he wants to rest but we should not try to copy other countries because our cricket culture and mindset is different.

"He is not playing too much county or other cricket he only plays for Pakistan so I think the more he plays he will only get better with time."

Malhotra Among Nominees For ICC September Men's POTM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI: Indian-born American Jaskaran Malhotra, who became only the fourth player to hit six sixes in an over in an international match, was on Wednesday named among three nominees for the ICC Men's Player of the Month for September.

The other two men's nominees were Bangladesh spinner Nasum Ahmed and Nepal's leg-spinner Sandeep Lamichhane.

England captain Heather Knight, her compatriot Charlie Dean and South Africa's Lizelle Lee were nominated for the ICC Women's Player of the Month.

The 31-year-old Malhotra, who was born in Chandigarh and captained Himachal Pradesh at U-19 level, smashed six sixes in an over against Papua New Guinea in a World Cup League 2 fixture in Oman on September 9 during a scintillating knock of 173 not out.

Overall, in six ODIs, he has scored 261 runs at an average of 87 and a strike-rate of 104.40.

Nasum Ahmed was Bangladesh's star performer in their home T20I series against New Zealand, leaving the visitors bamboozled with his accurate



line and length.

He picked up eight wickets in the series with a sensational performance of 4/10 in the fourth match. His exploits helped the hosts to emerge victorious with a margin of 3-2 against the visitors.

Lamichhane has already impressed one and all with his trickery in his short career so far. He continued his impressive run in the month of September, emerging as the standout bowler in the World Cup League 2.

In six ODIs, he picked up a staggering 18 wickets at an average of 7.38. His performance

against Papua New Guinea, against whom he ended with figures of 6/11, grabbed the attention of one and all.



Premier League: J&K Bank XI, Downtown Heroes Win Matches

Bank score 7 against SCFA, Heroes secure 4-3 win over Ali Jana

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: In the ongoing Khyber Premier Football League 2021 two matches of Premier Division were played on Wednesday at Synthetic Turf TRC here.

First match of the Premier Division was played between State Football Academy and J&K Bank XI. J&K Bank dominated right from the start and scored the first goal against JK State Sports Council in the 6th minute through Furqan J&K Bank scored two more goals in the 11th minute and 43rd minute through Furqan and Aakif, respectively. The half time score was 3-0 in favour of J&K Bank XI.

In the second half J&K Bank team scored four more goals as Adnan, Faisal, Shahid and Toufeeq scored one goal each. Furqan of J&K Bank scored two goals and was declared

man of the match.

The second match of the day was played between Downtown Heroes FC and Ali Jana FC. The match turned into a thrilling encounter as the high voltage match saw many ups and downs and both the teams tried to make full use of the opportunities they got to score.

In the first half, Ali Jana FC scored two goals via Bismark and Faizan to take strong lead into the second. However, the second half proved to be a different affair as Downtown Heroes FC scripted an epic comeback.

The Heroes scored two goals in quick succession to bring things level with Ali Jana FC at 2-2. Ali Jana took the lead again in 61st minute and Downtown Heroes FC again levelled in the 70th minute making the score 3-3.

In the final moments of the second half, Downtown Heroes FC succeeded in scoring the decisive goal through Shafqat, and beat Ali Jana FC by 4 goals to 3. Frank of Downtown Heroes FC was declared man of the match.

The JKFA Premier Division can be watched live on ANN News Channel.

A-Division Results

Two matches of the Srinagar A-Division League were played at Gindun Ground Rabbagh Srinagar on Wednesday.

The first match was played between Real Cosmos FC and Nishat FC, which the Real Cosmos FC won 2-0. In the second match, Al- Rashid FC and Baghi Hamdan FC played a goalless draw.

The Tournament is organized by JKFA in collaboration with JKSC.

SUPER DIVISION SEMIFINAL

Galaxy FC Defeat Real Kashmir U-18

OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The second semifinal match of DFA Srinagar Super Division League was played on Tuesday at the Synthetic Turf TRC, here between Galaxy FC & Real Kashmir FC U-18.

The high-stakes match was played under floodlight at TRC and was fought between the two evenly balanced teams. Before the play started the spectators were cheering for their favourite players and the atmosphere in the ground was electrifying.

The first half ended 0-0 even though both teams created opportunities to score.

The second half proved to be a different affair all together as Galaxy FC players geared up and scored the first goal through Shizan.

The Under-18 side of Real Kashmir FC then let in another goal in the 58th minute, with Shizan again finding the net for Galaxy FC. The Galaxy players



then controlled the game till the final whistle.

With this win Galaxy FC qualified for the DFA Srinagar Super Division League final where they will meet Jehlum FC. The two teams have now secured qualification for next year's Premier Division League.

'Pele of Kashmir' Tournament: Musuada Foundation FC Wins

In the 'Pele of Kashmir' League cum Knockout Football Tournament 2021 played at

the Edigah Playfield. The 2nd match of the Tournament was played on October 4 between Fortview FC and Musuada Foundation in which Musuada Foundation FC won by a solitary goal. Nazim was the scorer for Musuada Foundation. The tournament is being held in the memory of late Farooq Ahmad Bhat, a veteran footballer of erstwhile J&K State. The tournament is organised by Player Welfare Forum Iddgah in collaboration with J&K Football Association.

IPL 2021

KKR Eye Win Over RR To Stay Ahead In Play-Off Race



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHARJAH: Two-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders would strive for a handsome win over struggling Rajasthan Royals in their last round-robin game to stay ahead in the IPL play-offs race here on Thursday.

With 12 points from 13 matches, KKR are currently sitting at the fourth position in the pecking order, just ahead of defending champions Mumbai Indians on net run rate.

MI too have 12 points from 13 games and still have a match to play against bottom-placed Sunrisers Hyderabad on Friday.

If both KKR and MI win their last matches, then it will boil down to net run rate and that's where the Eoin Morgan-led side (0.294) would have an edge as it currently enjoys a positive run rate compared to the Mumbai outfit (-0.048).

KKR has a mixed bag in the second leg of the tournament, winning four and losing two games.

While KKR started the second phase with back-to-back wins over Royal Challengers Bangalore and MI before suffering a defeat to Chennai Super Kings, they came back to beat table toppers Delhi Capitals.

A defeat against Punjab Kings followed before they outplayed SRH by six wickets to keep their nose ahead in the race for the final play-offs spot.

KKR have been impressive in the second half and even their two defeats were narrow, where they lost in the last over.

In the batting department, Venkatesh Iyer has been the star performer in the second leg for KKR, while Rahul Tripathi too has been impressive this season.

Young Shubman Gill scored a fine half-century in KKR's last match, which holds good for the team. Nitish Rana, up in the batting order, has also done well but the form of skipper Morgan remains a cause for concern.

The induction of star Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib al Hasan in the last match for the first time in the second leg, has given a new dimension to the side.

In bowling, mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy has been the team's go-to man while Sunil Narine too has been among the wickets.

In the absence of Andre Russell and Lockie Ferguson, who missed a few games following injuries, Tim Southee and Shivam Mavi are the new pace bowling pair for KKR.

Holding Smacks ECB For Pakistan Tour Pull Out, Says They Wouldn't This To India



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

West Indies legend Michael Holding says England's decision to cancel its white-ball tours of Pakistan smacked of "western arrogance" and the country wouldn't have ever done this to a "rich and powerful" India.

England men and women teams were scheduled to tour Pakistan this month but their Cricket Board (ECB) cancelled both the series, citing "mental and physical well-being" of players and security concerns.

"The ECB statement doesn't wash with me. No substance," Holding was quoted as saying by BBC Sport after receiving the Cricket Writers' Club Peter Smith Award on Tuesday.

"Nobody wants to come forward and face up to anything because they know what they did was wrong. So they put out a statement and hid behind a statement. It just reminds me of the rubbish they did with Black Lives Matter," he said.

"I won't go back into that be-

cause I've said enough about that. But what that signal sends to me, is the same Western arrogance.

I will treat you how I feel like treating you, it doesn't matter what you think, I'll just do what I want," he added.

ECB's decision to abandon the tour came just three days after New Zealand had pulled out of a tour of Pakistan at the last minute, due to security concerns.

Holding sympathised with Pakistan and said had it been India, England wouldn't have dared to cancel the tour.

"Pakistan went to England before vaccines were available for six or seven weeks," said Holding, who played 60 Tests for West Indies before becoming a celebrated commentator.

"They stayed, they played their cricket, they honoured what England wanted them to honour, to save England's butt, to put it mildly.

"Four days in Pakistan? I'm absolutely sure they would not have done that to India, because India is rich and powerful," he added.

NEWS MAKERS

Brazil, Argentina Face Tests As WC Qualifying Resumes

AGENCIES

SAO PAULO: Brazil and Argentina will be hoping to avoid any more interruptions when World Cup qualifying resumes Thursday across South America.

The game between the two rivals in Sao Paulo last month was suspended shortly after kickoff after a Brazilian health official entered the pitch to remove four Argentina players he considered should be in quarantine due to COVID-19 protocols. Both teams then earned victories in their second game of that international window to remain on course for a place in Qatar.

And similar scenes should be avoided when Brazil, which tops the qualifying standings, visits last-place Venezuela and second-place Argentina travels to Asuncion to face Paraguay.

Brazil has 24 points and Argentina has 18 from eight matches. Uruguay (15), Ecuador (13) and Colombia (13) follow, but they've all played nine matches.

The top four teams secure a spot at next year's World Cup in Qatar. The fifth-place team will enter a playoff against a team from a different confederation.

VENEZUELA vs BRAZIL

A win in Venezuela would put Bra-



zil on the verge of qualifying for Qatar, but coach Tite might be without a key starter. Midfielder Casemiro is out with an injury, with Liverpool's Fabinho seen as his likely replacement.

Fabinho is one of several England-based players, including goalkeeper Ederson, defender Thiago Silva and striker Gabriel Jesus, who couldn't play in the previous international window amid pressure from their Premier League clubs.

Jesus, who hasn't played for Brazil since the Copa America quarterfinals, was widely criticized at home after the last World Cup in Russia, when he failed to score a single goal.

Brazil lost to Belgium in the quarterfinals but Jesus said he's already thinking about redeeming himself in Qatar.

TRAFFIC POLICE HEADQUARTERS J&K, SRINAGAR

e-mail-id: igtraffic@jkpolice.gov.in

Phone No. 0191-2467302
Fax No. 0191-2467307Phone No. 0194-2479871
Fax No. 0194-2470230

CIRCULAR

In compliance to an amendment by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways in Rule 139 of the Central Motor vehicle Rule vide Notification No. G.S.R 108 (E) dated 2nd of November, 2018, enabling production of requisite documents such as certificate of registration, insurance, fitness and permit, the driving license, certificate for pollution under check and any other relevant document in electronic form with a view to ease of living for the people, it is ordered that the documents on DiGLocker platform of the Ministry of Electronics and information, Government of India and the mParivahan mobile app of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India shall be deemed to be legally recognized documents at par with the original documents as per the provisions of the Information Technology Act 2000.

NO:THQ/legal/2021/5156-61
Dated:- 06.10.2021
DIPK-10120/21(Tsewang Namgyal)-IPS
Addl. Director General of Police
Traffic J&K, Srinagar

POPULATION RESEARCH CENTRE

(An Establishment of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Govt. of India)

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

(NAAC ACCREDITED GRADE A*)
Hazratbal, Srinagar, Kashmir-190 006.

No: (Ad-RI-PRC)KU/21

Date: 06-10-2021

NOTICE

This is for the information of all the candidates who have applied for two (2) contractual positions of Research Investigators in response to this office Advertisement in Greater Kashmir and Daily Aftab on 7.04.2021 that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has now communicated its approval to fill up only one (1) position of Research Investigator on contract basis. As such interview will now be held only for one (1) position of Research Investigator. The eligible candidates will be intimated about the date of interview through phone/email in due course of time.

DIPK-NB-4035/21

Sd/- Bashir Ahmad Bhat
Coordinator

Police Okays Seizure Of 2 Cars Under UAPA

‘Both Vehicles Used In Robbery, Rifle Snatching’

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir police on Wednesday approved seizure of two vehicles for their use by alleged over-ground workers for “terror activities”

According to a police spokesperson, the Police Headquarters has accorded sanction for the seizure of two light motor vehicles Maruti Alto K-10 (JK05G-5626) and Alto- K-10 (JK21C- 8461) which were used

by OGWs on April 22 this year for looting cash & one 12 Bore rifle from guard of J&K Bank, Business Unit Khore, Sherabad Pattan.

“During the investigation of FIR No. 75/2021 U/S 392, 307, IPC 7/25, 7/27, A. Act 16, 20, 39 UA(P) Act of Police Station Pattan, it came to fore that OGWs namely Nisar Ahmad Bhat and Arif Mir were affiliated with LeT outfit,” the police spokesperson said.

He further said that the evidence collected during the course of investigation substantiated that the two vehicles were used for commission of incidents/robbery and fall within the ambit of

“proceeds of terrorism” in terms of Section 2(g) r/w Sec.25 of unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 and were accordingly liable to be seized in said case.

“In exercise of powers conferred by section 25 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 DGP J&K has accorded sanction for seizure of these two vehicles,” the police spokesperson said.

With seizure of these two vehicles, he said, the PHQ has accorded sanction for seizure of 74 vehicles, (which include mostly four wheelers and two wheelers), 05 houses, 06 shops, land & cash, so far.

Outage Highlights How Vital FB Has Become Worldwide

Press Trust of India

New York: The six-hour outage at Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp was a headache for many casual users but far more serious for the millions of people worldwide who rely on social media sites to run their businesses or communicate with relatives, fellow parents, teachers or neighbours.

When all three services went dark on Monday, it was a stark reminder of the power and reach of Facebook, which owns the photo-sharing and messaging apps, reports UNB citing AP.

Around the world, the breakdown at WhatsApp left many at a loss. In Brazil, the messaging

service is by far the most widely used app in the country, installed on 99% of smartphones, according to tech pollster Mobile Time.

WhatsApp has become essential in Brazil to communicate with friends and family, as well as for a variety of other tasks, such as ordering food. Offices, various services and even the courts had trouble making appointments, and phone lines became overwhelmed.

Hundreds of thousands of Haitians in their homeland and abroad fretted over the WhatsApp outage.

Many of the country's more than 11 million people depend on it to alert one another about gang violence in particular

neighborhoods or to talk to relatives in the US about money transfers and other important matters. Haitian migrants traveling to the US rely on it to find each other or share key information such as safe places to sleep.

Nelzy Mireille, a 35-year-old unemployed woman who depends on money sent from relatives from abroad, said she stopped at a repair shop in the capital of Port-au-Prince because she thought her phone was malfunctioning.

“I was waiting on confirmation of a money transfer from my cousin,” she said.

“I was so frustrated.”

“I was not able to hear from my love,” complained 28-year-old Wilkens Bourgogne, referring to

his partner, who was in the neighboring Dominican Republic, buying goods to bring back to Haiti. He said he was concerned about her safety because of the violence in their homeland.

“Insecurity makes everyone worry,” he said.

In rebel-held Syria, where the telecommunication infrastructure has been disrupted by war, residents and emergency workers rely mostly on internet communication.

Naser AlMuhawish, a Turkey-based Syrian doctor who monitors Coronavirus cases in rebel-held territory in Syria, said WhatsApp is the main communication method used with over 500 workers in the field.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

J&K Logs 127

5 each, Pulwama 3 and Kupwara 1 new case of Covid-19. The three districts of Bandipora, Kulgam and Shopian reported no new cases of virus.

Similarly in the winter capital, the officials said, Poonch reported 38, Jammu 6, Rajouri 5, Reasi 4 and Kathua 1 new case of coronavirus. No fresh case was reported from Udhampur, Doda, Samba, Kishtwar and Ramban districts.

Also, the officials said, 134 more patients have recovered—22 from Jammu Division and 112 from Kashmir.

Meanwhile, two more people succumbed to the virus in the Valley on Wednesday, officials said. So far 4426—2174 in Jammu and 2252 in Kashmir—have died due to the infection.

PDD Revenue

the meeting was also informed that in order to liquidate Power Purchase liabilities, JK has availed soft loans to the tune of Rs 11029.47 Cr offer from Government of India to clear liabilities of power purchase to GENCOS and TRANSCOS.

Besides, he said, Kansal also informed the Secretary that various compliances have been made which include revised tariff, pre-paid metering, power purchase optimization as well as power supply to 41781 defaulters was disconnected in addition to recovery of Rs 4106.63 lakh arrears and extensive inspection drives.

“The meeting was told that the revenue realization has increased by 23.16 percent wherein Rs 954 crore was realized last year and 1176 crore realized ending September this year,” he said.

“Kansal said that the J&K PDD's main focus is to increase revenue, reduce losses and incentivize the employees of the Power Department for which a pilot incentive scheme Revenue Enhancement Scheme (RES) has been proposed,” he added.

With respect to e-governance/IT initiatives, the official spokesperson said that the Union Secretary Power was told about the Digitization Database of Distribution Transformers, achievement of 100 percent feeder metering, feeder data monitoring through state of the art system, 647 urban feeder of JKPDD on-boarding on the National Power Portal and consumer care center for complaints and grievances.

He said that Kumar complimented the PDD for successfully integrating IT assets of PDD AND said that J&K has done great work with respect to IT solutions in the power sector. He further said that the Union Secretary also enquired about the functioning of the IT wing of the department, manpower and availability of equipment.

On digital payments, the official spokesperson said that he was informed that the digital payments have jumped manifold and J&K is ranked 3rd across India with a 278 percent increase in digital payments.

“On the power generation front, the meeting was informed that 1400 MW is nearing completion with Pakal Dul (100MW), Ratle (850 MW) and Kiru (624 MW) are under construction while historic MOUs were also signed this year,” he said.

The official spokesperson further said that Kumar was informed that 9 MW solar power plant is being established at Pampore while Kishenganga Dam small hydel project to light up Gurez and 12MW small hydro power project at Karnah is under construction. Besides he said, 100 year old heritage Mohra project, built in 1902 is being revived.

“While discussing the transmission sector of PDD, it was informed that the J&K has witnessed a 150 percent leap in the last two years. During the last 70 years from 1947 to 2019, J&K had 8394 MVA transmission capacity and from April 2019 to March 31, 2022, more 3806 MVA will be added,” he said.

“The meeting was also told that the projects lying dormant or languishing for the last several years have been revived at a speedy manner with a total of 82 projects in different areas to be revived in the UT,” he added.

Govt Shifts

Secretary to the Government, Housing and Urban Development Department, has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Skill Development Department.

Chand Kishore Sharma, JKAS, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Chowki Choura, holding additional charge of Sub-Registrar, Chowki Choura, has been transferred and shall await further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, according to a separate order.

Varinder Gupta, JKAS, Deputy Secretary to the Government, Labour and Employment Department, has been transferred and posted as Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Chowki Choura. “He shall also hold the charge of the post of Sub-Registrar, Chowki Choura, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.”

Re-Registration

the charges of registration renewal of old bikes would be Rs 1,000 compared to the current fee of Rs 300.

Similarly, a fitness renewal certificate for a 15 year-plus bus or truck would cost Rs 12,500 from the current fee of Rs 1,500; while in the case of medium goods or passenger motor vehicle, it would cost Rs 10,000.

Renewal of registration for imported bikes and cars will cost Rs 10,000 and Rs 40,000, respectively.

According to the notification, these rules may be called the Central Motor Vehicles (23rd Amendment) Rules, 2021, and shall come into force with effect from April 1, 2022.

The notification said an additional fee of Rs 50 for each day of delay after the expiry of certificate of fitness shall be levied.

It also said an additional fee of Rs 200 shall be levied if the certificate of registration is a smart card-type issue.

As per the notification, in case of delay in applying for renewal of certificate of registration, an additional fee of Rs 300 for delay of every month in case of private vehicles and Rs 500 for delay of every month in case of commercial vehicles shall be levied.

Under the National Automobile Scrapage Policy launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in August this year, mandatory fitness testing for heavy commercial vehicles is likely to be in force from April 1, 2023, and the same will be in place in a phased manner for other categories from June 1, 2024.

The fitness norm is not uniform in the country. In the case of Delhi, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has passed an order banning all diesel vehicles that are over 10 years old from plying on the roads.

According to an official statement, in the Vehicle Scrapping Policy, it is proposed to have a system of incentives and disincentives to nudge vehicle owners to discard old and polluting vehicles, which have higher maintenance and fuel consumption costs.

It said that as an incentive, there will be waiver of the fee for issue of the certificate of registration for a new vehicle, purchased against the authority of the certificate of deposit (CoD) issued by a registered vehicle scrapping facility for a vehicle being scrapped.

As regards disincentives, the statement said there will be an increase in the fee for conducting fitness test and renewal of fitness certificate for motor vehicles more than 15 years old.

Besides, there will also be an increase in the renewal of registration fee for personal vehicles (non-transport vehicles) more than 15 years old, the statement said.

Govt Asks Employees

authority concerned within a stipulated period of six months from the date the alleged grievance has arisen, or any other period specifically provided in any rule, regulation or law whichever is later, after which the same shall

be treated a time as time-barred,” the circular reads.

It added: “Further, it is enjoyed upon all the Administrative Departments not to entertain any such claims which are time-barred and close all such old cases which cannot be resolved on account of inordinate delay.”

Kashmir’s ‘Go-To Chemist’

his love for his Kashmir roots,” said a local Muslim cleric inside the tent. “His service towards Kashmir was a quintessential example of a legacy one should leave behind as a Kashmiri.”

For his neighbour Farooq Bhat, Bindroo was a personality worth remembering.

The departed Pandit, he said, was the sober, calm and jolly character.

“He’s unforgettable!”

Back in 1970’s when ML Bindroo’s father passed the baton to him, many doubted his ability to run the Bindroo Medicates.

But his compassionate handling reinstated a new pharmaceutical legacy in Kashmir, with people from city and countryside falling in line before his Hari Singh High street shop for medicines.

Over the years, he added another and bigger drugstore under the Bindroo Medicate brand at Iqbal Park. While his wife would sit at Hari Singh High Street shop, he would take care of Iqbal Park store.

During his lifetime itself, the departed pharmacist made the Bindroo Medicate synonymous with the valley’s pharmaceutical industry.

“If anyone would’ve uttered ‘medicine’, there was only one reply to it: Bindroo,” an elderly Muslim mourner said. “Today, that pharmaceutical legacy has expired!”

For ML Bindroo, said his son Siddharth, his Kashmiri brethren was always a priority. “Nothing could’ve shaken his trust in this spiritual bond,” the calm son said.

Perhaps the same trust is now making Dr.Farooq Abdullah talk highly about the deceased chemist. “Bindroo was an upright man who all his life served the people of the valley,” the National Conference patron who turned up for the condolence at the Bindroo’s Indira Nagar residence said.

Unlike others in his Pandit community, ML Bindroo refused to leave Kashmir during nineties.

“Where can I migrate to,” an elderly Kashmiri Pandit mourner recalled Bindroo’s words. “Kashmir is my home, no one can force me to leave.”

His departure is the end of the man who helped Kashmir in crisis, said Paramjeet Singh, a longtime friend.

“Today, the crisis manager himself became another victim of this unfortunate crisis.”

Prices Of Petrol

oil suppliers may be forced to jack up prices of petrol and diesel substantially given the rise in crude prices.

Sources said oil companies had kept increases to a modest level in anticipation of correction

in crude oil and petroleum product prices in the international market.

“Oil marketing companies have only made a moderate increase in retail prices of petrol and diesel so far,” a source said. “However, in the event of such correction not being there, the price increase could be substantial.” PTI

Still With NC

likely to join the BJP.

Rana, however, said he would share with the media his future plans if there is anything .

LG Greets People

The LG, as per the official spokesperson, expressed hope that the 9-days festival will inspire people to lead a virtuous and noble life and it will bring peace, prosperity and happiness for all.

Soldier Hangs Self

for postmortem and inquest proceedings were started, they said.

The motive behind his taking such an extreme step was not known immediately, the officials said.

2 ‘Militant Associates’

Line of Control in Karnah area of Kupwara on Tuesday evening, the officials said.

They said eight hand grenades, one pistol and seven rounds were recovered from the possession of the arrested persons.

SSB Trooper

3:15pm, officials said. Hasmukh received a bullet injury in his chin and was removed to the Government Medical College (GMC) Bakshi Nagar for treatment.

His condition is stated to be life threatening.

CONTINUE FROM PAGE 5

Curfew in Gund Khwaja

He claimed that the Imambargah belongs to the people of Gund Khwaja Qasim, however the Shia Association with its supporters from nearby Kanterbug village is trying to illegally occupy it.

“The Imambargah has been constructed by the people of Gund Khwaja Qasim without any support of any organisation or party,” he told Kashmir Observer.

He alleged that late Molvi Ifrikhar Ansari would forcefully enter the Imambargah along with his supporters and hold the religious gathering there disregarding local resentment.

“He would do it since he was a Minister and powerful, we were helpless,” Muzaffar alleged.

He further added that Imambargah is open for Majalis but whosoever intends to hold a religious gathering in it, they need to get permission from the local Auqaf.

“But the Shia Association tries to do it

forcefully which is not acceptable to the people here,” he added.

It may be noted that last year, the police had to fire tear smoke shells to disperse a group of people who descended on Gund and insisted on holding a religious gathering at Imambargah. Over 30 people were booked under sections 307,145,148 and 149 and for violating restrictions that were put in place to prevent people from attending the religious gathering in view of Covid-19 pandemic.

Keeping in view of last year’s incident, the local Auqaf had approached the district administration and requested them to take necessary measures to avoid the clashes this year.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Pattan, Sayeed Faheem told Kashmir Observer that the situation remained under control throughout the day on Wednesday.

He said the administration denied permission for the gathering and imposed restrictions in the wake of COVID-19.

When asked why was not Imran Ansari allowed to visit the area and hold the religious gatherings, he said, “That is for the government to decide, I can’t comment.”

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Baramulla, Rayees Bhat and DySP Magam also spoke to Kashmir Observer and admitted that the police had imposed restrictions in the area to maintain law and order situation.

Mohammed Saleem Bhat, DySP Magam said that there is a dispute between two groups over Imambargah and the case is sub-judice.

In August 2021, Principal District Sessions Judge Baramulla ordered a “temporary injunction” in the dispute and barred both the groups from entering the Imambargah.

“The Imambargah has been locked since then” according to residents.

Residents said, the villagers of Kanterbug have two Imambargahs but they still try to come to Gund and occupy our Imambargah. “It’s all due to political reasons and on diktats of their leaders Imran and Abid Ansari. We refuse to bow down before pressure and they are unacceptable to us,” residents said.

However, Abid Ansari, who is the General Secretary of Shia Association rejected the claims of residents and administration and maintained that they were put under “illegal house detention”

“We had no intention to hold the religious gathering in the particular Imambargah. We had decided and even told the administration that we would hold the gathering at Imambargah Jadeed. It has no dispute but the ‘anti-national’ elements in the village created hue and cry and barred us from visiting Gund,” he told Kashmir Observer.

He further alleged these are the same elements who carried out attacks on Shia mourners in 2000 killing 16 people.

“We used to gather in a small place in the village, where we have buried 16 people who were killed in the blast but unfortunately that is not even acceptable to these elements,” he added.



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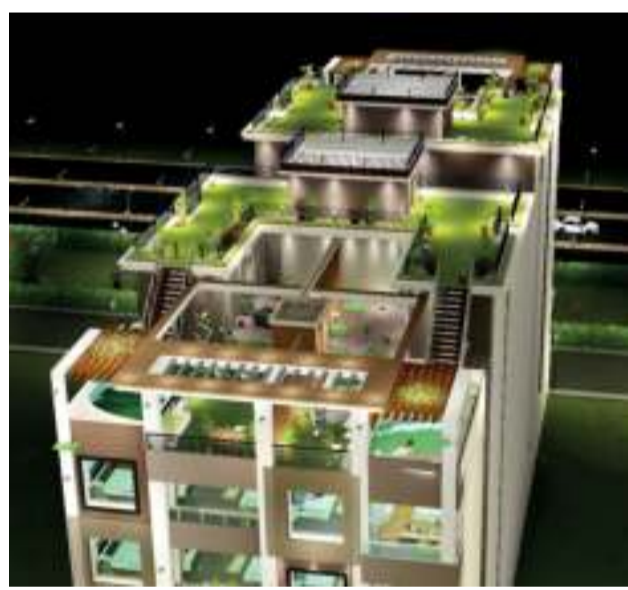
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