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e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE
e-NIT No. 028/EDI, dt:12.07.2023

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Electric Division-1st, Srinagar invites online e-bids from registered A-Class Electrical Contractors/firms for as under:

Table with 3 columns: S.No, Particulars, Estimated Cost (In Lacs). Item 1: Renovation and Modernization of 100 KVA Substation at Check Sangri Khunmoh-C. Cost: 2.03

The complete tender document is available at website http://jktenders.gov.in. Interested bidder/tenders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below.

Table with 2 columns: Particulars, Date & Time. Includes downloading/sale start/end, bidding queries, bid opening date, and financial bid opening details.

Sd/- Executive Engineer Electric Division Ist, Srinagar
DIPK-NB-1952/23 dated: 13-07-2023

Office Of The Executive Engineer Construction
Division Kashmir, J&K Sport Scouncil, Srinagar

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
Tender Notice: E-NIT No: 30 of 2023-24
DAT ED: 12.07.2023

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited on percentage basis from approved and eligible bidders registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Government for the following work:-

Table with 7 columns: S.No, Name of work, Adv cost (Rs. in lacs), Class of Contract, Earnest Money Deposit, Cost of Tender documents, Time of Completion. Item 1: Development of Path for Basketball, Handball and Lawn Tennis Field at Govt College of Physical Education Genderbal. Cost: Rs.62,180/-

Position of Fund = Under Capex 2023-24
Position of TS = Accorded
1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specification, 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:-

Table with 2 columns: Critical Dates Table, Dates. Includes dates for tender notice, downloading documents, bid submission start/end, and opening of bids.

3. The cost of the tender documents shall be deposited into the bank account by the bidder for which the following information can be used by the bidder. (No Demand Draft shall be entertained).

DIPK-NB-1950/23 dated: 13-07-2023
Ex. Engineer, CDK J&K Sports Council Srinagar

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Wing Srinagar

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
NIT No: 23 of 2023-24 DATED: -12-07-2023
SINGLE COVER SYSTEM

For and on behalf of the Lt.. Governor of UT J&K, e-tenders (In single cover system) are invited on PERCENTAGE BASIS from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works under Capex Grants.

Large table with 10 columns: S no, Name of work, Adv Cost Rs in Lacs, Cost of tender Documents, Earnest Money, Time of completion, Class of contractor, Head of Account, Treasury challan account head. Lists various construction and maintenance works with costs and schedules.

1. Bidders must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt (Debited to M.H.0515 REW) and Earnest Money in the shape of CDR @ 2% OF THE ADVERTISED COST in favour of Executive Engineer R/W Srinagar...

Table with 10 columns: S no, Name of work, Adv Cost Rs in Lacs, Cost of tender Documents, Earnest Money, Time of completion, Class of contractor, Head of Account, Treasury challan account head. Continuation of the main tender list.

11. Bidders must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt (Debited to M.H.0515 REW) and Earnest Money in the shape of CDR @ 2% OF THE ADVERTISED COST in favour of Executive Engineer R/W Srinagar...

Table with 10 columns: S no, Name of work, Adv Cost Rs in Lacs, Cost of tender Documents, Earnest Money, Time of completion, Class of contractor, Head of Account, Treasury challan account head. Continuation of the main tender list.

13. 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. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.

J&K Bank
Online Request for Proposal (e-RFP)
for Procurement of End to End Credit Card Management Solution on Hosted Model

RFP Notice along with Complete RFP document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and Bids can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal https://jkbank.abcpocure.com w.e.f. July 13, 2023, 16.00 Hrs.

e-RFP Ref.No.JKB/CHQ/T&D/Credit-Card/2023-706
Dated: 11-07-2023

Subject:- Grant of Registration of the proposed Travel unit under the name & style "M/s Travelasia" Situated at Nishat Srinagar

Whereas, I Mr.Imran Ahmad Dar S/O: Bashir Ahmad Dar R/O: Lam nishat Srinagar, Kashmir intends to apply in the department of Tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style "M/s Travelasia" Situated at Nishat Srinagar, Kashmir under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12.

From The Court Of Principal District Judge, Srinagar
Present: Mr. Jawad Ahmad
Shahir Ahmad Lone S/o Abdul Ahad Lone R/o Barzulla Srinagar

Notice to public at Large
Where the petitioner(s) FILED ABOVE TITLED PETITION BEFORE THIS COURT for appointment of guardian the person and property of minor(s) namely Uzair Altaf Lone S/o Mohammad Altaf Lone R/o Barzulla Sgr Sgr.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My name has been wrongly written in my J&K Bank account details as Jahangir Ahmad Bhat while my correct name as per Aadhaar is Jahangir Rashid Bhat which needs to be corrected.

In The Court Of Judicial Magistrate Ist Class at Shopian
Presented: Brij Raj Singh
In the matter Riyaz Ahmad Kutay Adopted S/o Mohammad Yousuf Shah R/o Chakoora Herman Shopian Applicant



12 Couples Tie Knot In Mass Marriage Function In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Twelve couples from various districts of Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday tied the knot in a mass marriage function here organized by an NGO 'Peace and Friendship Foundation JK'.

All the families were very much deserving and it took us an amount of approximately 7 lakh rupees to arrange the mass marriage function, he said. Ashiq said their NGO is a non-profitable and non-funded organization and they arranged the money by issuing different fundraisers on social media. "We also got help from friends and others for it," he said.

No Let-Up In Protests Against Smart Meter Installation In Srinagar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Protests against smart meters continue in various parts of Srinagar, with people refusing to allow the power department officials to install the devices which they believe will incur "hefty" bills. These projects are a routine now, with people taking to the streets on a daily basis, terming smart meters as unacceptable. More than two dozen protests have been recorded in Srinagar alone, while the opposition continues in other parts of the valley, especially in north Kashmir areas.

ceptable to them and that they won't allow authorities to install these devices. A resident from Rainawari said, "We are a middle-class family and don't have that much money to pay for these meters. Those meters which have already been installed in our areas must be removed." "I am a poor and middle-class woman. Currently, we receive an electricity bill of 920 to 950 rupees per month. We are ready for even Rs 1,100 as a flat rate but not these meters," said a lady. On Wednesday, people were seen shouting and dancing on roads to register their protest against the power department in the Sopore area of Baramulla district.



A washerman (dhobi) washes Kashmiri embroidered shawls in a traditional way on the banks of River Jhelum in the old city. KO Photo, Abid Bhat.

CS Conducts Late Night City Tour To Assess Progress Of Smart City Projects

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta Wednesday went on a late evening visit of the Srinagar city to take stock of the double shift of works under progress under Srinagar Smart City Limited. On the occasion he was accompanied by Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir and CEO, Smart City Srinagar. The tour commenced from the under-construction traditional Souq market and craft center, followed by visits to civil lines area of Batamalloo, Ghanta Ghar and sports arena at MA Road here. The Chief Secretary was informed that the Souq Market project aims at revitalizing traditional craft-making by integrating modern infrastructure and amenities while preserving its cultural and architectural heritage. He said that the ongoing works should ensure that the design aligns with the vision of creating a vibrant

and attractive marketplace.

Dr Mehta also assessed the measures taken towards incorporation of smart elements into the city infrastructure such as intelligent lighting systems, waste management facilities, and digital connectivity to enhance the overall shopping experience and promote sustainable practices in the city. He also visited Batamalloo, where he inspected works on various aspects of urban development. He reviewed the progress of initiatives aimed at improving urban mobility, such as the development of intelligent transportation systems and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure including smart public transportation systems, viz, GPS-enabled buses, digital ticketing services, and real-time passenger information systems. Additionally, the Chief Secretary assessed the construction of cycling tracks and the integration of smart traffic management solutions to alleviate congestion and enhance the overall transportation network in the area.

The Chief Secretary visited the historical landmark of Ghanta Ghar. Here they inspected the ongoing restoration and preservation efforts as part of the Smart City project. He noted that the traditional architecture and heritage of the area should be incorporated with modern amenities besides smart solutions. He also assessed the progress of heritage conservation projects, including the renovation of old buildings and the beautification of public spaces surrounding this historical monument of Ghanta Ghar. The current efforts aim at preserving the historical significance of the area, attract tourism, and create a visually appealing environment for residents and visitors in and around the city centre. It was given out that the government's commitment to transform Srinagar into a smart and sustainable city was evident, and the officers discussed strategies to overcome obstacles and ensure the successful completion of the projects on time while preserving the cultural heritage.

DC Srinagar Reviews Progress On Mission Amrit Sarovar

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to review the progress in the implementation of Mission Amrit Sarovar, aimed at developing and rejuvenating water bodies, a meeting of the Rural Development Department

was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex. Chief Planning Officer, Srinagar, Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Circle Srinagar, DFO,

Urban Forestry, DFO Social Forestry, Assistant Commissioner Development, District Soil Conservation Officer, Executive Engineer I&FC, Executive Engineer REW, District Floriculture Officer, District Lead Manager and other concerned Officers.

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
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SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

Table with AIRPORTS, RAILWAYS, and HIGHWAY STATUS sections.

PRAYERS section with HIJRI CALENDAR (25 Zil-Hajj 1444) and prayer times for FAJR, ZUHR, ASR, Magrib, and ISHA.

This Day In History

- 982- King Otto II and his Frankish army defeated in pitched battle with Muslim army of al-Qasim at Cape Colonna, Southern Italy
1223- Louis VIII becomes King of France upon the death of his father, Philip II
1420- Battle at Vitkov Zizka's hill (Prague): Taborists beat Bohemia
1714- Battle of Aland, Russian fleet overpowers larger Swedish naval force
1789- Bastille Day - the French Revolution begins with the storming of the Bastille Prison in Paris (now celebrated as France's national day)
1853- New Zealand holds its first general election
1863- Battle of Falling Waters, Maryland (Beaver Creek)
1864- Gold is discovered in Helena, Montana
1865 - English mountaineer Edward Whymper leads first expedition to climb the Matterhorn (four die on the descent)
1891- John T Smith patents corkboard
1914 - Robert Goddard is granted the first patent for liquid-fueled rocket design
1933 - All non-Nazi parties are banned in Germany
1938 - Benito Mussolini publishes anti-Jewish/African manifesto
1945 - Battleship USS South Dakota is 1st US ship to bombard Japan
1957 - Soviet steamer "Eshghbad" sinks in Caspian Sea, drowning 270
1958 - General Abdul K Kassem forms a military government in Iraq overthrowing the monarchy.
1959 - USS Long Beach, first nuclear powered cruiser launched at Quincy, Mass
1965- Israeli/Jordanian border fights
1965 - US Mariner IV, 1st Mars probe, passes at 6,100 miles (9,800 km)
1967 - Surveyor 4 launched to Moon; explodes just before landing
1969 - The United States \$500, \$1,000, \$5,000 and \$10,000 bills are officially withdrawn from circulation.

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited On-Line Request for Quotes (e-RFO) for Supply Wincor ATM Rolls 280 pc, Cash Recycler 378 rolls (Diebold), RP Roll for Recycler.

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited Impaired Assets Recovery Branch Corporate Headquarters

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited Impaired Assets Recovery Branch Corporate Headquarters

E-AUCTION/SALE NOTICE (For sale of mortgaged immovable property under sub rule 06 of Rule 08 read with sub rule 01 of Rule 09 of the security Interest (Enforcement Rules 2002 of SARFAESI Act 2002))

E-AUCTION/SALE NOTICE (For sale of mortgaged immovable property under sub rule 06 of Rule 08 read with sub rule 01 of Rule 09 of the security Interest (Enforcement Rules 2002 of SARFAESI Act 2002))

From KO Archives

Omar Throws Down The Gauntlet To Azad 'Prosecute 10 Ministers And I Will Quit Politics'

Observer News Service

Srinagar: The president of the National Conference, Omar Abdullah, today challenged chief minister, Ghulam Nabi Azad, to take action against 10 corrupt ministers in his cabinet, saying that he (Omar) would quit politics in response. The NC chief offered to furnish Azad a list of ministers who, according to him, qualified to be axed.

(Kashmir Observer, 14 July, 2007)

KASHMIR OBSERVERTM

Friday | 14-07-2023

Valley's Flood Vulnerability

The heavy rain and subsequent flash floods in northern India have brought tragic consequences, with at least 41 people losing their lives. The states of Himachal Pradesh and Punjab have been particularly affected, as incessant rains triggered landslides and flooding, causing widespread destruction and displacement. The situation remains critical as authorities strive to provide relief and mitigate further risks in the affected areas.

Delhi, the capital city of India, recently encountered its wettest July day in over four decades, as confirmed by local authorities. The heavy downpours prompted the closure of schools in the region, with many remaining shut even days later.

India is no stranger to the devastating impact of monsoon rains, which often lead to floods and landslides across the country. With climate change exacerbating weather patterns, extreme rainfall events are becoming more frequent and intense.

In Jammu and Kashmir also, four persons, including two soldiers, died in J&K due to rains, which triggered landslides and flash floods in the past 24 hours. In Kashmir, rainfall forced the administration to temporarily suspend Amarnath yatra for three days. The rains also suspended traffic on Jammu and Srinagar highway. Floods in Himachal Pradesh also hit several hydro projects affecting the power supply to the valley.

That said, it is certainly troubling that just two days of rain bring us to the brink of flooding. This has created a deeply disturbing situation in the Valley. We are, time and again, reminded of our hapless vulnerability to flooding whenever there are two or more days of uninterrupted rain in a warmer season. More so, in Srinagar whose new-found susceptibility to flood threatens to put a question mark on its viability as a summer capital. That is, unless we conceive and execute a course of action that drastically reduces this vulnerability.

If anything, it highlights how little has been done by way of infrastructure building to protect the Valley from flooding. Less than two days of rain creates flood-like conditions. What it means is that in the past seven years, we have not been able to increase the capacity to brave one more day of rain. The legitimate question to ask is what were the previous governments doing in these years. Or what has the dredging of Jhelum and the repairing of its embankments done in terms of enhancing our capability to resist the flood.

Now, what if the Valley once again experiences the uninterrupted rainfall for a few days? Considering the Valley's erratic weather, such a prospect isn't unlikely. What is doubtful is the administration's ability to face up to this. And largely because the previous governments have built little defense against an extended incessant rainfall. Could Jhelum carry now more water than it did a few years earlier? Not at all. Similarly, could the spill channel carry the excess discharge than it did in 2014? The answer is again no. This is a dangerous state of affairs to be in. One can only hope that the current administration understands the enormity of the challenge and sets about in right earnest building our defences against a repeat of the 2014 scenario, which could be sooner than we are prepared for.

OTHER OPINION

Weathering it Out

For at least 10 years, rainfall patterns during the monsoon season have shown a distinct change. Most parts of the country witness intense bursts of rain, interspersed with relatively dry spells. In the past three days, for instance, the interaction of two climatic factors — good monsoon circulation and a western disturbance — has led to record-breaking rainfall that has, unfortunately, claimed the lives of at least 19 people, caused destruction and thrown life off gear in large parts of north India. Like in past instances of flooding, the authorities have focused on providing relief to those hit by the elements. Such efforts need to be stepped up. But it's high time attention is also given to addressing another imperative: A proactive policy against climate vagaries. After the Uttarakhand disaster of 2013, not a single year has passed without India experiencing at least one intense rainfall event that has resulted in large-scale flooding, and in many cases, loss of lives. These floods have sent out several warnings — in Chennai in 2015, Kerala in 2018, Bihar in 2019, Bengaluru last year, Assam almost every year. Disturbingly, few lessons have been learnt.

As most Indian cities expanded, they wrested areas that were natural rainwater sinks — wetlands, marshes, and lakes. At the same time, storm water drains in most parts of the country remain locked in networks that were planned several decades ago. Inept municipal administration compounds the problem and these drains are almost always clogged. This means excessive rainfall gets trapped within the city's boundaries. Delhi's storm water drains, for instance, are not equipped to deal with the 153 mm of rainfall the city received over the last weekend. In 2011, the state government signed a contract with IIT Delhi to prepare a drainage master plan, and the institute submitted a report in 2018. But the project was shelved in 2021 and drainage revamp seems to be one of the many casualties of the incessant wrangling between Delhi's lieutenant governor and its elected government.

India has developed early warning systems that have helped the country minimise damage by cyclones in recent years. Floods present a more complex challenge, especially because they are accompanied by landslides that take a large toll. The fragile geology of the Himalayan states make them more vulnerable to landslides. In the past decade, there has been some progress in developing a landslide warning system, but experts believe that it will be some years before landslides can be predicted with pinpoint accuracy. The trouble also is that the vulnerability of these areas increases because state and national highway authorities rarely take expert opinion into consideration while undertaking large-scale excavation of hills. Several directives of the judiciary to this effect, including that of the Himachal Pradesh High Court in 2021, have gone unheeded. Extreme weather events might become par for the course.

The Indian Express



Some Reflections on Student Absenteeism in Kashmir Colleges

Ashaq Hussain Parray

“Most of us, the tenured faculty in colleges, come from privileged spaces, and there is a gap between the teacher-taught that ensures the inculcation of class norms in the student community. The gap between the teacher and the student creates a sense of mistrust in students besides making them believe that they are floating lonely islands who must struggle on their own to make sense of their identities

Traditionally, education has been conceptualised in sacred terms—it brings us closer to light and helps us reach our highest potential. However, in our techno-driven secular societies, education is purely thought of in consumerist terms. We invest in education in the hope of finding some returns at the end of the day. There is no scope for education that can only feed our minds while leaving us deprived of the select 'privileges' of capitalist economies. Our vision today conceptualises education in sync with the demands of a politico-economic system. The fact that the focus is now on skill-oriented courses may signal hope for many unskilled students to help them earn a living, even though at a very high intellectual cost. We view education through a purely consumerist logic of investment and returns policy. We expect students to learn a skill than encourage them to ask critical questions. In other words, we don't question the governing structure that creates asymmetries in the place. Instead, our judgement relies on the sense of supplying the demands of the market without questioning its logic of operability. A skilled student in the new scheme of things is the new cultured, educated labourer with a set of skills to earn a livelihood. In this context, how does one encourage students to learn and ask questions when the nature of college as a space of liberty and growth has transformed?

One of the primary problems that we currently face in our colleges is the student absenteeism. One wonders why, despite the government's efforts to better the system, students are demotivated to attend college? As someone who has been observing the situation for some time, it breaks my heart to see students not appearing for their classes. Every day, I wait for students to show up for class, only to get disappointed. I call friends and colleagues in various colleges who narrate the same ordeal. What could be the reasons for this sudden lack of motivation and absenteeism in colleges?

The issue of student absenteeism is not as simple as it seems. Many people tell me that students are not interested in education anymore. But there must be underlying factors that produce this condition of demotivation and indifference to traditional college courses. For me, the answers have to be sought somewhere in the socio-economic and consequent individual psychologies dovetailed with the political anxieties surrounding the student community.

Most college-going students today have seen through the tumultuous epochs of our history that witnessed extended periods of closure of educational institutions. For instance, students who have lived through the ruptures of 2008, 2010, 2016, and 2019 have seen formative years of their lives being deprived of education. Calamities like the 2014 floods and three long years of pandemic made sure to seal their creative energies. However, this is not all there is to the issue.

A significant portion of Kashmir's college-going student community comes from outside Srinagar and from unprivileged sections. The individual and family demands of these students leave them with no option but to

experiment with their ideas. We are more worried about photo ops describing and reporting not-so-important events at the cost of academics. Someone must ask why we are doing activities that contribute to nothing. We don't have strict measures to ensure whether a class was delivered or whether the syllabus was completed on time or why a certain professor failed to show up for class. However, we are not entirely to blame.

Over the years, the nature of academic space in colleges has undergone radical transformation. Colleges are understaffed, leaving faculty with burdensome administrative work at the expense of class work. It is not a

“Not surprisingly, many of our students enrolled in degree colleges work as unskilled labourers, masons, carpenters, apprentices to painters, tailors and other low-paying jobs to help their families stay afloat

struggle within an already fragile economic ecosystem to meet inflation. I have spoken to hundreds of students and inquired about the reasons for their absence. Not surprisingly, many of our students enrolled in degree colleges work as unskilled labourers, masons, carpenters, apprentices to painters, tailors and other low-paying jobs to help their families stay afloat. The formative years in the public school system have damaged them beyond repair. Battling dispirited teachers and underdeveloped school systems, what does a college degree like BA/BCom/BSC has to offer these students in terms of an immediate hope of employment in a system that already battles a skyrocketed rate of unemployment?

We have not bothered to deliberate on the issue, and it is not surprising at all. Most of us, the tenured faculty in colleges, come from privileged spaces, and there is a gap between the teacher-taught that ensures the inculcation of class norms in the student community. The gap between the teacher and the student creates a sense of mistrust in students besides making them believe that they are floating lonely islands who must struggle on their own to make sense of their identities. I have not heard of too many college professors, including myself, acting as mentors, offering individual feedback on writing sam-

ple or encouraging students to experiment with their ideas. We are more worried about photo ops describing and reporting not-so-important events at the cost of academics. Someone must ask why we are doing activities that contribute to nothing. We don't have strict measures to ensure whether a class was delivered or whether the syllabus was completed on time or why a certain professor failed to show up for class. However, we are not entirely to blame.

Against such a scenario, one is tempted to think about whether college education is dying. It may sound like an exaggeration, but given the current situation, it will not be surprising if, in the near future, such conception of education falls irrelevant, particularly the courses in humanities, social sciences and pure sciences. While humanities and social sciences have already seen a decline the world over, it won't be too long before other traditionally valued fields are overtaken by techno-based courses and degrees. Perhaps, it will be the time when the traditional conception of education as leading to self-realisation will eventually fall out of place and die a slow death. Maybe, it is time for us to wake up before it is too late.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The author teaches English at GDC Ajas Bandipora

Mindful Fridays

Can Islamic Prayer Improve Mental Health?

Wasim Kakroo

Prayer is an essential component of religious observance in Islam. Muslims are required to perform five daily prayers, known as As-Salat, as a means of connecting with their Creator.

Allah says in Qur'an in Surah Al-Baqarah, Ayat 238, "Maintain with care the [obligatory] prayers and [in particular] the middle prayer and stand before Allah, devoutly obedient".

Though As-Salat has spiritual benefits, however, beyond its spiritual significance, As-Salat also offers a range of bio-psycho-social benefits. In today's article, we will explore the positive impact of daily Islamic prayers on individuals' physical health, mental well-being, and social connections.

Biological Benefits:

1. Physical Exercise: As-Salat, the Islamic prayer, incorporates several physical movements like standing, bowing, and prostrating. These actions, repeated multiple times a day, offer a unique form of low-impact exercise that promotes flexibility, strength, and blood circulation. By engaging in these movements regularly, individuals can prevent the pitfalls of sedentary lifestyles and contribute to their overall physical health. As-Salat not only serves as a means of spiritual connection but also encourages physical well-being. Embracing this practice allows Muslims to maintain an active lifestyle and experience the physical benefits that come with the devotion to prayer.

2. Posture and Alignment: Daily prayer also brings physical benefits through its specific postures. Maintaining proper body alignment during prayer is crucial, as it involves standing straight, bending from the waist, and prostrating. These postures promote spinal health and strengthen core muscles, contributing to improved posture and alleviation of back pain. By engaging in regular practice of As-Salat, individuals can prevent musculoskeletal issues and enjoy the advantages of a healthier body. Thus, prayer serves as a holistic practice that nurtures both the soul and the physical well-being, emphasizing the integration of spirituality and bodily care.

3. Mind-Body Connection: As-Salat, the Islamic prayer, serves as a powerful tool that encourages mindfulness and the harmonious integration of physical and spiritual aspects. Through its various components, such as movements, recitations, and intentions, individuals cultivate a heightened awareness of their bodies and their connection to the divine. By mindfully engaging in the postures and reciting the verses, Muslims become attuned to the present moment, fostering a sense of calm and serenity. This mind-body connection nurtures relaxation, alleviates stress, and contributes to an



overall sense of well-being. As-Salat thus becomes a transformative practice, enriching the lives of individuals by nourishing their physical and spiritual selves in unison.

Psychological Benefits:

1. Stress Reduction: Daily Islamic prayers serve as a means to seek solace and find inner peace. Engaging in prayer provides a temporary break from daily stressors, allowing individuals to detach themselves from worldly concerns and focus on their spiritual connection with Allah. The repetitive motions and recitation of sacred verses create a serene atmosphere, calming the mind and promoting mental relaxation. Numerous studies have shown that prayer has physiological benefits, such as reducing stress hormones and lowering blood pressure. It offers a sanctuary for Muslims to find solace, renew their faith, and find strength to face the challenges of life with a peaceful heart.

2. Emotional Regulation: Prayer serves as a structured avenue for the expression of emotions and seeking solace from a higher power. In times of difficulty, Muslims find solace in prayer, enabling them to process negative emotions, find comfort, and attain a fresh perspective. Engaging in prayer has been associated with emotional regulation, heightened emotional intelligence, and enhanced mental resilience. It provides a means to channel and process emotions, fostering a sense of inner peace and tranquility. By connecting with a higher power, individuals experience a deepened understanding of their emotions and gain strength to navigate through challenging circumstances. Prayer, therefore, plays a vital role in fostering emotional well-being and spiritual growth.

3. Mental Clarity and Focus: Engaging in the Islamic prayer demands concentration and mental presence. The rhythmic and repetitive nature of the prayer, complemented by recitations from the Qur'an, serves to soothe the mind and enhance focus. Through regular practice, prayer has been found to sharpen cognitive function, foster mindfulness, and promote mental clarity. The deliberate motions and recitations in prayer provide a framework for individuals to detach from worldly distractions and immerse themselves in a spiritual state of serenity. By cultivating a disciplined prayer routine, believers can experience the holistic benefits of enhanced mental engagement, inner tranquility, and a deeper connection with their faith.

4. Time management tool: Engaging in Islamic prayer, can contribute to the development of proper time management through the practice of time blocking. By allocating specific time slots for each prayer throughout the day, individuals can establish a structured routine that prioritizes their spiritual obligations. Time blocking allows for better organization and utilization of one's time, as it encourages individuals to allocate fixed periods for prayer while managing other activities efficiently between the prayers. This practice fosters discipline and helps individuals become more mindful of their daily schedules, ultimately promoting a balanced and productive lifestyle. Thus, As-Salat not only serves as a means of spiritual connection but also facilitates effective time management.

Social Benefits:

1. Community and Belonging: Congrega-

tional prayers play a vital role in fostering a sense of community and belonging among Muslims. Through regular participation in communal prayers, individuals have the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals, strengthening social ties and building a supportive network. These gatherings provide a platform for Muslims to come together, share their faith, and engage in spiritual activities collectively. The social connections established within prayer congregations contribute to overall well-being, as they provide emotional support, companionship, and a sense of unity. Whether it's the daily congregational prayers at the mosque or special prayers during religious occasions, these communal gatherings create a profound sense of belonging within the Muslim community, reinforcing a shared identity and purpose.

2. Moral and Ethical Development: Prayer, in its essence, acts as a powerful reminder of moral values and ethical conduct. Within Islamic prayers, there exists a beautiful integration of reflections on gratitude, compassion, and acts of kindness. Through the act of engaging in daily prayers, individuals are not only reminded of these values but also encouraged to embody them in their everyday lives. This practice fosters personal growth and helps cultivate improved relationships with others. By consistently aligning their actions with the principles highlighted during prayer, individuals can establish a strong foundation of integrity, empathy, and righteousness, thereby nurturing a harmonious and virtuous existence within themselves and in their interactions with the world around them.

3. Increased Empathy and Understanding: The act of prayer in Islam, serves as a powerful means for Muslims to engage in introspection and self-reflection. Through regular prayers, believers are encouraged to ponder upon their actions and seek forgiveness for their shortcomings. This practice cultivates empathy and understanding towards others, fostering a mindset of tolerance, compassion, and forgiveness. By embracing these qualities, individuals become more considerate of different perspectives and are motivated to contribute positively to society. As-Salat serves as a transformative practice, nurturing a deeper connection with oneself and a heightened awareness of one's impact on others. It encourages personal growth and the development of a virtuous character, enabling Muslims to embody the principles of Islam in their daily lives.

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The future of the Internet

Abdulla Alriyami

Web 2.0 emerged in the early 2000s as a more interactive web. Users could now create and share content. Hence social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter became popular.

Web 3.0, still in its early stages of development, is a vision of the future web that is more decentralised, open, and user-controlled.

Web 3.0 is built on blockchain technology, allowing for secure and transparent data sharing.

Many of my peers, friends, and colleagues asked me about notable differences between Web 2.0 and Web 3.0. The following are some differences I came across:

Decentralisation: Web 3.0 is built on decentralised platforms, meaning no single entity controls the data or content, qualifying for more security and resistance to censorship.

Openness: Web 3.0 is based on open standards, meaning anyone can build on it to develop additional accessibility and inclusion.

User control: Web 3.0 gives users more control over their data and content users can own and decide how it is used.

Therefore, Web 3.0 can revolutionise how we interact with the web in several ways.

For example, Web 3.0 could make the Internet more democratic by giving users more control over their data and content, leading to a more equitable and inclusive Internet. Another example is that Web 3.0 is built on blockchain technology, a secure and transparent way to



store data, steering the Internet to being more resistant to hacking and fraud. Finally, Web 3.0 could make the Internet more efficient by decentralising how data is stored and processed, driving faster and cheaper Internet speeds.

As Web 3.0 develops, digital currencies become even more important. For instance, they could become the default medium of exchange for transactions on the de-

centralised web and be used to power new and innovative applications.

Digital currencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum are essential in developing Web 3.0. These currencies are used to pay for goods and services on decentralised platforms, and they also allow users to store and transfer value securely and transparently.

Cryptocurrencies are driving innovation and applica-

tions on Web 3.0. Here are the three among several ways:

Decentralisation: Cryptocurrencies are decentralised, meaning that any single entity does not control them. Which is ideal for applications that require trust and transparency, such as financial transactions and voting.

Immutability: Cryptocurrencies are immutable, meaning their records cannot be changed or deleted, making them flawless for storing data that needs to be tamper-proof, such as property titles and medical records.

Transparency: Cryptocurrencies are transparent, meaning their transactions are publicly viewable for applications requiring accountability, such as supply chain management and voting.

In Summary, as Web 3.0 develops, cryptocurrencies will likely play an even more important role. Web 3.0 is still in its early stages of development. Web 3.0 and cryptocurrencies are two of the most exciting technologies to emerge in recent years. They have the potential to revolutionise the way we interact with the web and the way we store and transfer value. Together, Web 3.0 and cryptocurrencies can potentially create a more democratic and equitable Internet. They could allow users to own their data and content and make it easier for people to access financial services.

The future of the Internet is still uncertain. Still, Web 3.0 and cryptocurrencies are two technologies worth watching because they can profoundly change how we interact with the web.

-Khaleej Times

New Google Pay Feature Allows Users To Pay Without UPI PIN For Small Transactions

Press Trust Of India
NEW DELHI- Google's payment app Google Pay on Thursday introduced UPI LITE on its platform to ease small digital transactions. UPI Lite allows users to load up to Rs 4,000 in a day for instant transactions limited to Rs 200 at one go, the search engine giant said.



Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Punjab National Bank to launch the service on its platform, as per the NPCI website. Ambarish Kenghe, VP - Product Management at Google, said that unique offerings and use cases are core to driving further adoption of digital payments in the country.

Domestic Air Passenger Traffic Rises Nearly 19% In June

Press Trust Of India
MUMBAI: The country's domestic air passenger traffic grew 18.78 per cent to around 1.25 crore in June compared to the year-ago period, according to official data released on Thursday. In June, IndiGo, Air India, Vistara, AirAsia India and Akasa Air saw an increase in their respective market share amid the grounding of budget carrier Go First. However, SpiceJet's market share continued to decline and fell to 4.4 per cent last month whereas it stood at 7.3 per cent in January this year.



Tata Group airlines -- Air India and AirAsia India (now rebranded as AIX Connect) -- flew 12.37 lakh and 10.4 lakh passengers, respectively in June. The market share of Air India stood at 9.7 per cent while that of AirAsia India was at 8 per cent, as per the data. Full service carrier Vistara, a joint venture between Tata Group and Singapore Airlines, had a market share of 8.1 per cent and flew 10.11 lakh passengers in June.

India Considers Banning Most Rice Exports As Local Prices Surge: Report

Bloomberg
NEW DELHI: India, the world's biggest rice shipper, is considering banning exports of most varieties, a move that may send already lofty global prices higher as the disruptive El Niño weather pattern returns. The government is discussing a plan to ban exports of all non-Basmati rice, according to people familiar with the matter. That's because of rising domestic prices and authorities want to avoid the risk of more inflation, said the people, who asked not to be identified as the information is not public. If implemented, a ban would affect about 80% of India's rice exports. Such a move may lower domestic prices, but it risks sending global costs even higher. Rice is a staple for about half of the world's population, with Asia consuming about 90% of global supply. Benchmark

than 100 countries, with Benin, China, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire and Togo among its biggest customers. Shares of Indian rice millers fell on news of the potential ban. KRBL Ltd., the country's biggest rice company, slumped as much as 3.7% before paring losses. Chaman Lal Setia Exports Ltd. declined as much as 1.4%, Kohinoor Foods Ltd. dropped 2.9% while LT Foods Ltd. tumbled 4.4%. Importers such as Indonesia, China and the Philippines have been aggressively stockpiling rice this year. El Niño conditions have developed in the tropical Pacific for the first time in seven years, according to the World Meteorological Organization, threatening to bring drought to many rice-growing regions. A potential ban by India will add to worries over supply. India's plan comes after its



prices have already soared to a two-year high on fears that the return of El Niño will damage crops. India accounts for about 40% of the global rice trade and has sought to tighten exports of some varieties. Last year, the South Asian nation banned broken rice exports and imposed a 20% duty on shipments of white and brown rice after Russia's invasion of Ukraine sent prices of food staples like wheat and corn soaring. The country has also restricted wheat and sugar exports. Representatives for the food, trade and finance ministries didn't respond to emails or text messages seeking comment. India supplies rice to more

consumer price inflation quickened in June mainly due to higher food prices. Bloomberg Economics expects inflation to rebound further after the latest surge in tomato prices, a key ingredient in Indian cuisine, and an increase in the government's support price for monsoon-sown crops. Barclays Bank Plc and Yes Bank have raised their inflation forecasts. Retail rice prices in Delhi have climbed about 15% this year while the average nationwide price has gained 8%, according to data from the food ministry. Persistent high food costs could hurt popular sentiment ahead of several state polls later this year and national election in 2024.

JKEDI, The India Network To Organize Two-Day Startup Leadership Summit From July, 17

Director JK-EDI reviews preparations
SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) is set to organize a transformative two-day Startup Leadership Summit for entrepreneurs of J&K on July 17th and 18th in collaboration with the India Network to cultivate a robust ecosystem for entrepreneurship and innovation within the Union Territory.



Observer News Service
Studio, adds her entrepreneurial insights and industry knowledge to the mix. Dinesh Singh and Amit Mishra, Co-founders of Alpha Consultants, bring their valuable expertise in business consulting and financial management, offering invaluable guidance to aspiring entrepreneurs. The summit will also feature pitching sessions, providing entrepreneurs with the opportunity to present their business ideas and proposals to a panel of Angel Investors hailing from various parts of the country. These investors will lend their ears to the pitches, offering valuable feedback, guidance, and potential investment opportunities to promising entrepreneurs.

28% GST On Online Gaming To Yield Rs 20,000 Cr Annually: Revenue Secy

Press Trust Of India
NEW DELHI- The exchequer would get an estimated additional revenue of Rs 20,000 crore annually following the decision of the GST Council to levy 28 per cent tax on full bet value on online gaming, said Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra on Thursday. The GST Council has unanimously decided to impose 28 per cent tax on online gaming, casino and horse racing etc, he said adding that the government will pursue all cases in the Supreme Court for recovery of erstwhile tax demands. He said the online gaming industry is currently paying only 2-3 per cent GST which is even less than 5 per cent tax applicable on food items consumed by a common man. "One of the members, in fact, in the GST Council point-



ed out that the way the online gaming companies are paying the taxes on online games at 18 per cent of GGR, which works out to only about 2-3 per cent, even lower than the tax rate of 5 per cent levied on many of the food products consumed by the very common people," Malhotra told PTI in an interview. The exchequer last year (FY2022-23) collected only Rs 1,700 crore GST which could have been Rs 15,000-20,000 crore had the tax been levied

Govt Imposes Import Restrictions On Certain Gold Jewellery, Articles

Press Trust Of India
NEW DELHI: The government on Wednesday imposed import restrictions on certain gold jewellery and articles, a move which would help cut import of non-essential items and contain trade deficit. Now an importer would need a permission of licence from the government for importing these gold products. However, the directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT) said that the restrictions will not be there for imports under the India-UAE free trade agreement. In a notification, the DGFT said that the import policy of these products "has been amended from free to restricted with immediate effect". Imports of pearls, precious and semi-precious stones dipped by 25.36 per cent to about USD 4 billion during April-May this fiscal. Gold imports too contracted by about 40 per cent to USD 4.7 billion in the same period. Overall merchandise imports during April-May this fiscal declined 10.24 per cent to USD 107 billion. The merchandise trade deficit for April-May 2023 stood at USD 37.26 billion against USD 40.48 billion during April-May 2022. Import of certain gold jewellery stood at over USD 110 million in April-May this fiscal and it was mainly imported from countries like UAE, Indonesia and the US.

India-China Trade Shows First Signs Of Slowdown In Years

Press Trust Of India
BEIJING- The India-China trade, which in recent years rose sharply despite bilateral tensions over the border dispute, showed the first signs of a slowdown in years falling by 0.9 per cent in the first half of this year. This came as China's overall foreign trade declined by about five per cent as its economy struggled to recover from COVID blues. China's exports to India in the first half of this year totalled USD 56.53 billion compared to USD 57.51 billion last year registering a decline of 0.9 per cent, according to the data released by Chinese customs on Thursday. India's exports to China during the same period totalled USD 9.49 billion compared to USD 9.57 billion last year.

The trade deficit in the first half of 2023 too declined significantly to USD 47.04 compared to USD 67.08 billion last year. Last year was a bumper year for India-China trade as it touched an all-time high of USD 135.98 billion despite the continued chill in the bilateral ties over the military standoff in eastern Ladakh in May 2020. The total India-China trade in 2022 overtook the USD 125 billion mark a year earlier by registering an 8.4 per cent increase. New Delhi's trade deficit with Beijing crossed for the first time a USD 100 billion mark despite frosty bilateral relations. The trade deficit for India stood at USD 101.02 billion in 2022 crossing the 2021 figure of USD 69.38 billion. The slowdown of India-China trade in the first half of this year came as China's total trade including imports and exports fell nearly 5 per cent from a year earlier in dollar terms. While exports slipped 3.2 per cent and imports declined 6.7 per cent. Also, China's exports tumbled 12.4 per cent in June from a year earlier amid weakening demand following increasing interest rates by central banks to curb inflation as the Chinese economy struggled to stage post-COVID recovery. Chinese customs data released Thursday showed imports slid 6.8 per cent to USD 214.7 billion. The disappointing data is yet another indicator of China's sputtering post-pandemic economic recovery, which has lost momentum in the second quarter, analysts told the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post.

Office of the Executive Engineer SPL Sub Div. Tangdar

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER SPL SUB DIV. TANGDAR
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
1st Fresh (REW) Tender Notice No. 51 SSD Tangdar of 2023-24 Endt No. E-tendering DATED: 13.07.2023
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (in Single Cover System) are invited on percentage % basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-

Ishfaq Ahmed To Coach India U-16 Men's Football Team

Observer News Service

NEW DELHI: The Technical Committee of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Thursday recommended J&K's footballing hero Ishfaq Ahmed as head coach of the Under-16 national team.

The committee met virtually to discuss the appointment of the coaching staff.

The committee after deliberating on the applications from the various candidates, recommended the three core coaching staff that will take the team forward.

The committee unanimously recommended that former India international Ishfaq Ahmed be appointed head coach of the India U-16 national team. The committee also recommended that Rajan Mani and Feroz Sharif be appointed assistant coach and goalkeeper coach, respectively.

Committee Chairman Vijayan said after the meeting, "This is a new beginning for the India U-16 national team, and I am sure the



team will be in able hands, and the coaches we have recommended will do a fine job in taking the team forward. The U-16s have an assignment in hand in the SAFF U-16 Championship to be played in Bhutan from September 1 to 11. I am sure the team will perform to the level which will make us feel proud."

Srinagar Premier League: Results, Fixtures & More



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 2023 Srinagar Premier Football League action continued on Thursday at Synthetic Turf TRC.

In the first match, an early morning kick off, Star Kashmir FC took on Kashmir Panthers FC. The first half was evenly contested with both clubs failing to find the back of the net. The second half proved to be a different story as Star Kashmir's Moosa Bilal managed to give his side the lead in 54th minute. Shariq Hussain then doubled Star Kashmir's lead in the 58th minute. The Star Kashmir boys maintained their 2-0 lead till final whistle. Shariq Hussain was awarded man of the match for his 1 goal and 1 assist performance.

In the second Round 6 match of the day, Novelty FC played STFC Natipora at 5:30 PM. The first half was a fierce one with both teams trying to score. However, the half ended goalless. With all to play for in the second half, STFC Natipora broke the deadlock to take a 1-0 lead. But Novelty managed to equalise soon after to make things even. STFC then had a stroke of luck as a Novelty player put the ball into his own net to give STFC a 2-1 lead, which they managed to hold on to till final whistle.

The 2023 Srinagar Premier League will continue today, Friday, with two matches on schedule. AG's Office XI will take on Kashmir Avengers FC at 8:30 AM, while in the second game, SCFA will lock horns with Iqbal Sports FC at 5:30 PM.

Srinagar Super Division Football League Kicks Off At TRC

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The 2023 Srinagar Super Division Football League kicked off at Synthetic Turf TRC on Thursday.

In the opening game Alamar FC took on Young Rangreth FC at 3:30 PM.

The Jammu & Kashmir Football Association has said that the league will be organised on a "professional framework, similar to the mini I-League

standards". The association also held a meeting on Thursday to discuss various aspects of the league.

"During the meeting, the participating teams were distributed into two pools, and various important issues were discussed and deliberated upon. The primary focus was to ensure the league's smooth operation and provide an exceptional experience for players, officials, and fans alike," the FA said in a statement.

WI v IND: India Dominate Windies On Day 2 Of 1st Test

Agencies

DOMINICA: Skipper Rohit Sharma and debutant Yashasvi Jaiswal hit half-centuries as India took control of the first Test against the West Indies by reaching 146 for no loss in their first innings in reply to the host's lowly 150 at lunch on the second day, here on Thursday.

While Rohit remained unbeaten on 68, Jaiswal was unconquered on 62.

India trail West Indies by four runs. Resuming the day at 80 for no loss, Jaiswal and Rohit continued from where they left on Wednesday to remain unconquered. Earlier, Indian spin twins Ravichandran Ashwin (5/60) and Ravindra Jadeja (3/26) shared eight wickets to trigger the collapse as the West Indies were folded for 150 after skipper Kraigg Brathwaite opted to bat.

Brief Scores: West Indies 1st Innings: 150 all out in 64.3 overs (Alick Athanaze 47; Ravichandran Ashwin 5/60, Ravindra Jadeja 3/26) India 1st Innings: 146 for no loss in 55 overs (Rohit Sharma 68 batting, Yashasvi Jaiswal 62 batting).

Ashwin first Indian to dismiss father and son in test cricket

India's ace spinner, Ravichandran Ashwin, etched his



name into cricketing history on the opening day of the first Test against West Indies in Roseau, Dominica. In a remarkable feat, Ashwin became the first Indian and the fifth bowler globally to dismiss both a father and son in Test matches.

Ashwin's journey began in 2011 when he made his Test debut, and during that inaugural appearance, he achieved a significant milestone by dismissing Shivnarine Chanderpaul, the father of Tagenarine Chanderpaul. Now, twelve years later, Ashwin found

himself face to face with Tagenarine and bowled a brilliant delivery to dismiss him as well.

What makes this accomplishment even more intriguing is that the Chanderpauls feature three times in the unique list of a father-son duo being dismissed by a bowler. Apart from Ashwin, the remaining two bowlers to achieve this feat are Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc and South African off-spinner Simon Harmer, both of whom succeeded in dismissing the Chanderpauls.

ICC Announces Equal Prize Money For Men & Women At Its Global Events



Press Trust of India

DURBAN: The ICC on Thursday announced equal prize money for men's and women's teams at its global events in a bid to bring in pay parity, ushering in a new era in world cricket.

In the last 50 over men's World Cup, champions England got USD 4 million and runners-up New Zealand received USD 2 million.

"The International Cricket Council (ICC) today announced equal prize money for men's and women's teams at ICC events. The decision was taken at the ICC Annual Conference in Durban, South Africa and ensures the ICC Board fulfilled its commitment to reaching prize money equity

by 2030 well ahead of schedule," the ICC said in a statement.

"Teams will now receive equal prize money for the equivalent finishing position at comparable events as well as the same amount for winning a match at those events," it further stated. ICC Chair Greg Barclay said: "This is a significant moment in the history of our sport, and I am delighted that men's and women's cricketers competing at ICC global events will now be rewarded equally."

"Since 2017 we have increased prize money at women's events every year with a clear focus on reaching equal prize money and from here on in, winning the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup will carry

the same prize money as winning the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup and the same for T20 World Cups and U19s too." Barclay added, "Cricket is genuinely a sport for all and this decision from the ICC Board reinforces that and enables us to celebrate and value every single player's contribution to the game equally." BCCI secretary Jay Shah played an active role as the head of Financial & Commercial Affairs Committee (F&CA) in formulating the policy having done the same in his own board last year.

"I thank the fellow Board members for their support in helping achieve this important endeavour. Let's work towards a future where cricket continues to thrive across the globe."



FIFA To Pay Out \$209 Million To Football Clubs

Agencies

ZURICH: FIFA will pay out \$209 million to clubs whose players competed at last year's World Cup finals in Qatar, world football's governing body said on Thursday. The payment will be made to 440 clubs from 51 different countries whose players were at the tournament last November and December, won by Argentina.

FIFA will pay a daily amount of \$10,950 for each of 837 footballers at the World Cup, regardless of how many minutes they played during the tournament. The total per player is divided and distributed to the club, or clubs, with which the player was registered in the two years lead-

ing up to the finals in Qatar.

This is an increase from the \$8,530 that FIFA paid per player at the 2018 World Cup in Russia. For Qatar, a total of 46 English clubs will be the largest recipients with a combined total of \$37,713,297, followed by clubs from Spain, Germany, Italy and France.

Manchester City will be paid the most for a single club with a sum of \$4,596,445 followed by Barcelona (\$4,538,955) and Bayern Munich (\$4,331,809).

Under the agreement signed earlier this year by FIFA and the European Club Association, \$355 million will be distributed to clubs under the programme for the 2026 and 2030 editions of the World Cup.

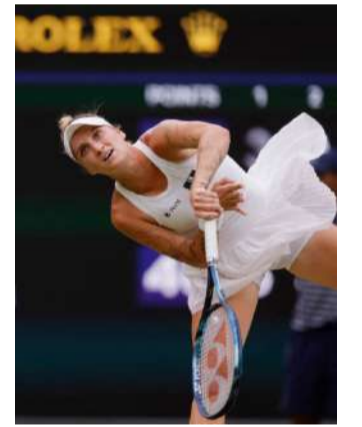
Vondrousova Ends Svitolina's Run To Reach Wimbledon Final

Agencies

LONDON: Czech Marketa Vondrousova showed there was no room for any gushing sentiment as she ended the remarkable run of new mum Elina Svitolina with a 6-3 6-3 victory to reach the Wimbledon final for the first time on Thursday.

In the run-up to a first All England Club women's semi-final featuring two unseeded players, Vondrousova said the Ukrainian was "incredible", "amazing", "a fighter" and "a super woman" for reaching the last four of a Grand Slam nine months after giving birth to daughter Skai.

But that did not stop Vondrousova from shattering Svitolina's dreams and she now stands one win from completing her own phenomenal comeback story after two wrist surgeries



following her runner-up finish at the French Open in 2019. "I cannot believe it. I am very happy that I made the final. Elina is such a fighter and a great person. It was a tough match. I am very happy," said the 42nd-ranked Vondrousova.

Major League Cricket Trophy Revealed In Texas



Agencies

TEXAS: Major League Cricket (MLC) added another momentous moment to a historic week for cricket in America, with the MLC Championship Trophy unveiled in Dallas on Wednesday.

The captains of the six MLC

teams gathered for photos and a media conference ahead of MLC's inaugural season, which starts this week. As per a press release from MLC, a photoshoot with the team captains took place at the newly-completed Grand Prairie Stadium, followed by a media conference in Dallas.

ICC Board Meet: India To Get Max. Share; Only 4 Overseas Players Allowed In New T20 Leagues

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The BCCI reaffirmed its status as the financial powerhouse of world cricket as the ICC unanimously passed the revenue distribution model at its all-powerful board meeting in Durban on Thursday.

In another important development, the ICC has put a cap on overseas cricketers plying their trade for teams in various leagues, keeping it to four players per playing XI in new events. This is primarily meant for T20 leagues starting in every nook and corner, which is posing a threat to the international version of the game.

While the ICC media release didn't state the quantum of revenue that the BCCI will generate from the new distribution model, it is expected that the Indian board will annually earn USD 230 million from the USD 600

million pot for the next four years.

It is around 38.4 percent approximately and at least six times more than England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), who are set to receive approximately USD 41 million at 6.89 percent and Cricket Australia (CA) who will get 37.53 million (around 6.25 percent). They are distant second and third in the list.

"The ICC Board also confirmed the largest ever investment into the sport after the distribution model for the next four years was agreed," the ICC release stated.

"Every ICC Member will receive significantly enhanced funding with a strategic investment fund ring-fenced to drive global growth initiatives in line with the ICC Global Growth Strategy," it further stated.

While the numbers were not there in the release, an ICC board member confirmed



that the BCCI got its rightful share for its contribution to the growth of the sport and in this cycle each member would earn significantly more. "All members will receive

a base distribution and then additional revenue will be in relation to contribution to the global game both on and off the field," ICC chairman Greg Barclay said. "This is by

far the largest level of investment ever to go into cricket and it's a once in a generation opportunity for our members to accelerate growth and engage more players and fans

and drive competitiveness," he added.

Cap on players' participation in new events

The ICC has decided that all new events (read various T20 leagues) will have to at least include seven home grown players or players from associate member in their playing XIs, in order to prevent en masse retirement of T20 specialists from top countries. With the Major League Cricket (MLC) starting in the USA and Saudi Arabia also planning an ambitious T20 project in future, the stakeholders want to protect international cricket.

The host T20 board will also have to pay a "solidarity fee", which, in simple words, is a commission to the home board of an overseas player.

"Moving forwards, new events requiring a sanction will need to ensure the playing XI of each team will in-

clude a minimum of seven local or associate member players to support the development of the game.

"Additionally, a solidarity fee will be payable from the organising member to the home board of a player to reflect the role the member played in developing and promoting the sport globally."

Over-rate sanctions

The Chief Executives' Committee approved changes to over-rate sanctions in Test cricket to balance the need for over-rates to be maintained and ensure players are appropriately remunerated. Such players will be fined 5% of their match fee for each over short up to a maximum of 50%. If a team is bowled out before the new ball is due at 80 overs, there will be no over-rate penalty applied even if there is a slow over-rate. This replaces the current 60 over threshold.

1st Over-The-Counter Birth Control Pill Approved In US



Agenceis

Washington: The US drug regulator approved the first over-the-counter birth control pill in the country, it announced Thursday, dramatically widening access to contraception for women as the United States grapples with reproductive rights. The medication, Opill, will become available in pharmacies and supermarkets as well as online early next year, the manufacturer Perrigo said in a statement.

Many countries already allow contraceptive pills to be sold over the counter. But in the United States the measure comes as the right to abortion is under renewed assault from conservatives and is now banned in several states.

"Today's approval marks the first time a nonprescription daily oral contraceptive will be an available option for millions of people in the United States," said

Patrizia Cavazzoni, director of the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research in a statement.

"When used as directed, daily oral contraception is safe and is expected to be more effective than currently available nonprescription contraceptive methods in preventing unintended pregnancy."

Almost half of the 6.1 million pregnancies in the United States each year are unintended, the FDA.

Allowing women to access the progestin-only daily contraceptive pill without needing to see a doctor first "may help reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and their potential negative impacts," the FDA statement said.

The pill, produced by the pharmaceutical company HRA Pharma, which was recently acquired by Perrigo, had already been authorized for prescription in the United States for a number of years.

More Than Half The World's Oceans Have Changed Colour. Read Why

Agenceis

New Delhi: The colour of over 56 per cent of the world's oceans, larger than Earth's total land expanse, has changed significantly over the last two decades and human-caused climate change is likely the driver, according to researchers.

These colour changes, subtle to the human eye, cannot be explained by natural, year-to-year variability alone, the researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), US, and other institutes write in their paper published in the journal Nature.

Ocean colour, a literal reflection of the life and materials in its waters, in regions near the equator was found to have steadily turned greener over time, indicating changes in the ecosystems within the surface oceans.

The green colour of the ocean waters comes from the green pigment chlorophyll present in phytoplankton, the plant-like microbes abundant in upper ocean. Scientists are, therefore, keen to monitor phytoplankton to see their response to climate change.

However, the authors of this study showed through previous studies that it would take 30 years of tracking chlorophyll changes before climate-change-driven trends would show, because natural, annual variations in chlorophyll would overwhelm



those influenced by human activities.

In a 2019 paper, study co-author Stephanie Dutkiewicz and her colleagues showed that monitoring other ocean colours, whose annual variations are much smaller than those of chlorophyll, would convey more clear signals of climate-change-driven changes and that they might even be apparent in 20 years, rather than 30.

"It's worth looking at the whole spectrum, rather than just trying to estimate one number from bits of the spectrum," said lead author B. B. Cael of the National Oceanography Center.

Cael and team then statistically analysed all the seven ocean colours recorded by satellite observations from 2002 to 2022 together. He initially studied the colours' natural variations by

seeing how they changed regionally in a given year.

He then observed how these annual variations changed over two decades.

To understand climate change's contribution to all these changes, he used Dutkiewicz's 2019 model to simulate the Earth's oceans under two scenarios - one with greenhouse gases and the other without them.

The greenhouse-gas model predicted changes to the colour of about 50 per cent of the world's surface oceans in under 20 years - close to Cael's conclusions from his real-world satellite data analysis.

"This suggests that the trends we observe are not a random variation in the Earth system," said Cael.

"This is consistent with anthropogenic climate change."

Google's AI Chatbot, Bard, Expands To Europe, Brazil, To Take On ChatGPT

Agenceis

Brussels: Alphabet said it is rolling out its artificial-intelligence chatbot, Bard, in Europe and Brazil on Thursday, the product's biggest expansion since its February launch and pitting it against Microsoft-backed rival ChatGPT.

Bard and ChatGPT are human-sounding programs that use generative artificial intelligence to hold conversations with users and answer myriad prompts. The products have touched off global excitement tempered with caution.

Companies have jumped onto the AI bandwagon, investing billions with the hope of generating much more in advertising and cloud revenue. Earlier this week, billionaire Elon Musk also launched his long-teased artificial-intelligence startup xAI, whose team includes several former engineers at Google, Microsoft and OpenAI.

Google has also now added new features to Bard, which apply worldwide.

"Starting today, you can collaborate with Bard in over 40 languages, including Arabic, Chinese, German, Hindi and Spanish," Google senior product director Jack Krawczyk said in a blog post.

"Sometimes hearing something out loud can help you approach your idea in a different

way ... This is especially helpful if you want to hear the correct pronunciation of a word or listen to a poem or script."

He said users can now change the tone and style of Bard's responses to either simple, long, short, professional or casual. They can pin or rename conversations, export code to more places and use images in prompts.

Bard's launch in the EU had been held up by local privacy regulators. Krawczyk said Google had since then met the watchdogs to reassure them on issues relating to transparency, choice and control.

In a briefing with journalists, Amar Subramanya, engineering vice president of Bard, added that users could opt out of their data being collected.

Google has been hit by a fresh class action in the U.S. over the alleged misuse of users' personal information to train its artificial intelligence system.

Subramanya declined to comment on whether there were plans to develop a Bard app.

"Bard is an experiment," he added. "We want to be bold and responsible."

Nonetheless, novelty appeal may be waning, with recent Web user numbers showing that monthly traffic to ChatGPT's website and unique visitors declined for the first time ever in June.

Quick eats for busy people





Chicken Crispy Burger



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