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P3 CITY

ADV KHAN FOR CONCERTED EFFORTS TO MAKE TULIP FESTIVAL A GRAND SUCCESS

Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Baseer Ahmad Khan Tuesday directed the officers to make concerted and coordinated efforts to make the upcoming tulip festival in Srinagar a grand affair....

P7 THINK THE COLONIAL CROWN

The most explosive element of the Sussexes' highly anticipated interview with Oprah Winfrey was the claim that someone within the royal household had "concerns" over how dark-skinned the couple's son Archie might be...



P11 SPORTS

WITHOUT COACH & CAPTAIN, REAL KASHMIR TAKE ON CONFIDENT TRAU IN I-LEAGUE TODAY

A coach and captain-less Real Kashmir FC will face a daunting task in returning to winning...



Widom
Quote!
Ideas are the source of all things
—Plato

NEWS DIGEST

Covid-19 Claims Two More Lives In J&K

SRINAGAR: Two more people died of coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday even as 77 fresh cases of Covid-19 were detected across the Union Territory during the last 24 hours. The two victims were residents of Jammu division and Kashmir Valley, officials said Tuesday. Their deaths took the total fatalities count to ● [More On P10](#)

42 Militant Outfits Banned In J&K: MHA

SRINAGAR: The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs (MHA) G K Reddy Tuesday said that a total of 42 militant organizations have been banned in Jammu and Kashmir for being involved in unlawful activities. In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, the MoS Home Reddy said the list of 42 organizations include the names of the militant organizations active in the country and the number of ● [More On P10](#)

25 Shops, Three Houses Gutted In Blaze

SRINAGAR: At least twenty five shops and three residential houses were gutted besides property and goods worth lakhs of rupees was reduced to ashes in a massive blaze in Damhal Hanjipora area in south Kashmir's Kulgam district. Officials said that 25 shops, housed in a double-story old shopping complex in Nehama market and three houses in the ● [More On P10](#)

LAWDA Demolishes Illegal Structures

SRINAGAR: The lakes and waterways development authority on Tuesday carried out a demolition drive in parts of this capital city and demolished several houses and structures erected illegally. The enforcement wing of LAWDA carried out demolition drive in the green belts of Nishat, Lashkari Mohalla, Handam Mohalla, Baber Shah and Miskeen Bagh in Rainawari and demolished ● [More On P10](#)

Woman Murdered At Her House In Kathua

JAMMU: A 55-year-old woman was found murdered inside her house in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, police said. Bholi Devi was living alone at the house in Parliwand village following a dispute with her husband Madan Gopal, Additional Superintendent of Police, Kathua, Rannish Gupta said. Gupta, who led a police party to recover the body, said the initial investigation and ● [More On P10](#)

Top Militant Killed In Sopore Encounter: Police

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Police on Tuesday claimed to have killed Al-Badr Chief Gani Khwaja in an encounter in Sopore town of Baramulla district.

Acting on specific inputs, special operations group (SOG) of police, army and the personnel of CRPF laid a siege around Tuijar area of Sopore on Tuesday evening and launched a combing and search operation, a police official said. When the search operation was in progress, the hiding militant, he said, opened fire upon the joint team in an attempt to escape from their dragnet.

"The fire was returned sparking off an encounter. In the exchange of fire, one militant was killed," the official said.

A local news agency quoted



FILE PHOTO

IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar as claiming that Al-Badr chief Gani Khwaja has been killed in the Tuijar encounter and his killing was a big success for the government forces.

Earlier, Kashmir police announced

the outbreak of encounter on its official Twitter handle.

"Encounter has started at Tuijar area of Sopore. Police and Army are on the job. Further details shall follow," police Tweeted. Talking to ● [More On P10](#)

MILITANCY DECLINED SHARPLY AFTER ART-370 REVOCATION: GOVT

The Centre on Tuesday said the militant violence in Jammu and Kashmir has reduced significantly after the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019 and cited a decline in militant incidents in the Union Territory in 2020 in comparison to 2019. Union Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy said in the Lok Sabha that 244 militant incidents were reported in Jammu and Kashmir in 2020 in comparison to 594 in 2019, while 221 militants ● [More On P10](#)

GB Assembly Seeks Provincial Status From Pak

Press Trust Of India

ISLAMABAD: The Legislative Assembly of Gilgit-Baltistan on Tuesday unanimously adopted a joint resolution asking the federal Pakistan government to grant it provincial status and provide it with representation in Parliament and other constitutional bodies.

The resolution was moved in the Legislative Assembly by Gilgit-Baltistan Chief Minister Khalid Khurshid Khan who represented the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party of

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan.

He was joined in tabling the resolution by Opposition leader Amjad Hussain from Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP), Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) representative Ghulam Muhammad, Majlis Wahdatul Muslimeen (MWM) member Muhammad Kazim and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) leader Rehmat Khaliq. India has previously slammed Pakistan's attempt to accord provincial status to the "so-called ● [More On P10](#)

DDC Members Skip Training, Hold Protest For Better Status

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Cutting across party lines, the newly elected district

development council (DDC) members on Tuesday boycotted a two-day training-cum-workshop here ● [More On P10](#)

BJP Supports Agitating DDC Members

Extending support to agitating District Development Council (DDC) members, Jammu and Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Tuesday urged Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to ensure they have adequate powers to mobilise government departments and address public grievances. Cutting across party lines, newly elected DDC members boycotted a two-day ● [More On P10](#)

J&K Filed 196 POSCO Cases From 2015-19: MHA

Agencies

SRINAGAR: The Government of India Tuesday said that a total of 196 cases have been registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act During 2015-2019 in Jammu and Kashmir. The GoI was replying to questions about the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) across the country including the figures and measures taken.

In reply, the Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs, GK Reddysaid that a ● [More On P10](#)

Illegal Occupation Of Govt Quarters Unfortunate: HC

Orders Eviction, Recovery Of Appropriate Rent from For Ex- NC MLA, Others

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir High Court reiterated that it was very unfortunate that some former ministers, legislators, retired officers, politicians, etc., have illegally and unauthorizedly managed to continue to stay in the residential

accommodation provided to them by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, though they are no longer entitled to such accommodation.

"Many of such persons continue to occupy residential accommodation commensurate with the office(s) held by them earlier and which are beyond their present entitlement," a bench of Justice Ali Mohammad Magrey said while dismissing a petition filed by former National Conference MLA ● [More On P10](#)



TRANSPORT TUSSELE

Private Schools Told To Submit Substantiate Docs

Agencies

SRINAGAR: In order to put an end to transportation issues between the government and the private schools, authorities on Tuesday have sought substantiate documents from the private school management to justify charging transportation fees.

According to the

reports, the Committee for Fixation of Fee of Private Schools (FFRC) has directed the private school management to submit all supportive documents on the matter.

"In order to ascertain the genuineness of the information submitted by private schools and to enable the committee to ● [More On P10](#)



MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

Mehbooba Moves Delhi HC Over ED Summons

Press Trust Of India

NEW DELHI: Former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufti Tuesday approached the Delhi High Court seeking quashing of summons issued to her by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for March 15 in a money laundering case.

The 61-year-old PDP leader, who was released last year after more than a year in detention following the scrapping of Jammu and Kashmir's special status, has been served notice to appear at the ED headquarters in the national capital.

The petition is likely to be listed for hearing on Wednesday before a bench headed by Chief Justice DN Patel.

Besides, she has also sought to declare section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act as void and inoperative, being unfairly discriminatory, bereft of safeguards, and violative of Article 20(3) of the Constitution. Section 50 of the Act gives powers to authorities regarding summons, production ● [More On P10](#)

VOICE OF A GENERATION

In Conversation With Farah Bashir

Yash Daiv

Farah Bashir's new book, Rumours of Spring, is a memoir of a teenage girl, who grew with the turmoil. It will be out in April 2021.

She talks to Kashmir Observer in an exclusive interview.

YASH DAIV (YD): Rumours of Spring is a voice that is never-before heard: That of a teenage girl. What prompted you to write this memoir?

FARAH BASHIR (FB): To articulate the silences of a young girl who is navigating her life in a war and confronting it when all she wanted was to escape it.

YD: In your mind, what is the first picture of the siege? What did you

see and how did you understand that something was not right?

FB: The year was 1989 and I was a few months away from becoming a teenager. It was on the eve of Eid. The day that started on a happy note ended in an interminable night. The opening chapter of my book comprises that memory.

My sister and I had gone to a salon to get a haircut and by the time we came out, the world as we knew it had completely transformed. The celebratory air had turned funeral. A strange bluish hue had descended upon the city; there were shards of glass and squished toys on the streets. Streets were deserted as a curfew had been announced.

After that metamorphic hour, the years that followed became a series of sharp contrasts: of love and loss, life and death, uncertainty and hope.

YD: What were the little changes you had to make when Kashmir was militarised? How did it invade your domestic space?

FB: The memoir documents most changes, both internal and external, that were brought about by the insurgency and dense militarisation.

Parts of our home became inaccessible, bunkers became the new landmarks, the way young girls dressed was no longer the same, some food habits changed, the games that we played as children changed too. Newer rituals were formed in homes.

Old ones vanished.

The book documents juxtaposition of the old and new realities.

YD: As a teenage girl, what fears did you feel?

FB: The fear of returning home to a dead family member loomed at large. It had happened to a few friends of mine, who lost their parents and grandparents to stray bullets or to motivated assassinations.

That fear of losing a loved one at any time, brutally, cast a shadow even before I had turned thirteen.

I grew up on a bustling street in the old city of Srinagar that was rarely quiet. When the night curfew was imposed for nearly a decade, I struggled to fall asleep to the ● [More On P10](#)





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

Wednesday | 10.03.2021

KASHMIR OBSERVER 2

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Tariq Ahmad Malik S/o: Abdul Samad Malik R/o: Soibugh Budgam (Transferor) of LMV i10 Magna Car. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04C - 3938. Chasis number 522142 Engine no. 756561 Model 2013. in favour of Shri.. Hilal Ahmad Teli S/o. Ghulam Qadir Teli R/o Awanpora Chadoora Budgam (Transferee)

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper Kashmir Observer.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.2899
Dated 09/03/2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Reyaz Ahmad Gojri S/o: Noor ud Din Gojri R/o: Sheikhpora Wathoor owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04F-0829 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S HDFC Bank B/U Karan Nagar.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper.

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.2905
Dated 09-03-2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice I have lost the Fitness Certificate of my Vehicle Bearing Rgd No; JK03D- 8878. Now I am applying for the duplicate of the same if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the ARTO Anantnag within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

Nasir Manan Mir S/o Ab Manan Mir
R/o Kapren Shopian

ast

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE

Where a application for transfer of ownership has been recieved from one. Shri : Naseer Ahmad Malik S/o: Gh Hassan Malik R/o: Dharmunah Budgam (Transferor) of LMV Alto K- 10. Vehicle bearing registration number JK04D - 5502. Chasis number 17794 Engine no. 15630 Model 2017. in favour of Shri.. Tafazul Naseer S/o. Naseer Ahmad Malik R/o Dharmunah Budgam (Transferee) as well as HPA cancellation with M/S J & K Bank B/U Old Sectt Jehangir Chowk also required.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed transfer of ownership shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.2934
Dated 09/03/2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE

Where as a joint application has been recieved from owner. Shri : Aijaz Ahmad Bhat S/o: Ab. Rashid Bhat R/o: Budgam as Transferor & Shri. Ghulam Ahmad Rather S/o Ghulam Ahmad Rather R/o Ichigam Budgam as Transferee) for transfer of Bolero Maxi Truck vehicle No. JK04D -0788. As well as HPA Cancellation with State Bank of India B/U Soibugh Budgam.

Now it is therefore notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit/vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM. 2955
Dated 09/03/2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

Office of the District Election Officer Deputy Commissioner Budgam

" Greater Participation for a Stronger Democracy

Phone No:-01951-255203

entbadgam@nic.in

Fax No:-01951-255204

Subject:- Conduct of Elections to District Gurdawara Prabandhak Committee in Jammu and Kashmir : 2021-preparation of Electoral Rolls thereof.

The Financial Commissioner Revenue, J&K Jammu has issued the notification vide No. FC-LS/GPC-08/11/2016 dated:- 5-03-2021, whereby he. has notified the schedule for preparation of Electoral Rolls with reference to 01-01-2021 as the qualifying date, for the conduct of District Gurdawara Prbandhak Committees (DGPC)

Schedule for Preparation of Electoral Rolls are as under:

S.No	Activity	Date/period
1	Publication of Electoral Rolls under Rule 6 by the Election Authority (Draft Electoral Rolls)	09-03-2021
2	Filling of claims and objections under Rule 7	10-03-2021 to 24-03-2021
3	Disposal of claims and objections under Rule 7	24-03-2021 to 29-03-2021
4	Publication of final Electoral Rolls under Rule 7	03-04-2021

The draft Electoral Rolls will be available in the office of Concerned Tehsildars for inspection of voters.

No: ACR/Bud/GPC/Elec/2021/5073-78
Dated: 06-03-2021

Assistant Commissioner Revenue
(Election Authority GTPC Election)
Budgam

DIPK-14753/20

Office Of The Regional Director Social Forestry Kashmir.

APPEAL TO GENERAL PUBLIC

Poplar tree or 'Safeda' locally called as "Frass" in Kashmir, is a tall tree grown across the Kashmir valley mainly by farmers on their farm lands. This tree could be male as well as female. It is only the female poplar trees which produce seeds enveloped in a cottony fluff which is released during the months of April-May along with seed. This cotton fluff which is also called as Russi is taken as nuisance and is disliked in general due to various reasons for the purpose of seed dispersal.

To overcome the issue of cotton shed by female poplar trees in the months of April -May , people in general , farmers and private nursery owners in particular are requested to note and follow the information/ suggestions given below and cooperate in dealing with the problem:

- Cotton is produced only by female poplar trees for seed dispersal. No cotton at all is produced by male poplars.
- Female poplars must not be planted near or around homes, along banks of streams, rivers, near or around places of public importance like schools, hospitals .This is as per the directions of Hon'ble High Court.
- All such female poplars who have attained a girth of four feet and above must be harvested in phased manner and same be replaced by planting alternative trees but not female poplar.
- Raising and planting of male poplars be followed.
- Farmers and private nursery owners are advised to stop raising and planting of female poplars as well as selling the same in open market.
- Lopping of female poplars must be done upto 2/3rd height in the beginning of April every year or before the onset of flowering season. Identification of female poplars can be done on the basis of colour of catkins which are large and greenish in female poplars. Technical guidance in this regard can be sought from Social Forestry Department.
- People must use face mask in the months of April and May as a precautionary measure.
- There is no link between cotton fluff from female poplars and pollen, as pollen is produced by male poplars and is invisible to human eye. Please note that the general perception that cotton produced by female poplars is pollen, is totally baseless and a myth only.

Issued in the public interest.
REGIONAL DIRECTOR
SOCIAL FORESTRY KASHMIR.

DIPK-14696/20

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Firdous Ahmad Mir S/o: Abdul Rehman Mir R/o: Arigam Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04E-4747 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S Mahindra & Mahindra Finance B/U Srinagar. Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.2927
Dated 09-03-2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir

mcb

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Waheed Ahmad S/o: Ali Mohammad R/o: Dachan Beerwah Owner of Vehicle No: JK04F- 3103 for issuance of Duplicate Fitness Certificate

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed issuance of Duplicate Registration Certificate in respect of vehicle No. JK04F 0331 shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper .

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.3931
Dated 09-03-2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer
Budgam Kashmir



Government of Jammu & Kashmir

JAI SHAKTI DEPARTMENT

Office of the Executive Engineer, PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar

Tele fax 0194-2473956 E-mail, ID: - xenphemrd@gmail.com

E-NIT

NIT No: PHE/MRD/E-NIT -59 of 03/2021

For and on behalf of the Lt Governor of U T of J&K ,e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors/ workshop holders registered for similar nature of works with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railway and other State/Central Government Organizations for the following work:-

Sr.	Nature of Work	Name of the Water Supply Scheme	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In rupees, as Try Challan)	Time of Completion of the tender work	Position of funds as on date
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Electrical/Mechanical works viz Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of DG Set and allied works	Naroo	9.0884	500/=	10 days	NABARD

The Bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, drawings, and 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:

01	Publish Date	08-03-2021 (05.00 P.M.)
02	Period of downloading of bidding documents	08-03-2021 (05.00 P.M.)
03	Bid Submission Start Date	08-03-2021 (05.00 P.M.)
04	Bid Submission End Date	13-03-2021 (05.00 P.M.)
05	Date and time of opening of bids (online)	15-03-2021 (01.00 P.M.)

Note: - The tender document fee shall be deposited by the intending bidders in the Treasury favoring Ex. Engineer PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar, against this NIT, under major head MH-0215 which shall be clearly mentioned in the Treasury challan/receipt & same be uploaded with the technical bid. The CDR should be pledged to Executive Engineer PHE Mechanical Rural Division Srinagar. Original CDR @3% of bid value and Treasury Receipt have to be submitted by the lowest bidder prior to the placement of allotment order. All other details can be had from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer
PHE Mechanical Rural Division
Srinagar

No: -PHE/MRD/TS/e-tendering/2749-51
DT: -08-03-2021

DIPK-14690/20

Office of the Executive Engineer, Electric Division- Ist, Srinagar.

Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited

Email: xen.ed1st@gmail.com Tel No. 0194-2452079 Fax No.0194-2452079

e-TENDER ABBREVIATED NOTICE
e-NIT No. 59/ EDI, dt: 03-03-2021

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 Contractors/firms for as under:

S.No	Particulars	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)
1	Supply of 27 inch All in one Desktops.	2.00

The complete tender document is available at website <http://jktenders.gov.in>. Interested bidder/tenderers 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. Bidding Documents contain Qualifying Criteria for Bidders, Specifications, Bill of Quantities, Terms and Conditions of Contract and other details.

i)	Date and Time of downloading/ Sale (Start) of Tender Document	03.03.2021; 16:00 Hrs
ii)	Date & Time of Download/ Sale (End) of Tender Document	15.03.2021; 16:00 Hrs
iii)	Date & Time of Bid Uploading (Start/End)	03.03.2021; 16:00 Hrs to 15.03.2021; 16:00 Hrs
iv)	Commercial/Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	16.03.2021 at 13:00 Hrs
v)	Financial Bid Opening	Shall be declared later on for the technically qualified bidders
vi)	Venue of Commercial/ Technical Bid Opening	Electronically on J&K Government e-Procurement System website http://jktenders.gov.in
vii)	Cost of e-Bid document	Rs. 200.00 (Rupees Two Hundred Only) (Non-refundable) [Demand Draft Only]
viii)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 4,000/= (Rupees Four Thousand Only)

DIPK-NB-6230/20

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Electric Division 1st, Srinagar

Office Of The Executive Engineer Sub Transmission Division Ganderbal

Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited

Tel: - 0194-2416178 email: exengineer12@gmail.com

Extension Notice-1

Subject: - Extension date of e-NIT No:- STD/GBL/29 of 2020-21 Dated:-17-02-2021.
Replacement of Link Sets with 11KV Double Break 3-Pole Isolators with Earthing Switch at various Receiving Stations in respect of STD Ganderbal.

Due to the poor response to above quoted e-NIT the dates are hereby extended as per details given below:-

S.No	Bid Submission End date	Technical Bid Opening date	Financial Bid Opening date
01	13-03-2021 04.00PM	15-03-2021 02.00 PM	Will be communicated to qualified bidders

No: -STD/GBL/Ts/3158-61
Dated: 08-3-2021

DIPK-NB-6238/20

Executive Engineer
STD Ganderbal

(Kashmir Observer, 10 March, 2005)

US Presents Warring Afghan Sides With Draft Peace Agreement

Press Trust of India

Frustrated by a stalled peace process and escalating violence, the US has presented an eight-page draft peace agreement to Afghanistan's warring sides for review.

The US told the parties to come to Turkey in the coming weeks ready to move on it, according to Afghans on both sides of the table.

The draft was obtained by The Associated Press on Monday. The document outlines the terms of a cease-fire and its enforcement, calls for the protection of the rights of women, children and minorities and envisions a truth and reconciliation commission aimed at healing 42 years of conflict.

US State Department spokesman Ned Price would not confirm the draft, saying it's often important for our diplomatic efforts that we're able to conduct them in private." The Taliban received the draft and were reviewing it, said spokesman Mohammad Naem. There was no immediate comment from Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on the draft proposal or a sternly worded letter from US Secretary

troops, saying it would cause chaos. She confirmed that all sides had received the US-crafted draft agreement.

One thing that is important is that Afghan ownership and Afghan leadership must be respected, she said in a phone interview from Doha. The process should not be rushed.

Blinken's letter proposes a revised plan for a 90-day reduction in violence that would prevent the start of a spring offensive by the Taliban and would be followed by a permanent cease-fire laid out in the draft peace agreement.

Both sides would stop fighting within hours of the agreement being signed, according to the draft. The Taliban would remove all its military and military structures from neighbouring countries a reference to Pakistan, where the leadership currently resides. The draft agreement also calls for an independent commission to oversee cease-fire violations.

The preamble of the U.S. document says the draft peace agreement is intended to jumpstart negotiations.

It sets forth principles for governance, security, and rule of law and presents options for power



of State Antony Blinken.

In the letter, Blinken said Washington wanted to see progress on peace talks and mentioned the draft peace agreement, which calls for a new, inclusive government which Ghani has resisted. In recent speeches, Ghani has said no interim government would be formed as long as I am alive.

But Blinken was uncompromising in his letter, which was released by Afghanistan's TOLO TV. I am making this clear to you so that you understand the urgency of my tone regarding collective work, he wrote.

In the letter, Blinken said a May 1 deadline for a final withdrawal of US troops stipulated in a Taliban-US deal last year is still on the table. Even with America's \$4 billion in aid to Afghanistan's National Security Forces, a US withdrawal could mean quick territorial gains for the Taliban.

Ghani's first vice president, Amrullah Saleh, said the president had received the letter and was unmoved by its contents. He said Ghani was not ready to embrace the secretary of state's accelerated pace toward a settlement.

We are neither concerned about the letter nor has it changed our position, Saleh said. He thanked the US for its sacrifices and financial assistance over the past 20 years but said the Afghan government won't succumb to dictation.

"We will make peace with dignity, but never...an imposed peace, he said at a ceremony on the anniversary of the death of a former defense minister. Ghani has been accused by his political opponents of trying to cling to power at all cost.

Fawzia Koofi, one of only four women at the negotiation table in Doha, warned against haste and a May 1 withdrawal of US

sharing that could help the two sides reach a political settlement that ends the war, it says.

The preamble portrayed the draft as a compilation of ideas and priorities of Afghans on all sides of the political spectrum.

The draft lays out an ambitious road map that protects the rights of all, guarantees elections, demands transparency and a fight against corruption and the illicit drug trade. It demands guarantees of non-interference from Afghanistan's neighbours and guarantees from Afghanistan that the country won't be used to attack or interfere with another.

It proposes the establishment of a peace government that would oversee the writing of a new constitution and elections held immediately afterward. The new constitution is to protect the rights gained in the last 20 years since the toppling of the Taliban.

According to the draft, the peace government would include separate, but equal branches, including the judiciary, and executive branch.

The draft also said there will be one national government, no parallel governments and no parallel security forces, which would mean an end to Taliban fighters and the many militias loyal to warlords holding sway in Kabul.

It promises to protect Islamic values and while an independent judiciary would have the ultimate authority, the High Council for Islamic Jurisprudence would have an advisory role.

The new peace plan offers a chance for a ceasefire, it offers a chance to bring the Taliban from the battlefield to the talks table to discuss thorny issues of religion and its role in (the state), without giving them all the power, said Torek Farhadi, former Afghan government adviser.



Storage tanks at the North Jiddah bulk plant, an Aramco oil facility, in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia.

US Vows To Defend Saudi Arabia After Attack On Key Oil Site

Agenceis

The United States said its commitment to defend Saudi Arabia is "unwavering" after oil infrastructure in the kingdom came under missile and drone attack.

"The US embassy condemns the recent Houthi attacks on the kingdom of Saudi Arabia," the American mission in Riyadh said via Twitter.

"The heinous attacks on civilians and vital infrastructure demonstrate their lack of respect for human life and their lack of interest in the pursuit of peace."

The attacks on Sunday were intercepted, Saudi Arabia said, and oil output appeared to be unaffected. But the latest in a spate of assaults claimed by Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen briefly

pushed oil prices to above \$70 a barrel for the first time since January 2020.

The attacks are the most serious against Saudi oil installations since a key processing facility and two fields came under fire in September 2019, cutting production for about a month and exposing the vulnerability of the kingdom's petroleum industry.

'Begged Them Not To Shoot Children': Nun Kneels In Front Of Myanmar Police To Stop Violence

Agenceis

A nun went down on her knees in front of policemen in a northern Myanmar town and pleaded them to stop shooting protesters agitating against last month's coup.

Video showed Sister Ann Rose Nu Tawng in a white robe and black habit kneeling on a street in the town of Myitkyina on Monday, speaking to two policemen who were also kneeling.

"I said, I don't want to see any trouble here and can't leave if police don't leave," she said. "I begged them not to shoot the children."

Tawng and one of the policemen then touched their foreheads to the ground. At least two protesters were



killed by gunshots at the head and three others were injured in the town on Monday, witnesses said.

Tawng had also come between protesters and police lines late last month, pleading for peace, local

media reported.

Over 60 people have been killed and more than 1,800 detained in the crackdown on protests against the Feb. 1 coup, an advocacy group has said.

Summers In Northern Hemisphere May Last Half The Year By 2100: Study

Press Trust of India

Summers in the Northern Hemisphere may last for six months by 2100 without efforts to mitigate climate change, which could have far-reaching impacts on agriculture, human health and the environment, says a study.

The research, published in the journal Geophysical Research Letters, found that the Mediterranean region and the Tibetan Plateau have experienced the greatest changes to their seasonal cycles.

The researchers noted that the four seasons arrived in a predictable and fairly even pattern in the Northern Hemisphere during the 1950s.

However, climate change is now driving dramatic and irregular changes to the length and start dates of the seasons, which may become more extreme in the future under a business-as-usual climate scenario, they said. "Summers are getting longer and

hotter while winters shorter and warmer due to global warming," said lead author Yuping Guan from the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The researchers used historical daily climate data from 1952 to 2011 to measure changes in the four seasons' length and onset in the Northern Hemisphere.

They defined the start of summer as the onset of temperatures in the hottest 25 per cent during that time period, while winter began with temperatures in the coldest 25 per cent.

The team used established climate change models to predict how seasons will shift in the future.

The study found that, on average, summer grew from 78 to 95 days between 1952 to 2011, while winter shrank from 76 to 73 days. Spring and autumn also contracted from 124 to 115 days, and 87 to 82 days, respectively.

Accordingly, spring and summer began earlier, while autumn and winter started later. If these trends continue with-

out any effort to mitigate climate change, the researchers predict that by 2100, winter will last less than two months, and the transitional spring and autumn seasons will shrink further as well.

"Numerous studies have already shown that the changing seasons cause significant environmental and health risks," Guan said.

The researchers said, for example, birds are shifting their migration patterns and plants are emerging and flowering at different times.

These phenological changes can create mismatches between animals and their food sources, disrupting ecological communities, they said.

Seasonal changes can also wreak havoc on agriculture, especially when false springs or late snowstorms damage budding plants, according to the researchers. With longer growing seasons, humans will breathe in more allergy-causing pollen, and disease-carrying mosquitoes can expand their range northward, they said.

US Visa Applicants Denied Under Trump 'Muslim Ban' Can Reapply

Agenceis

People who were denied entry to the United States because of former President Donald Trump's travel ban on 13 mostly Muslim-majority and African countries can seek new decisions or submit new applications, the US Department of State has said.

President Joe Biden overturned Trump's so-called Muslim ban on January 20, his first

tional fees, Price said.

Applicants selected in the diversity visa lottery prior to the current fiscal year are barred by US law from being issued visas if they have not gotten them already, he said.

The diversity lottery aims to accept immigrants from countries that are not normally awarded many visas.

Since December 2017, after a revised version of the original



day in office, calling it "a stain on our national conscience".

Ned Price, a spokesman for the US Department of State, said on Monday that applicants who were refused visas prior to January 20, 2020, must submit new applications and pay a new application fee.

Those who were denied on or after January 20, 2020, may seek reconsideration without resubmitting their applications and do not have to pay addi-

travel ban was upheld by the US Supreme Court, some 40,000 people have been barred from entering the US under the ban, according to State Department data.

During the Trump administration's term some countries were added and others dropped from the list. At the end of Trump's presidency, it comprised Myanmar, Eritrea, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Nigeria, North Korea, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Venezuela and Yemen.

US CDC Unveils Guidance For Fully Vaccinated People



WASHINGTON: The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued its first set of recommendations on activities that people who are fully vaccinated against Covid-19 can safely resume. They can visit other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or staying 6 feet apart, according to the guidelines issued on Monday.

Fully vaccinated people can also visit unvaccinated people from another household indoors without wearing masks or staying 6 feet apart if everyone in the other household is at low risk for severe disease, Xinhua news agency quoted the CDC as saying. Meanwhile, fully vaccinated people can refrain from quarantine and testing if they do not have symptoms of Covid-19 after coming in contact with someone who is infected.

The CDC defines people who are fully vaccinated as those who are two weeks after receiving the last required dose of vaccine.

"There are some activities that fully vaccinated people can begin to resume now in their own homes. Everyone, even those who are vaccinated, should continue with all mitigation strategies when in public settings," said CDC Director Rochelle Walensky.

"As the science evolves and more people get vaccinated, we will continue to provide more guidance to help fully vaccinated people safely resume more activities," she said.

A growing body of scientific evidence suggests that fully vac-

cinated people are less likely to have an asymptomatic infection and are potentially less likely to transmit SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, to other people, according to the CDC.

The agency encourages people to get vaccinated with the first available Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-authorised Covid-19 vaccine to protect themselves and to help bring the pandemic to a close.

There are three vaccines currently authorised for emergency use in the US by the FDA.

The FDA authorized the one developed by American drugmaker Pfizer in partnership with German company BioNTech, and another by American drugmaker Moderna, in December 2020. Johnson & Johnson's vaccine was approved for emergency use on February 27. It is the first single-dose vaccine authorized in the United States.

The vast majority of people need to be fully vaccinated before Covid-19 precautions can be lifted broadly. Until then, it is important that everyone continues to adhere to public health mitigation measures to protect the large number of people who remain unvaccinated, said the CDC.

Over 116 million vaccine doses have been distributed across the US as of Monday, and more than 92 million doses have been administered, according to the latest CDC data.

Just 9.2 per cent of the US population has been fully vaccinated with a Covid-19 vaccine, the CDC estimated.

NEWSMAKERS

Britain's Royals Silent As 'Megxit' Crisis Rages After Bombshell Interview

Agenceis

LONDON: Britain's monarchy kept its silence on Tuesday, after Meghan and Prince Harry sparked a crisis by alleging that a family member made a racist remark about the colour of their son's skin and that she was alienated to the point of contemplating suicide.

The family, led by Queen Elizabeth, 94, was grappling with how to respond to Oprah Winfrey's TV interview, in which Harry also said that his father, heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles, had let him down.

"Worst Royal Crisis in 85 Years," read the front page of the Daily Mirror newspaper, while the Daily Mail's cover asked "What Have They Done?" and The Sun columnist Trev-

or Kavanagh questioned if the interview meant the end for the royals.

"It could hardly be more damaging to the royal family, not least because there is little it can do to defend itself," The Times said in a lead article under the title "Royal Attack".

"The key to the monarchy's survival over the centuries has been its ability to adapt to the needs of the times. It needs to adapt again," The Times said.

Elizabeth, who has been on the throne for 69 years, wanted to take some time before the palace issued a response, a royal source said.

Opponents of the monarchy said the allegations made by Meghan and Harry showed just how rotten the institution was, although some royal supporters cast Meghan as a public-

ity seeker with an eye on Hollywood stardom.

But the gravity of the claims raised uncomfortable questions about how the British monarchy, which survived centuries of revolution that toppled their cousins, could function in a meritocratic world.

Meghan, 39, whose mother is Black and father is white, said she had been naive before she married into royalty in 2018, but that she ended up having suicidal thoughts and considering self-harm after pleading for help but getting none.

Meghan said her son Archie, who turns two in May, had been denied the title of prince because there were concerns within the royal family "about how dark his skin might be when he's born".

5 Key Points From Prince Harry And Meghan Markle's Explosive TV Interview

LONDON: Oprah Winfrey's two-hour prime-time interview with Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, contained revelations and allegations that have left Britain's royal family reeling, painting a picture of racism, insensitivity and deep-rooted dysfunction.

The palace has not responded to the interview, broadcast in the US on Sunday night, which has made headlines and sparked debate around the world.

Meghan, who is biracial, said before the couple had their son Archie, there had been "concerns and conversations" between Harry and the family "about how dark his skin might be when he's born."

Harry confirmed there was a conversation about "what will the kids

look like." He said he would never reveal who was involved, but Winfrey said he told her it was not his grandparents, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip.

Meghan also said she was treated differently by the British media compared to Prince William's wife Catherine, who was also followed closely by the press and even dubbed "Waity Katie" on account of the couple's long courtship.

"While I imagine that was really hard—and I do, I can't picture what that felt like—this is not the same," Meghan said.

"And if a member of his family would comfortably say, we've all had to deal with things that are rude"—rude and racist are not the same," Meghan said her isolation and

unhappiness inside the royal family grew so bad that "I just didn't want to be alive anymore."

"And that was a very clear, and real, and frightening, constant thought," she said. So she said she sought help from the palace's human resources department, but did not receive it.

"I went to the institution and I said that I needed to go somewhere to get help. I said that I've never felt this way before, and I need to go somewhere," she said. "And I was told that I couldn't, that it wouldn't be good for the institution."

Harry said that, through his relationship with Meghan, he realized that he and his family were all trapped inside an oppressive system.

"I was trapped, but I didn't know I was trapped," he said.

"My father and my brother, they are trapped. They don't get to leave." He also claimed there was a toxic relationship between the royals and the media and that Britain's royal family was afraid of the tabloid press "turning on them."

"There is a level of control by fear that has existed for generations," he said.

Harry revealed a breakdown in his relations with his father Prince Charles, who is heir to the British throne, and elder brother Prince William, the second in line.

He said at one point Charles stopped taking his calls, and there was still "a lot to work through" in their relationship.

PM Modi's Statement On 'Special Status' Abrogation Misleading: Soz



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Former union minister and senior Congress leader Prof Saifuddin Soz Tuesday said PM Narendra Modi's statement at Kolkata on Monday about the abrogation of Article 370 was misleading and unfortunate.

In a statement, Soz said that it was really unfortunate that PM Modi has made a deceptive statement at Kolkata, the other day that the Abrogation of Article 370 was done by the Central Government in favour of the people of J&K State.

"How can PM Modi take the people of J&K for granted, who are actually deeply distressed on the illegal abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution of India. The most evil aspect of this abrogation is that the Central Government enacted this wrong act all by itself, although the people of Jammu and Kashmir happen to

be the first party to the agreement," he said.

He said that the entire world knows that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are deeply angry on the Central Government's one-sided unconstitutional measure.

"The people of Kashmir have already indicated, in an ample measure, that they will struggle for restoration of the autonomy of the state as enshrined in the Article 370 of the Constitution of India."

He said that there are some politicians in Jammu and Kashmir who are trying to mislead the people of Kashmir by stressing the restoration of the Statehood which essentially is not the same thing as restoration of the Autonomy to the J&K State.

"On the restoration of statehood, the Modi Government is committed through its statement to this effect, on the floor of the Parliament," he said.

JK Bank Conducts Shopian DLRC Meeting



Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Bank Tuesday conducted District Level Review Cum Consultative Committee (DLRCC) meeting which was chaired by District Development Commissioner Shopian Sachin Kumar Vaishya (IAS).

The mandatory meeting was organised by Shopian Lead Bank Office to review the performance of banks and line departments for the 3rd quarter ended December 2020 under District Credit Action Plan 2020-21. Besides Lead Bank Manager (LDM) Shopian Ghulam Rasool Dar, the meeting saw representatives from various banks and line departments in attendance.

DDC Shopian stressed on the need to increase awareness in every nook and corner of the district so that benefits of schemes

launched by government reach to maximum people. He emphasised that schemes rolled out by Govt. of India under Atmanirbhar Bharat Aabyan should be implemented in letter and spirit by all stake holders with close coordination.

Highlighting the achievement of the banks operating in the district for the period under review, LDM Shopian informed the house that the deposits portfolio recorded a YoY growth of 27.78% with total deposits amounting to Rs. 1445.30 Cr at the end of third quarter of the current FY. A YoY growth of 18.09% was registered in credit portfolio as total advances increased to Rs. 1474.80 Cr recorded at the end of third quarter out of which Rs. 1160.77 Cr were disbursed under Priority Sector and Rs. 314.10 Cr under Non-Priority Sector. Cash Deposit (CD) ratio for the district stood at 102.04%.

Illicit Timber Seized, Smuggler Arrested

Observer News Service

GANDERBAL: Jammu and Kashmir Police in Ganderbal on Tuesday claimed that a large quantity of illicit timber was seized in the district.

A police spokesperson in a statement said that acting on the directions of SSP Ganderbal Khalil Poswal-JKPS) a team of Police Station Gund led by SHO Police Station Gund INSP Lateef Ali under the supervision of SDPO

Kangan Syed Yasir Qadri- JKPS seized a large quantity of illegally cut timber from the possession of one accused person Riyaz Ah Bajran son of Muhammad Rafiq Bajran, a resident of Village Hil-pati Haknar Gund.

The police statement said that a case under FIR No. 11/2021 U/S 379 IPC, 26 IF ACT has been registered at Police Station Gund and further investigation set into motion.



Israel's Galilee Institute To Train SKUAST-K Faculty

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Galilee International Management Institute (GIMI), Israel is conducting a series of programmes for the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Kashmir faculty, with an aim to enhance capacities of SKUAST-K in various modern agriculture technologies, and business management skills, a university spokesperson said in a statement on Tuesday.

The International Faculty Development Programme has been organised under the World Bank-ICAR funded National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP) for the institutional development of the SKUAST-K.

All in all 122 faculty members of the SKUAST-K are participating in 184-hour comprehensive academic training. Among the participants, 15 female faculty members have been provided scholarships for the training by the GIMI Israel under its Women Empowerment Programme. The programme, specially designed as per the needs of the SKUAST-K faculty, comprises of 10 courses.

The courses are: Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, Integrated Water Resource Management for Sustainable Development, Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Times of Change, Irrigation Methodologies for Improved Yield Production, Development of Sustainable Aquaculture Industry, Advanced Technologies for Dairy Livestock Farms, Agribusiness Sustainable Farm Management for Smallholders, Environment Management Solutions, and Renewable Energy.

Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof

Mushtaq Ahmed, who was the chief guest at the inaugural function, appreciated the collaborations of SKUAST-K with many international institutions of excellence and higher learning through NAHEP. He advised the faculty to be proactive in channelizing their faculties and energies in creating a desirable teaching-learning environment and employ modern concepts and research methodologies in developing the technologies for the farmers.

Director Education, SKUAST-K, Prof MH Balkhi emphasised the necessity of seeking new knowledge. He highlighted the importance of training in the present-day education system and asked the teachers to develop the habit of critical thinking.

Dr Joseph Shevel, President GIMI, Israel, who was the keynote speaker and delivered his lecture online, presented an overview of the economy and civil amenities in India and Israel. He said that Israel has become a \$400 billion economy with only 9 million population through discoveries, innovations and knowledge-driven business development. While emphasising on the need for adoption of the latest technologies in water resource management, optimum input use, super crop varieties, digital and precision farming, greenhouse technologies etc which Israel has evolved in recent times, he said it is possible to double the income of farmers in India.

He emphasised the need for strengthening the cooperation between GIMI, SKUAST and farmers of J&K UT for taking the benefits of advanced technologies to farmers.

He also informed about the part-

nerships and collaborations of GIMI with various states of the country and the Government of India in agriculture and allied areas.

Director Planning & Monitoring SKUAST-K and PI NAHEP, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, gave a comprehensive account of the vision, mission and mandate of the IDP-NAHEP. He highlighted the relevance of partnership and collaborations with the institutions of excellence and higher learning abroad for the capacity building for the faculty and students of the university. He said discovery, innovations and leadership skills in the next generation of human capital are key to driving a knowledge-intensive and technology-driven Agri economy.

HRM Consultant for IDP-NAHEP, Prof Farooq Ahmad Zaki presented the overview of developments and advances made in the agriculture scenario of Israel. He talked about greenhouse technologies, water conservation and irrigation technologies, genetically engineered crop varieties, greening o deserts, man-made forests etc. Dr Parvaize Sofi, Associate Professor, FOA, Wadura welcomed the guests and Dr Ikhlq Wani, Associate Professor, Forestry presented the vote of thanks.

Deputy Director-General, GIMI, Guy Wolf; Dean Students Welfare MAA Siddique; Associate Dean College of Temperature Sericulture, Dr MF Baqal, besides various faculty members and training participants, attended the inaugural function.

'Agrucation', the bi-monthly newsletter of SKUAST-K under NAHEP-IDP, was also released at the occasion.

Crime Branch Produces Chargesheet In Habalas Multi-Crore Fraud

Press Trust of India

JAMMU: The crime branch of Jammu and Kashmir police, which filed a supplementary chargesheet against four accused in the Habalas e-commerce multi-crore fraud in Poonch district, has established that the prime accused had diverted huge amounts of money that was collected from people for his personal gains and booked apartments in Delhi.

The crime branch produced supplementary chargesheet-II against accused Tariq Mehmood, Murtaza Ahmed, Imtiaz Ahmed and Ali Mohd in the high-profile case of multi-crore fraud, the CB officials said.

The accused were involved in duping gullible people of their money on the pretext of doubling it within three weeks time by inducement, they said.

The preliminary chargesheet of the case has already been produced by Crime Branch, Jammu against six accused persons in the court of Sub-Judge Mendhar on July 20, 2019 followed by

production of supplementary chargesheet-I against two more accused on April 4 last year.

During the course of investigation, nine accused were arrested by the crime branch and recoveries were made on their disclosure in the form of both cash and kind, including 5 vehicles, besides seizing and sealing immovable property in the form of shops belonging to the accused in Poonch.

In the supplementary chargesheet, it has also been established that prime accused Tariq has diverted a huge amount of money collected from people for his personal gains, as the probe showed it has been found that the accused booked a flat in Delhi for an amount of Rs 1.5 crore for which he has paid consideration amount of Rs 28 lakh to the concerned.

Moreover, accused Ali Mohammad who was evading arrest had fled to Saudi Arabia and was arrested by the crime branch team after a lot of effort, it said.

The chargesheet has been produced in the Court of Chief Judicial

Magistrate Poonch for judicial determination.

As per the case diary, a written complaint was lodged at Mendhar police station in Poonch district by Abdul Karim and others, alleging therein that the above accused among the other co-accused induced and duped the gullible people of Mendhar and its surrounding areas by offering online shopping of quality products on huge discounts.

Along with the discounts, gift items and cash deposits were offered with the promise of doubling the money in three weeks time and thereby duping thousands of people of their hard earned money running into crores of rupees.

Initially, the case was registered at Mendhar police station but being a case of immense public importance, the investigation was transferred to the crime branch and the probe taken up, they said.

In accordance, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted by Crime Branch, Jammu for an in-depth investigation of the case.

Dulloo For Prompt Issuance Of 'Sehat' Cards



Observer News Service

JAMMU: Financial Commissioner, Health and Medical Education, Atal Dulloo Tuesday chaired a meeting of Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana - SEHAT Scheme (AB-PMJAY-SEHAT) to review the progress of registration of beneficiaries and generation of Golden Cards in Jammu and Kashmir.

While chairing the meeting, Financial Commissioner stressed upon the officers for prompt issuance of SEHAT cards under the scheme to all registered beneficiaries and registration of all left outs on BIS Portal. He also directed the concerned authorities to start Information Education and Communication (IEC) activities on mission mode by roping in other departments for creating mass awareness in the districts for speeding up registration process.

The FC also directed the State Managers of Community Service Centres to activate Village Level Entrepreneurs so as to improve the registration process in rural areas.

Dulloo directed all the Medical Superintendents and Chief Medical Officers that the patients of the IPDs should be provided benefits under the scheme. He further directed them that special camps should be organised for increasing the registration process besides timely sub-

mission of claims and reply to queries should be done for ease of beneficiaries.

They were further asked to submit the registration report under SEHAT scheme on daily basis. The FC also directed the insurance companies to release the payment to the hospitals without raising any unnecessary queries.

Highlighting about the scheme, Dulloo said that AB PM-JAY SEHAT Scheme is one of the most ambitious schemes of Government of Jammu & Kashmir and it is heartening to see residents availing benefits from reputed empanelled hospitals of Jammu & Kashmir under this scheme.

The meeting also discussed in detail the modalities for speeding up the registration for SEHAT scheme and directions were passed on to all the Deputy Commissioners to increase registration of beneficiaries under the scheme in their respective districts.

During the meeting, the FC was briefed about the registration process and the issuance of the Golden Cards.

The Financial Commissioner was further informed that since the launch of the scheme, 30,80,305 residents of Jammu and Kashmir have already been registered under the scheme and 23,97,677 Golden cards have been issued to eligible beneficiaries.

H&H Deptt Organises Awareness Cum Registration Camp For Artisans, At Danew Wazirpora, Kulgam



Observer News Service

KULGAM: Department of Handlooms and Handicrafts, Kulgam (Handlooms Wing), on Monday organized daylong Artisan Awareness cum registration Camp at Danew Wazirpora, Kulgam.

The camp was inaugurated by Additional Deputy commissioner, Kulgam, Showkat Ahmad Rather.

On the occasion, the Additional Deputy commissioner, Kulgam said that the objective of organising the camp was to make artisans aware of various welfare programmes and schemes of the department.

He appealed to the artisan fraternity to come forward and get themselves registered with the department so that they can avail the benefits, without any difficulty for their overall socioeconomic development.

The programme being organised on International Women's

Day, Assistant Director Handlooms, Muqbil Lateef Hussain, apprised the female participants about the schemes run by Government for upliftment of girls, besides providing information available with the department for the welfare of Weaver community in general. A number of questions were answered regarding these schemes, by the officers.

In addition to it, on-spot registration process was conducted for weavers, by the department.

Later Weaver Registration Cards & Cooperative Registration Certificates were distributed by ADC, Kulgam & AD Handlooms & Handicrafts, Kulgam.

Functional Manager DIC, LDM J&K Bank & representatives from JKEDI, RDD and other banks also attended the function.

Some Finished Goods produced in Training Centres run by the department in District Kulgam, were also displayed.

PMO Stresses On Need For Equitable Distribution Of Covid Vaccines

Observer News Service

JAMMU: Dr PK Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting to review the public health response to COVID-19 and asked all the States and Union territories to assiduously expedite vaccination of priority groups in accordance with the guidelines, in this regard.

Cabinet Secretary, Union Secretaries of the concerned departments, and Chief Secretaries of all the States and Union Territories were present in the meeting.

While reviewing the situation, the Principal Secretary to the PM appreciated the efforts of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, State/UT Governments, respective Health Departments and the medical field staff for the successful phase-wise roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccination. It was informed that, till date, more than 2.4 million people have been vaccinated across India in one of the world's largest

vaccination drives.

It was informed that the COWIN Portal is hosting geo-tagged locations of all the vaccination centres along with the data on vaccine availability and supply chain management, which can be used by the States/UTs to facilitate vaccination-related planning and monitoring. Stress was laid on gradual ramping up of the vaccination related facilities to organise gross root drives for inclusive and equitable coverage of population.

The States/UTs were asked to lay special focus on sharing the vaccination schedule across respective vaccination centres over the next 15 days, efficient monitoring of the supply chain management of vaccines to reduce wastage on account of expiration, a gradual increase in the number as well as the capacity of vaccination centres, crowd management at vaccination sites, and general promotion COVID appropriate behaviour.

The States/UTs were also asked to

ensure a multi-sectoral response in addition to swift vaccination drives to prevent subsequent waves of infection especially in the wake of the emergence of mutant strains of the virus. They were advised to ardently promote COVID appropriate behaviour, improve the rate of testing especially in districts that are falling short of target quotas, increase the share of RTPCR tests viz-a-viz RATs, monitor mutant strain for early hotspot identification, adopt re-focused & stringent containment strategies and undertake priority vaccination with provisions of geographically targeted vaccination in clusters witnessing a surge in COVID cases.

In Jammu and Kashmir, COVID-19 vaccination drives are being held across 2834 COVID Vaccination Centres (CVCs) including 34 private centres. The vaccines are being administered free of cost at all government CVCs and at private centres against the payment of Rs. 250 per dose.

Cultural Event Inaugurated At Tulip Garden Kud

Observer News Service

UDHAMPUR: District Administration Udhampur in collaboration with Tourism Department Tuesday organised a day long mega cultural festival at Tulip Garden Kud.

District Development Commissioner, Dr Piyush Singla was the chief guest and inaugurated the mega cultural event in presence of Block Development Council Chairman, Chennai, Parkash Chand.

In his inaugural address, the DDC said that promotion of tourism in the area is the top most priority of UT Government. He added that the Highland Park Kud spread over an area of 1.5 kanal is ready to welcome the tourists with more than 9000 colorful tulips. He said that district Administration Udhampur was mulling to institutionalise the event on annual basis so that more and more tourists are attracted to this scenic area of the district.

While appreciating natural scenic beauty of the area, the DDC said that this area is under main focus of UT government for developing a tourism circuit for promotion of tourism.

A scintillating cultural programme was also presented by Information De-



partment and local artists which was highly appreciated by the audiences.

Different departments like Agriculture, Horticulture, Social Welfare, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Handicraft, Handloom, DIC, Sericulture, Apiculture, Floriculture, State Bank of India, ICDS, etc had set up their departmental stalls for awareness of various departmental schemes.

The DDC took a round of the stalls installed by various departments for disseminating information about welfare and other schemes. Social Welfare department also distributed Assistive devices among especially abled persons and ICDS department distributed mamta

kits to newly born girl child. Stalls of local cuisines were also installed by local people to display and promote the local products.

Local people and elected representatives appreciated the initiative of District administration and Tourism department for organizing this mega event at Tulip Garden Kud. Chief Executive Officer, PDA, Sachin Dev Singh; Chief Planning Officer, Rajeev Bhushan; Programme Officer ICDS, Attar Chand; SDM Chenani, Abdul Sattar; District Social Welfare Officer, Er Sajad Bashir Somberia; AD Tourism Umesh Shan and officers and officials of other departments were present on the occasion.

KASHMIR
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K O V I E W

DDCs take centre stage

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has placed recently elected District Development Council (DDC) chairpersons at serial number 26 in the new warrant of precedence which among others includes Divisional Commissioners, Inspector Generals of Police, joint secretaries to the union government and officers of equivalent rank besides the administrative secretaries and officers of the rank of Major General or equivalent rank. The DDC vice-chairpersons have been placed at serial number 27, equivalent to the vice-chancellors of universities.

Similarly, the DDC members along with Block Development Council members and president of municipal councils and municipalities will enjoy the protocol like that of district magistrates, officers of the rank of Brigadier and equivalent, major heads of departments and district and session judges.

With the warrant of precedence being set, the DDCs are bound to take centre stage in J&K even as Assembly polls and statehood remain elusive. The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration, a grouping of Kashmiri parties seeking restoration of J&K autonomy, won 110 out of 280 seats in the DDC elections. This made it a favourite to gain power in 12 districts. But it ended up controlling just eight districts - five in Kashmir Valley and three in Jammu. On the other hand, the BJP won the posts of chairpersons in six districts, the BJP allied Apni Party in two and the People's Conference in one. The other three districts were won by the independent candidates. Among the PAGD's eight seats, the NC candidates won six and the PDP and the Communist Party won one each.

Congress has been the biggest loser. It controls no district despite winning 26 seats. It, however, managed to win the vice-chairperson posts in Kishtwar and Rajouri districts with the support of the PAGD. This is a sad turn of events for a party that was a major political player in J&K before 2014. It was a part of the two successive governments, one with the PDP and another with the NC.

Be that as it may, the DDCs are all that J&K has in terms of democratic governance in the absence of assembly elections. With the J&K administration extending the time of the Delimitation Commission by one more year, there is no way elections will be held in the next one and a half. So, people will have to make do with the DDCs only. But their function will be strictly developmental in nature. They have no political role. This makes the DDCs an extension of the bureaucracy. For a real democracy to work it has to give voice to the political aspirations of the people. And for that to happen the government should work towards holding assembly elections in right earnest.

O T H E R O P I N O N

Heavy is the head that wears the crown

The interview that the Queen's grandson and his wife, the Duchess of Sussex, gave to their friend Oprah Winfrey painted a picture of a Britain under a thin aristocratic crust that was wreathed in a "toxic atmosphere" in which the Windsors were either willingly or unwillingly trapped. Royal life, the couple said, was stalked by the fear of the tabloid press. These charges cannot be treated lightly. Prince Harry is the ultimate palace insider, with a ringside seat at the royal circus for decades.

The monarchy's soft power rests upon the great social - and political - pressure not to embarrass the Queen. The royal family has been obliged to protect her interests and shield her from criticism, aware that their fortunes are tied to preserving the monarchy's hold over people. Prince Harry has broken this rule, and he seems to care little that he has done so. Like his mother, Diana, Princess of Wales, he outmanoeuvred the palace because he was willing to bare his soul in public. Princess Diana's fury with her husband and his betrayals did not threaten "the firm" until she died. The prince has fired a missile from California at the heart of the establishment while very much alive.

This is no accident. In speaking to Ms Winfrey, whose secular authority is greater than any US politician, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex are signalling that the English-speaking world now has two royal households to choose from and identify with. One appears to trade in the politics of emotion, feeling people's pain just as they felt theirs. The other, if one accepts the Sussexes account, is flawed and cruel - and unable to cope with mental suffering.

The rule that embarrassment to the Queen should be avoided at all costs only applies if you wish to play the game. The Sussexes have been financially cut off by the royal family. In telling their side of the story they have boosted their global celebrity, and almost certainly their popularity, on which their income depends. Media deals have reportedly made them multimillionaires. They were frozen out after the palace decided that one could not represent the Queen at public engagements while making money from such self-promoting business activities.

Yet l'affaire Sussex is more than about money. In the UK, the monarch has the final power of decision and retains that right because they refrain from political manoeuvring. Even if this were true - and given this paper's revelations about Queen's consent suggest it is not - the monarch's desire to be above the fray today looks like royal disdain for social movements such as Black Lives Matter and #MeToo that the Duchess of Sussex has promoted.

The Sussexes have vividly dramatised the real challenge of staying out of politics for the monarchy. A grouse-shooting, landowning ruling caste is likely to support certain political ideas, but to ensure its popularity it remains silent on the big issues. What the Sussexes show is that being relatable and relevant as royals was impossible because it would come into conflict with the monarchy's very real powers. Whether a hereditary head of state is required today ought to be considered in a programme of reform that the British state clearly - and urgently - needs.

The Guardian

Whenever we enter any town, we often see barricades erected by the local municipality. This is known as Chungi in local language which during the days of yore was called Gurzar waan or octroi post. A certain amount of tax is collected from every commercial vehicle ranging between Rs 20 , 30 or even Rs 50 depending upon the type of vehicle (small , medium and large). The money collected on account of tax by the local municipality is supposed to be spent on welfare measures especially sanitation. In almost all the towns of Jammu & Kashmir, majority of this tax money is paid as salaries to the employees of Municipal Councils and Committees. Not even 20 % of the amount is spent on the upkeep of town or municipal solid waste management. Leaving aside Srinagar or Jammu city , every town of Jammu & Kashmir has become a trash town as heaps of municipal solid waste can be seen on roadside , open plots or around rivulets and other water-bodies. The law enforcers who were supposed to implement and enforce the Municipal Solid Waste Rules 2016 (MSW Rules) are themselves violating these rules. The violations are so gruesome that it is simply a criminal offence but who will take action against the municipal institutions ? On the other hand, municipal institutions also have some challenges which the Government is not addressing and the ultimate sufferers are the citizens.

MSW Rules 2016

In 2016, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change came up with the new Solid Waste Management Rules also called Municipal Solid Waste Rules 2016 (MSW Rules). These rules are the sixth category of waste management rules and do not include plastic, e-waste, biomedical, hazardous and construction and demolition waste. As per these new rules 'waste' is defined as solid waste alone which is generated by all the households, hospitality industry, big and small market vendors. These rules are applicable beyond municipal areas and extend to urban agglomerations, census towns, notified industrial townships. The 2016 rules call upon waste generators to start segregating their waste into three categories - Biodegradables, Dry Waste (Plastic, Paper, metal, Wood) and Domestic Hazardous Waste (diapers, napkins, mosquito repellents, shaving kits, cleaning agents) before they hand it over to the collectors. The MSW Rules 2016 says that waste generators will have to pay some amount to the waste collectors for activities like collection, disposal, and processing of waste. The municipal bodies in India have the authority to decide the 'User Fees.'The rules also stipulate zero tolerance for throwing, burning or burying the solid waste generated on streets, open public spaces, water bodies, etc. "Spot Fines" are also introduced under these new rules which means if someone is found littering or disobeying the guidelines, then local bodies have the authority to fine them.

Unfortunately, in our towns and even cities, the waste is burnt and thrown into water bodies by municipal employees and sanitation workers as well. I won't blame them because the Government has miserably failed to provide them land outside the town for creating a scientific landfill site. MSW Rules 2016 make it mandatory that no non-recyclable waste having calorific value of 1500 KJ/cal/kg or more shall be disposed of in the landfills. That waste can either be utilised for generating energy or can be used for preparing refuse derived fuel (RDF). J&K Government in fact took many cement plant owners from Kashmir on a field trip to Karnataka a few years back to show them how RDF works in cement kilns, but the Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) didn't carry forward this programme as RDF was to be supplied by SMC to cement factories.2016 MSW Rules say that landfill site should be 100 metres away from a river, 200 metres from a pond, 500 metres away from highways, habitations, public parks and water supply wells and 20 km away from airports/airbase. In Kulgam and Poonch towns, both the landfill sites are near the banks of rivers and



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

Marks don't matter

Class 12th J&K Bose annual regular result of winter zone (Kashmir) has been declared on 8th of March 2021. But, this result was no less than a twist for the aspirants. It may have been a shock of happiness or grief for them. Some students maybe in a great sorrow because they think that they deserved more marks than they have gotten. But the students who think so and who think that they are losers are totally wrong. Marks can never decide what you are or what you will be. You are still worth and valuable. Let me quote a story to make you understand and to refresh your mind: Once a person ask God what is my value? God gave him a stone and told him

to ask everyone its value, but not to sell it. The man took that stone and went to an orange seller. He showed it to orange seller and asked him its value. The orange seller answered that I can give you 10 oranges for this precious stone. He apologize to him and said that God has told me not to sell it and he went away. Now he went to a vegetable seller and asked the same question to him, the vegetable seller answered that I can give you a sack of potatoes for this stone but he apologized and went away, now he reached a jeweler and asked him the same question, the trailer replied that I can give you a ring for this precious stone, he apologize to him also and went away, finally, he reached a precious stone-seller and asked him the

value of the stone, he answered that I can give you 50 lakh for it. the man became surprised and became speechless and became silent, now the stone-seller told him that okay if 5 lakh is less than I can give you 2 crores but, will you give me the precious stone. The man didn't gave him the stone and went to God and asked him now please tell me what is my value, god told him listen: like the precious stone was deserving 2 crores but the orange seller was giving you only 20 orange for this stone, similarly, your value is very precious but people do not understand it people only judge you on the basis of the their information and the way they see you but, I know you are very valuable but not the people, because they only judge you on the basis

of what they see.

Same is the story of your life, marks hardly matter they don't value, but the people who judge you on the basis of marks have the same information and ideology like that of the orange seller. And those who are like the stone sellers will praise you because they know what your value is. A three-digit number can never decide you're future and you were personality. And remember marks and Merit cannot predict what you are but your hard work predicts and decides so, and always remember what Al-lama Iqbal has said "girtai hain sheh-saawar maidaanai jung main, Woh tift hi kya girai jo ghutno ke bal chale Hina Jaan hinaan@gradtiff

The Trash Towns of Jammu & Kashmir

Implement MSW Rules 2016 in toto . Why collect tax from commercial vehicles when people don't get any service?

Dr Raja MUZAFFAR BHAT

during rainfall and floods the entire municipal solid waste is washed away and the same water is supplied by the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department to people after mere chlorination or sedimentation.

UNDP report on solid waste disposal

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in one of its reports published some years back said that the second most serious problem that city dwellers face (after unemployment) is insufficient solid waste disposal. Whenever there is a discussion on waste Management, the municipal authorities raise an issue about non availability of garbage dumping sites. This is a very valid reason. Our towns and cities have been choked and land availability is very less. So creating new garbage dump sites or even scientific landfills is a challenging task for Government agencies. For decades, authorities in J&K state have not devised any mechanism to treat the garbage in cities and towns. The Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) is simply lifted from one place and then dumped at another site. Our Urban Local Bodies are merely re-locating the waste and not treating it and there are many municipal institutions who do not even relocate the waste as these municipalities don't have a land to dump the municipal waste.

Role of Deputy Commissioners

Under Rule No 12 of Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 Deputy Commissioners / District Magistrates have an important role to play, but in view of their other priorities, most of the DCs don't take the issue of solid waste management seriously. The Deputy Commissioners are supposed to work in close coordination with the Administrative Secretary of Housing & Urban Development Department (HUDD) vis a vis identification of land for creating scientific landfill sites, setting

For decades, authorities in J&K state have not devised any mechanism to treat the garbage in cities and towns. The Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) is simply lifted from one place and then dumped at another site. Our Urban Local Bodies are merely re-locating the waste and not treating it and there are many municipal institutions who do not even relocate the waste as these municipalities don't have a land to dump the municipal waste

up solid waste processing and disposal units. This was to be done within one year from the date of notification of SWM Rules 2016. More than 6 years have passed and most of the DCs in J&K are yet to identify the suitable land for creating landfill sites for the municipal committees or councils in their respective districts. There is not even a single municipal committee or council where the solid waste is being treated on scientific lines.

In Municipal Council Budgam, a successful pilot work was taken up in 2016-2017. The private enterprise which was executing the work on a no-gain-no-loss basis was composting the biodegradable waste at a designated site and making compost out of it. The said site is now abode for dogs as the working has been stopped due to non-cooperation from the administrative department. In-spite of allotment of work for another one year through a proper tender process the work could not be executed as the Government said they don't have any budget for carrying the work forward. When there was no budget for the same why did the authorities tender out the work ? Pertinently, the financial implication for this door to door collection and treatment plus segregation project was mere 15 to 17 lakhs a year which could have been generated by the local municipality by collecting sanitation fees collected from local households. When people will get proper service they won't hesitate to pay Rs 50 or even Rs 100 per month to local municipal institutions.

Enforcers turning Violators

I have written a lot about unscientific disposal of solid waste with practical instances from different districts . Irony is that municipal bodies who are supposed to implement and enforce the SWM Rules 2016 are themselves grossly violating it. The disturbing situation is that the municipal solid waste is being dumped either inside or near the water bodies by most of the municipal bodies in

Jammu & Kashmir. The Municipal Council Udhampur , Municipal Committee Magam (Budgam) , Municipal Committee Kulgam , Municipal Committee Bandipora, Municipal Committee Ramban etc are grossly violating the MSW Rules by dumping municipal waste in lakes , wetlands and rivers. In Udhampur town, the municipal waste is dumped inside a forest area on Jammu -Srinagar highway (NH 44). In Magam town, the garbage is dumped by local municipality on the banks of Ferozpur nallah .Kulgam Municipality dumps the solid waste on the banks of Vishaw river, Municipal Committee Bandipora dumps it near the banks of famous Wullar lake at Zalwan village and Municipal Committee Ramban dumps all the trash including dead animals near the banks of Chenab river.

While on my visit to Poonch in 2018, I found Municipal Council Poonch dumping all its solid waste including biomedical waste on the banks of Poonch river. I can't blame only municipal officers as they don't get cooperation from higher authorities or local Deputy Commissioners. The Deputy Commissioners are themselves unable to address this menace as the situation is very complex plus land availability is very meager in J&K. Monthly meetings on implementation of SWM Rules are hardly held and even if the meetings are held it ends with no positive outcome because the issue is very complex in nature. To address these complexities, authorities need to take various stakeholders on board and hold roundtables with technical organizations and individuals involved in waste management work. The administrative department is not showing seriousness on the issue. In past Govt invited tenders under PPP model for waste management in towns by clubbing the towns into clusters. This was a flawed model which had no takers and till date the fresh tenders have not neither been invited nor has the Govt rectified that tender document (NIT).

The municipal institutions under Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) were hardly serious about sanitation and addressing solid waste issues in the past. They had been busy only with executing the civil works and making backdoor appointments. In 2012, I sought information from Municipal Committee Chadoora under RTI Act which revealed that out of Rs 1 crore revenue generated from tax collection , 90 lakhs was spent on salaries and administrative expenses. The town has no official landfill site and with the result waste is either dumped on the banks of Doodh Ganga river or thrown around various locations.

Conclusion

It is not the year 2016 when solid waste rules were brought in for the first time in India. More than 20 years ago, the Government of India came up with MSW Rules in 2000. The 2016 rules is sort of an amendment to Solid Waste Rules of 2000. The 21 year old rules also focused on source segregation of waste plus its processing, but the J & K Government never implemented them on the ground and now after two decades people are made to suffer. Had our policy makers and politicians been visionary the situation would not have been alarming. The J&K Pollution Control Board (PCB) has also been mum over this issue, with the result managing solid or liquid waste has become a challenging task for municipal institutions. Government on the other hand is acting like an ostrich and not taking unscientific waste disposal seriously thus putting the lives of citizens at risk.

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

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MAIL YOUR LETTERS

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The Colonial Crown

BENJAMIN T. JONES

It is a tragic story at an individual level but it also points to a history of structural racism within the monarchy. Harry noted that the press attacks on his wife had “colonial undertones”, which the royal family refused to address. These are part of a longer history of colonialism and racism in which the Windsors are entangled.

The most explosive element of the Sussexes’ highly anticipated interview with Oprah Winfrey was the claim that someone within the royal household had “concerns” over how dark-skinned the couple’s son Archie might be.

While Winfrey later clarified neither the Queen nor the Duke of Edinburgh were behind the remark, Meghan also suggested their son was denied the title of prince because of his mixed race.

The interview points to a larger issue of racism in the British monarchy, both contemporary and historical.

When the couple began dating, some hoped it would usher in a period of royal renewal. Meghan, who has an African-American mother and a white father, was presented as a symbol of the modern, inclusive monarchy. These hopes were gradually dashed with consistently negative media coverage, including unfavourable comparisons with Meghan’s sister-in-law, Kate Middleton, the Duchess of Cambridge.

Meghan revealed to Winfrey that the pressure to perform official duties in the face of mounting criticism led to depression and suicidal thoughts. The couple lamented the lack of support they received from the royal family.

It is a tragic story at an individual level but it also points to a history of structural racism within the monarchy. Harry noted that the press attacks on his wife had “colonial undertones”, which the royal family refused to address. These are part of a longer history of colonialism and racism in which the Windsors are entangled.

The slave trade

The Queen’s distant ancestor, Elizabeth I, was integral to establishing the British slave trade. One of the founders of the trade in the 16th century, Sir John Hawkins, impressed Elizabeth by capturing 300 Africans. His biographer Harry Kelsey calls him “Queen Elizabeth’s Slave Trader” and notes that she contributed her ship, Jesus of Lubeck to his next voyage in 1564.

In 2018, Prince Charles denounced Britain’s role in the slave trade as an “atrocious” but there have been calls for the Queen also to apologise on behalf of the monarchy.

Republican campaigner Graham Smith has led the charge noting that the current royals “are sitting on a hugely significant amount which was acquired from slavery and empire”.

A colonial mindset

The British empire contracted after the World Wars and eventually dissolved in 1960s. Nevertheless, a colonial mindset has persisted. This has been regularly demonstrated by the casual racism of Prince Philip. Visiting Australia in 2002, he asked an Aboriginal Australian if they were “still throwing spears”.

In 1999, he mused that an old-fashioned fuse box must have been “put in by an Indian”. In 1986, he warned British students in China that they would become “slitty-eyed” if they stayed too long. Australia, China, and India, are just three of dozens of countries touched by British colonisation.

While the Prince’s comments — and many others — are often dismissed as “gaffes” or poor jokes, they tie into a culture war, suggesting colonialism



Being seventh in line to the throne, there was never a realistic chance Archie would become king. The notion that his mere proximity to the throne has sparked concerns, and the failure to defend Meghan from racist attacks, again points to a structural issue.

was ultimately a net good and Britain was spreading civilisation throughout the world.

Journalist Peter Tatchell has argued that the institution of monarchy is itself inherently racist as there have only been, and likely will only ever be, white monarchs. He notes,

A non-white person is [...] excluded from holding the title of head of state, at least for the foreseeable future. This is institutional racism.

While this could change, of course, the treatment of Meghan and the alleged concerns over her son’s skin colour suggest the privileging of whiteness is deeply ingrained.

Being seventh in line to the throne, there was never a realistic chance Archie would become king. The notion that his mere proximity to the throne has sparked concerns, and the failure to defend Meghan from racist attacks, again points to a structural issue.

The marriage of Harry and Meghan in 2018 by charismatic African-American Bishop Michael Curry, serenaded by a gospel choir, was a public relations coup for the royals. The Sussexes’ exit from royal life after such a short period, and the reasons why, is highly damaging.

Royal silence

The monarchy has remained largely silent on

the history of racism in Britain and how the royal family has benefited from racism and colonialism.

After the death of George Floyd sparked the Black Lives Matter movement, thousands across Britain were quick to show their support and solidarity. So strongly did the movement resonate, in 2020 the English Premier League had the words Black Lives Matter printed on players’ shirts, opening matches with players taking a symbolic knee.

The royal family said nothing. By protocol, the monarchy does not comment on political issues but its role is to offer moral leadership. Without explicitly endorsing Black Lives Matter, the Windsors could have contributed to the zeitgeist by offering statements condemning all forms of racism and visibly championing anti-racism charities.

As a society, Britain is having a difficult national conversation about its imperial past. Statues of slave owners are being torn down and attempts to decolonise the curriculum are gathering pace.

If the royal family is not able to make similar attempts to confront the racism in its past and present, it risks falling ever further out of touch with the people it is supposed to represent.

*By arrangements with
The Conversation*

LONDON – I was recently approached about setting up my own “special purpose acquisition company” (SPAC), which would allow me to secure financial commitments from investors on the expectation that I will eventually acquire some promising business that would prefer to avoid an initial public offering. In picturing myself in this new role, I mused that I could be doubly fashionable by also jumping into the burgeoning field of cryptocurrencies. There have been plenty of headlines about striking it big, quickly, so why not get in on the action??

Being a wizened participant in financial markets, I declined the invitation. The rising popularity of SPACs and cryptocurrencies seems to reflect not their own strengths but rather the excesses of the current moment, with its raging bull market in equities, ultra-low interest rates, and policy-driven rallies after a year of COVID-19 lockdowns.

To be sure, in some cases, pursuing the SPAC route to a healthy return probably makes a lot of sense. But the fact that so many of these entities are being created should raise concerns about looming risks in the surrounding markets.

As for the cryptocurrency phenomenon, I have tried to remain open-minded, but the economist in me struggles to make sense of it. I certainly understand the conventional complaints about the major fiat currencies. Throughout my career as a foreign-exchange analyst, I often found that it was much easier to dislike a given currency than it was to find one with obvious appeal.

I can still remember my thinking during the run-up to the introduction of the euro. Aggregating individual European economies under a shared currency would eliminate a key source of monetary-policy restraint – the much-feared German Bundesbank – and would introduce a new set of risks to the global currency market. This worry led me (briefly) to bet on gold. But by the time the euro was introduced in 1999, I had persuaded myself of its attractions and

changed my view (which turned out to be a mistake for the first couple of years, but not in the long term).

Similarly, I have lost count of all the papers I have written and read on the supposed unsustainability of the US balance of payments and the impending decline of the dollar. True, these warnings (and similar portents about Japan’s long-running experiment in monetary-policy largesse) have yet to be borne out. But, given all this inductive evidence, I can see why there is so much excitement behind Bitcoin, the modern version of gold, and its many competitors. Particularly in developing and “emerging” economies, where one often cannot trust the central bank or invest in foreign currencies, the opportunity to stow

The Bitcoin Lottery

JIM O’NEILL



The rising popularity of SPACs and cryptocurrencies seems to reflect not their own strengths but rather the excesses of the current moment, with its raging bull market in equities, ultra-low interest rates, and policy-driven rallies after a year of COVID-19 lockdowns

one’s savings in a digital currency is obviously an inviting one.

By the same token, there has long been a case to be made for creating a new world currency – or upgrading the International Monetary Fund’s reserve asset, special drawing rights – to mitigate some of the excesses associated with the dollar, euro, yen, pound, or any other national currency. For its part, China has already introduced a central bank digital currency, in the hopes of laying the foundation for a new, more stable global monetary system.

But these innovations are fundamentally different from a cryptocurrency like Bitcoin. The standard economic textbook view is that for a currency to be credible, it must serve as a means of exchange, a store of value, and a unit of

account. It is hard to see how a cryptocurrency could meet all three of these conditions all of the time. True, some cryptocurrencies have demonstrated an ability to perform some of these functions some of the time. But the price of Bitcoin, the canonical cryptocurrency, is so volatile that it is almost impossible to imagine it becoming a reliable store of value or means of exchange.

Moreover, underlying these three functions is the rather important role of monetary policy. Currency management is a key macroeconomic policy-making tool. Why should we surrender this function to some anonymous or amorphous force such as a decentralized ledger, especially one that caps the overall supply of currency, thus guaranteeing perpetual volatility?

At any rate, it will be interesting to see what happens to cryptocurrencies when central banks finally start raising interest rates after years of maintaining ultra-loose monetary policies. We have already seen that the price of Bitcoin tends to fall sharply during “risk-off” episodes, when markets suddenly move into safe assets. In this respect, it exhibits the same behavior as many “growth stocks” and other highly speculative bets.

In the interest of transparency, I did consider buying some Bitcoin a few years ago, when its price had collapsed from \$18,000 to below \$8,000 in the space of around two months. Friends of mine predicted that it would climb above \$50,000 within two years – and so it has.

Ultimately, I decided against it, because I had already taken a lot of risk investing in early-stage companies that at least served some obvious purpose. But even if I had bet on Bitcoin, I would have understood that it was just a speculative punt, not a bet on the future of the monetary system.

Speculative bets do of course sometimes pay off, and I congratulate those who loaded up on Bitcoin early on. But I would offer them the same advice I would offer to a lottery winner: Don’t let your windfall go to your head.

Project Syndicate

Fully Vaccinated People Can Gather Without Masks Indoors, Should Still Avoid Travel: US

Agencies

Washington: People who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 can meet without masks indoors in small groups with others who have been inoculated but should avoid non-essential travel and continue to wear face-coverings in public, the Biden administration said on Monday.

In a long-awaited update of its guidance for behaviours to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said fully vaccinated people could also meet in small groups with unvaccinated individuals deemed at low-risk for severe COVID-19 from one other household without masks.

The slight lifting of restrictions represented a still cautious approach to public health

guidance despite the quickly growing number of vaccinated people. President Joe Biden has urged Americans to remain vigilant and continue to follow CDC guidelines to prevent another surge of cases.

The CDC said fully vaccinated people should continue to follow many precautions such as avoiding big in-person gatherings, wearing masks when visiting with unvaccinated people from multiple households or wearing masks when with people at risk for severe COVID-19.

CDC Director Rochelle Walensky told reporters it was important to protect those who have not been vaccinated and remain vulnerable while some 60,000 new coronavirus cases occur every day.

"We remain in the midst of a serious pandemic, and still over 90 percent of our population is not fully vaccinated," she said. "Therefore, everyone whether



vaccinated or not, should continue to avoid medium- and large-sized gatherings as well as non-essential travel."

More than 525,000 people have died of COVID-19 in the United States. Biden, who took office on Jan. 20, has encouraged Americans to wear masks for

his first 100 days as president, a contrast from the approach by former President Donald Trump, who downplayed the pandemic and eschewed masks. Some states have begun to lift restrictions on a large scale.

Many Americans eager to get back to their pre-pandemic

way of life see vaccinations as a way to do that. Businesses, particularly in the travel and hospitality industry, are hopeful that a growing number of vaccinated people will feel comfortable flying and dining out again.

"An Important First Step"

The new guidelines address how vaccinated people can safely resume some more normal activities and contacts with those outside their households while the coronavirus is still widely circulating, but they did not represent a large shift.

"Today's action represents an important first step. It is not our final destination," Walensky said. "As more people get vaccinated, levels of COVID-19 infection decline in communities, and as our understanding of COVID immunity accrues, we look forward to updating these recommendations to the public."

Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE

Whereas an application has been recieved from one. Shri : Tanveer Ahmad Wani S/o: Mohammad Rafiq Wani R/o: Monchowda B.K. Pora Budgam owner of vehicle bearing Registration No: JK04D-5249 for cancellation of hire purchase agreement with M/S Mahindra & Mahindra Finance B/U Nowgam.

Now therefore it is notified for the information of the general public that objections if any to the proposed cancellation of hire purchase Agreement shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 12 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper . No. ARTO/ BUDGAM.2902 Dated 09-03-2021

Assistant Regional Transport officer
mcb Budgam Kashmir



Office Of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer Budgam Kashmir

NOTICE

Where as a joint application has been recieved from owner. Shri : Wasif Ahmad Bhat S/o: Abdul Rehman Bhat R/o: Soibugh Budgam as Transferor) & Shri. Riyaz Ahmad Sofi S/o Bashir Ahmad Sofi R/o Haji Bagh Budgam as Transferee) for transfer of Three Wheeler (Load Carrier) vehicle No. JK04E-5634 Now it is therefore notified for general information that objections, if any to the proposed transfer of the said route permit/vehicle shall be filed in writing in the office of the Assistant Regional Transport office ARTO Budgam within a period of 07 days from the date of publication of this notice in the daily newspaper . Assistant Regional Transport officer mcb

No. ARTO/ BUDGAM. 2927
Dated 09/03/2021



Jammu And Kashmir Public Service Commission

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Notification No: PSC/Exam/2021/ 23 Dated: 08-03-2021

The Commission vide Notification No. PSC/Exam/21/2020 dated 15.10.2020 invited the online application forms from the eligible candidates of Statistical Assistant Course Departmental Examination in accordance with the rules and syllabus sanctioned vide SRO 339 dated 09.08.2018; and

Whereas, the Directorate of Economics & Statistics vide letter No. DES/GEN/162/10595-01 dated 15.10.2020 forwarded the revised syllabus for conducting of Departmental Examination of Jr. Statistical Assistant, Statistical Assistant and Statistical Officer in accordance with the S.O 312 dated: 13.10.2020, which reads interalia as "That the batches for above courses henceforth will be imparted training as per revised syllabus and timeline notified vide S.O. 312 dated: 13.10.2020. It is accordingly requested that the Departmental examination of the batches deputed for training, henceforth, shall be conducted as per SRO 312 dated 13.10.2020 and the Departmental examination of Batches who had under gone training before issuance of above S.O shall be conducted as per the syllabus on which they were imparted training"; and

Whereas, Finance Department vide letter FD/Legal/104/2020 dated: 23.11.2020 forwarded a copy of order/judgment dated: 28.10.2020 passed by the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) Jammu bench, wherein directions were passed which reads interalia as "that the Examination for selection to the post of Statistical Assistant shall be in accordance with the syllabus as directed in S.O. 312 dated:13.10.2020"; and

Whereas, the matter was taken with the Director General Economics & Statistics J&K Jammu for clarification with respect to syllabus for the candidates who are appearing in the Departmental Examination of Jr. Statistical Assistant, Statistical Assistant and Statistical Officer, whether the exams is to be conducted as per revised syllabus issued vide S.O.312 dated: 13.10.2020 and in accordance with the syllabus issued vide SRO-339 dated:09.08.2018; and

Whereas, in response the Director General vide letter No. DES/Gen/162/12018-23 dated: 07.01.2021 requested the Commission to seek clarification from the Finance Department, as the judgment passed by the Hon'ble CAT was forwarded by the Finance Department to the Commission; and

Whereas, the Commission vide communication No. PSC/Exam/AD/Sts/01/2018 dated: 10.02.2021 again sought clarification with respect to the Syllabus for conducting of above mentioned Departmental Examinations including Statistical Assistant Course Departmental Examination-2021 from the Finance Department Civil Secretariat, Jammu and also issued reminder vide even No. dated 25.02.2021 to the Finance Department in this behalf, but till date no such clarification with respect to the syllabus has been received from the Finance Department for conducting of Statistical Assistant Departmental Examination 2021, which was tentatively scheduled to be held w.e.f 22.03.2021.

Therefore, In view of above, it is for the information of the concerned eligible candidates that the subject examination is hereby deferred till further orders.

By order.

No. PSC/Exam/Sts. Asstt/2020/07

Dated:-03-2021

DIPK-14738/20

(Vinay Samorta) KAS
Deputy Controller Of Examinations,
J&K Public Service Commission

E-mail:- techrpbul786@gmail.com

Phone:-01933-295302

Government of Jammu & Kashmir(UT)

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION PULWAMA.

TENDER NOTICE

E-NIT No :- 8th-Fresh- 293/EEP/RnB/of 2020-21/11134-44 Dated: 08/03/2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT term 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 Government for the following work:-

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs.In Lacs)	Cost of T/ Doc.(Rs.)	Time of completion (Working Days)	Class of Contractor	Major Head Of Accounts
1	Construction of lane from the H/O Gowhar Ahmad Nengroo to H/O Manzoor Ahmad Nengroo at Nengroo Mohalla Prichoo.	2.00	200/-	15 (Working Days)	DEE	UDS
2	Construction /Repairs of lane from main road Pampore Shopian road to House of Abdul Rehman Ganie at Washbugh opposite PDD Station.	1.50	200/-	15 (Working Days)	DEE	IDMT
3	Construction of Drain/Bund from Jamia Masjid to House of Manzoor Ahmad Bhat at Sirnoo MC Pulwama.	1.50	200/-	15 (Working Days)	DEE	IDMT
4.	Reconstruction of Approach wall of culvert on Wagum.Urcharsoo road.	1.93	200/-	15 (Working Days)	DEE	3054-M&R

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, 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 date given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	08/03/2021
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 08/03/2021 10:00 A.M.
3.	Bid submission Start Date	08/03/2021 from 10.00 AM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	15/03/2020 upto 4.00 P.M.
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	16/03/2020 at 4:30 P.M in the Office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within 7 days of receipt of LOA. (The First lowest bidder has to provide 3% of advertized Cost as Performance Security instead of EMD within 7 days after opening of Financial Bid)

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan/Receipt (Debited to M.H.0059 PWD) and Bid securing declaration instead of EMD as per Annexure "A" below in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pulwama showing clearly the name of work along with NIT No. & S.No. failing which the tender will be rejected out rightly.

2. 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 Pulwama

3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of bids. All other terms and conditions shall be available in website www.jktenders.gov.in

DIPK-14757/20

Head Draftsman

Technical Officer

Executive Engineer,
R&B Division Pulwama

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPARTMENT, DIVISION PULWAMA

email : xenphepulwama@gmail.com Notice Inviting e-Tender

E-NIT S. No. 129/PHEP of 2020-21

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of J&K e-tenders (Two cover System) on Item Rate Basis including the maintenance cost for a period of Three Years which includes 12 months of DLP are invited from Reputed and resourceful contractors/ Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments for the following works, which should be uploaded on the Procurement web portal <http://jktenders.gov.in> under the subjected work(s) referred below to be received by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Division Pulwama and as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification and to whom all the terms and conditions of detailed e-NIT /Tender Documents/ PWD Form No:- 25 double are accepted.

The cost of tender documents (Non-refundable/Non-Transferable) should be in the shape of e-Challan or Treasury Challan/Receipt in favour Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department, Division Pulwama.

S. No	Name of Work	Esti- mated Cost (in lacs)	Cost of TD (In)	Time of comple- tion	Class of Contract	Accord of AA
1.	Retrofitting of Water Supply Scheme Gadhanipora by way of Providing & laying of GI pipes, construction of anchor blocks, providing jacketing to RCC SR, renovation of operator quarter and electrical & mechanical works including installation of 141 No. FHTC's for Gadhanipora including maintenance for a period of three years which includes DLP of 12 months.(JMM).	23.36	800	45 days	B & C	SE/Hyd/Spn/74 of 01/2020-21 Dated. 27-01-2021
2.	Retrofitting of Water Supply Scheme Panzgam by way of Providing & laying of GI pipes, construction of chain link fencing around structures, providing CGI roofing over SR and face lifting of structures and electrical & mechanical works including installation of 168 No. FHTC's for Panzgam including maintenance for a period of three years which includes DLP of 12 months.(JMM).	54.05	1600	90 days	AAY	SE/Hyd/Spn/59 of 01/2020-21 Dated. 27-01-2021
3.	Retrofitting of Water Supply Scheme Kharbatpora (Ratnipora old) by way of Providing & laying of GI pipes, head works, RCC sump and face lifting, and electrical & mechanical works including installation of 50 No. FHTC's for Kharbatpora (Ratnipora old) including maintenance for a period of three years which includes DLP of 12 months.(JMM).	88.62	1600	90 days	AAY	SE/Hyd/Spn/58 of 01/2020-21 Dated. 27-01-2021
4.	Retrofitting of Water Supply Scheme Beigpora Tokina by way of Providing & laying of GI pipes, including construction of chain link fencing intake works , levelling dressing and face lifting of various structures , and electrical & mechanical works including installation of 168 No. FHTC's for Beigpora Tokina including maintenance for a period of three years which includes DLP of 12 months.(JMM).	53.50	1600	90 days	AAY	SE/Hyd/Spn/69 of 01/2020-21 Dated. 27-01-2021
5.	Retrofitting of Water Supply Scheme Bonapora Litter by way of Providing & laying of GI pipes, Construction of toilet room, intake sump, face lifting of structures electrical & mechanical works including installation of 174 No. FHTC's for Bonapora Litter including maintenance for a period of three years which includes DLP of 12 months.(JMM).	88.99	1600	90 days	AAY	SE/Hyd/Spn/57 of 01/2020-21 Dated. 27-01-2021

Position of Funds :-
Major Head of Account:
Status of Technical Sanction:

Available:
Jal Jeevan Mission (JMM)
Vide No. PHEDB/12260-72 Dtd. 03-10-2020, No. PHEDB/22464-71 Dtd. 19-01-2021 & No. PHEDB/22472 Dated:- 19-01-2021

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

S. No.	Description	Date	Time
		DD MM YYYY	
1	Publishing date of NIT	08 03 2021	1600 Hrs
2	Download start date	08 03 2021	1600 Hrs
3	Bid submission start date	08 03 2021	1600 Hrs
4	Bid submission end date	27 03 2021	1600 Hrs.
5	Bid opening date (Technical Cover)	31 03 2021	1000 Hrs.

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

Sd/-

Executive Engineer,(JSD) PHE Div, Pulwama,

No: -PHEP/7073-83
Dated:- 08-03-2021

DIPK-14727/20

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer Social Forestry Division Baramulla.

e- NIT NO: - 04 OF 2020-21 DATED: - 08 -03-2021

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir /Central Govt. Organizations for the following works: -

S.NO	NAME OF WORK	ADV. COST (Rs. In lacs)	CLASS OF CONTRACTOR	Cost of Tender Document (Rs)	TIME OF COMPLETION	Receiving/ Opening Committee
1	Providing & Fixing of Barbed Wire Fencing with Angle Iron Posts in Cement Concrete Blocks (Fencing= 1400 Rfts) at chandosa strip creamtion ground under CAPEX Baramulla of Social Forestry Division Baramulla.	2.240	"D"	Rs. 200/=	08 calendar days.	Tender Opening Committee

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bills of quantities, (B.O.Q) set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Website:- www.jktenders.gov.in.

Position of AA: Received _

Position of T/S: Under process _

Position of Funds : Received

Publishing Date: -	08-03-2021
Download Start Date:-	09-03-2021 from 10:00 AM
Bid submission Start Date:-	09-03-2021 from 12:00 PM
Bid submission End Date:-	15-03-2021 Up to 04.00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid Online:-	15-03-2021 at 5:00PM in the Office of Social Forestry Division (Baramulla)
Date of Opening of Financial Bid Online:-	15-03-2021 at 5:00PMPM in the Office of Social Forestry Division (Baramulla)

- The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: - <https://jktenders.gov.in>
- The date for opening of Technical & Financial bids online shall be opened as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Bid Security Deposit in shape of proforma enclosed at Annexure "A".The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 30 days from the date of opening of bids.
- As per rule 171 of GFR-2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of three percent may also be demanded.
- Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website jktenders.gov.in
- To participate in bidding process bidders have to get Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) as per Information Technology Act Bidders can get Digital Certificate form approved vendor.
- The bidders have to submit their Technical & financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form.
- Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
- Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD duly renewed for the current financial year 2020-21, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt/Challan(cost of Tender Document) and Bid Security Deposit in shape of proforma enclosed at Annexure "A".
- The successful bidder has to produce Valid Labour Registration Certificate issued by Labour Department after issuance of award of contract.
- The Department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission of the bid due to any reason (technical or otherwise).
- The Department shall not be held responsible for selection criteria/policy matter being adopted by the Directorate of Information regarding publishing the NIT, in any of the newspaper under circulation.
- The tender accepting Authority however reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
- All other terms and conditions shall remain same as per PWD form 25 (double leaf) and as per the detailed document.
- No: 481-86/A/SF/BLA
Dated:-08/03/2021

DIPK-14773/20

Divisional Forest Officer,
Social Forestry Division, Baramulla

Undocumented Indian Immigrants Hold USD 15.5 Billion In Spending Power



Undocumented Indian immigrants to the US, numbering over half a million, hold a collective spending power of USD15.5 billion and contribute USD2.8 billion to the federal, state and local tax revenue, says an American think-tank report.

Using the latest available American Community Survey data from 2019 in its latest research, the new American Economy think-tank said undocumented Indian immigrants are the top third contributor to the US economy among other undocumented immigrants.

There are 4.2 million immigrants from Mexico who lack documentation.

Together, they make up more than 40.8 percent of the 10.3 million undocumented immigrants in the United States.

In 2019 alone, they earned almost USD92 billion in household income and contributed almost USD9.8 billion in federal, state and local taxes.

Mexican undocumented immigrants held more than USD82.2 billion in spending power, money that often goes back into local economies as they spend on housing, consumer goods and services, the report said.

In terms of the number of undocumented immigrants, Mexico is followed by El Salvador (621,000, or 6.0 percent of all undocumented immigrants), India (587,000, or 5.7 percent), Guatemala (5.4 percent, or 5.4 percent), and Honduras (416,000, or 4.0 percent).

With its USD15.5 billion of spending power, India, however, holds the second position, followed by El Salvador (USD11.5 billion), Guatemala (USD9.1 billion) and Honduras (USD6.4 billion).

They also make significant contributions to the federal, state and local tax revenue: India (USD2.8 billion), El Salvador (USD1.4 billion), Guatemala (USD1.1 billion) and Honduras (USD778 million), the report said.

Saudi Oil Hawkishness Speeds Indian Plan To Seek Alternatives

Agenceis

NEW DELHI: Saudi Arabia's push to restrain oil supply to buoy prices is spurring India to speed up plans to diversify its crude sources and pursue alternative energy, the chairman of one of the nation's biggest refiners said.

The world's third-biggest oil importer was already trying to cut its dependence on Middle Eastern crude, with American oil rising from 0.5% of total purchases to 6% over the past five years, Mukesh Kumar Surana, chairman of state-owned Hindustan Petroleum Corp, said in a Bloomberg Television interview.

Oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan has repeatedly called for Opec+ to pump more crude to stop prices from rising too high. However, his pleas fell on deaf ears in Riyadh when the alliance, which is dominated by Saudi Arabia and Russia, decided to hold output steady last week. The decision and an attack on an export terminal in the kingdom pushed Brent above \$71 a barrel on Monday.

"Higher prices make the future of oil as a commodity in the energy basket more detrimental," Surana said. "It pushes people to look for more alternative resources in the energy basket," he said, adding that India would prefer an oil price in the \$50 to \$60 a barrel range.

Around 86% of Indian oil imports last year were from Opec+ members, with 19% coming from Saudi Arabia, according to government data. Indian refiners are watching Iran's possible re-entry into the oil market closely, Surana said.

Higher oil prices are also likely to add more impetus to India's push for cleaner sources of energy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said last month that the country is targeting for 40% of its energy needs to come from green sources by 2030.

Brent oil's surge of around 30% so far this year is already crimping domestic fuel consumption and is threatening India's recovery from its worst recession since the 1950s. "Higher prices push up inflation and that is not good for the economy," Surana said.

Govt Has No Plans To Impose New Cess On Petrol, Diesel: Anurag Thakur



Agenceis

The central government has no plans to impose any new cess on petroleum products, said minister of state for finance Anurag Thakur in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. At present, petrol and diesel in the country attract road and infrastructure cess, special additional excise duty and agriculture infrastructure and development cess (AIDC). Apart from these charges, basic excise duty is also levied on fuel products.

In Budget 2021, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced an agriculture cess on petrol and diesel at 2.5 /litre and 4 /litre respectively. Following the imposition of this new cess, the basic excise duty

(BED) and special additional excise duty (SAED) rates were reduced on fuel prices to ease the additional burden on consumers.

Answering to the question whether government has any plan to bring petroleum products under the purview of Goods and Service Tax (GST), Anurag Thakur said, "As per the section 9(2) of the CGST Act, inclusion of these products in GST will require recommendation of the GST Council. So far, the GST Council has not made any recommendation for inclusion of petrol and diesel under GST."

Sitharaman earlier said that the decision to bring the fuels under GST will have to be taken by the GST Council. "Whenever the GST Council decides to take up this issue, they are well

within their interest to take it up and discuss. It's a call which the Council has to take," she had mentioned last week.

The petrol and diesel prices touched record high in February. However, there has not been any revision in fuel prices in March. The rates kept unchanged across the four metro cities for the tenth consecutive day on Tuesday. Indian Oil Corporation, the country's largest state-run oil refiner, had last hiked the petrol on 27 February to an all-time high of 91.17 in Delhi.

Meanwhile, the price of petrol in Delhi stands at 91.17 per litre while diesel is available for 81.47 on Tuesday. In Mumbai, petrol is priced at 97.57, while diesel costs 88.60, according to Indian Oil Corporation's website.

Assembly Polls May Spare Consumers From Petrol, Diesel Price Hikes

Agenceis

Sources indicated that with fuel price rise becoming an election issue, the Centre would not like to further escalate the matter with more increases in the auto fuel prices required in the wake of firming of prices in the global oil market. So, oil marketing companies will hold petrol and diesel prices as far as possible over the next few weeks till the time polling ends in all the states.

Though oil companies are not barred by the election code of conduct from raising or decreasing fuel prices in line with market developments, such an exercise is normally practised during elections. It has happened dur-

ing the previous Assembly and General Elections as well.

As is evident, OMCs have not revised fuel prices for the last 10 days even though the global oil market remained firm with crude hovering close to \$70 a barrel. In fact, since the beginning of February crude has gained more than \$7 per barrel that pushed OMCs to increase fuel prices on 14 occasions raising the prices by Rs 4.22 per litre for petrol and by Rs 4.34 a litre for diesel in Delhi.

On Tuesday, the OMCs continued with their pause drive started 10 days back keeping fuel prices static. So, petrol continues to be priced at Rs 91.17 a litre and diesel Rs 81.47 a litre in the national capital on Tuesday.

Across the country as well

the petrol and diesel prices remained unchanged.

Sources said that by keeping prices unchanged even during times when a cut in petrol and diesel prices was required, OMCs have built a buffer that will help them keep fuel prices stable for a longer time even though global product prices rise. However, a fall in the global oil market could see a cut in petrol and diesel prices immediately.

The increase in the previous weeks has taken petrol to cross historic high levels of Rs 100 a litre in several cities across the country.

The petrol and diesel prices have increased 26 times in 2021 with the two auto fuels increasing by Rs 7.46 and Rs 7.60 per litre respectively so far this year.

NEWSMAKERS

Apple May Soon Start Production Of iPhone 12 Series In India

Agenceis

Apple, which started assembling the iPhone 11 series in India, is all set to produce iPhone 12 series in India for the local customers, the tech giant said on Tuesday.

Despite its launch in October last year, the iPhone 12 contributed significantly towards the rise of Apple in the festive quarter (October-December period) in the country, according to market intelligence firm CyberMedia Research (CMR).

Apple registered over 60 per cent growth (on-year) in its India business in the full year 2020 while for the festive quarter, the growth was an impressive 100 per cent (YoY) and iPhone 12 contributed significantly towards it.

"With its recent market gains in India, Apple is positioned for aggressive growth in the upcoming quarters. The local assembly of iPhone 12 in India will give a further fillip to its Apple's prospects," said Prabhu Ram, Head-Industry Intelligence Group (IIG), CMR, told IANS.

On the domestic sales front, Apple has been riding on the stellar performance of iPhone 11, XR and then iPhone 12. During the festive quarter of 2020, Apple for the first time, witnessed doubling its smartphone market share in India to nearly 4 per cent.

Apple started manufacturing iPhones in India in 2017 with

iPhone SE. Today, Apple manufactures XR, iPhone 11, and now iPhone 12 in India.

According to Navkendar Singh, Research Director, Client Devices & IPDS, IDC India, Apple had a very good 2020 for iPhone shipments, having almost doubled it over 2019.

"Now with plans to manufacture iPhone 12 in India, this will certainly help Apple in continuing last year's momentum in 2021 as well," Singh told IANS.

For the first time, iPhone 12 models utilise 100 per cent recycled rare earth elements in all magnets, including the new camera, Taptic Engine, and MagSafe, as well as Apple's MagSafe accessories. Along with this, Apple's suppliers in India are now utilising solar and wind energy for their needs.

iPhone 12 comes with 5G technology, features the fastest A14 Bionic chip, edge-to-edge Super Retina XDR displays, advanced computational photography and a sophisticated flat-edge design with Ceramic Shield front cover, offering four times better drop performance.

Indian government is keen on supporting Apple and other global giant manufacturers to use India not just as a manufacturing hub but also as an exporter. The Indian government has been reaching out to companies to that are looking to expand in the continent or trying to shift from China.

Paytm To Equip 50 Lakh Merchants With IoT Devices To Ease Payments Acceptance

Agenceis

Digital payments major Paytm on Tuesday launched a new version of its 'Soundbox' along with other solutions that ease acceptance of payments as part of its efforts to equip 50 lakh merchants with IoT (Internet of Things) enabled devices.

The company, which already has over nine lakh merchants using its IoT devices, aims to bring 5 crore merchants into the mainstream economy with its solutions.

Paytm had recently announced that it has achieved over 1.2 billion monthly transactions led by the massive growth in offline payments and financial services.

"Our target is 5 million IoT devices, (which is) 10 per cent of the 50 million merchants...We are aiming to reach 50 million merchants in the next two years. Merchants have varied requirements and need different solutions for accepting payments," Paytm founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma said.

The company has already facilitated payments acceptance via wallets, UPI, cards and net-banking for over 2 crore merchants, thereby helping them grow their business exponentially, he added.

Sharma said 'Soundbox' device has played a pivotal role in establishing digital transactions as a safe and secure mode of payments, enhancing the trust of businesses and consumers to move digitally.

With this IoT-based device, merchants do not need to keep checking their mobile phones

Trai Suspends New SMS Regulations For 7 Days As Customers Face Issues



Agenceis

To improve end-user experience and eliminate spam and fraudulent commercial communication, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) implemented its template registration and scrubbing regulations. However, due to inadequate preparations by telecom companies as well as service providers, this has hit the financial customers hard. Many financial consumers are finding it difficult to receive SMS, especially the one-time passcode (OTP) for transactions. Following furore on social media about the hasty implementation, the telecom regulator decided to defer the regulations for next seven days.

Media reports say the new regulations have affected receiving OTPs for bank transactions, CoWin registrations, and Aadhaar updates, among other things.

In a release, TRAI says, "It has been observed that some of the principal entities have not fulfilled the requirements as envisaged in Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations 2018 (TCCCPR). As a result, their SMS were getting dropped after implementation of the scrubbing of SMS by telecom service providers. In order to protect the interest of consumers, it has been decided that scrubbing of SMS by TSPs shall be suspended temporarily for seven days to enable the principal entities to register the template of SMS so that no inconvenience is faced by the customers."

A report from Economic Times, had mentioned that out of one billion average daily commercial SMS deliveries, around 40% traffic was disrupted till Monday evening and among top private and public sector banks, the failure rate was over 25%.

Even BSE StAR MF cautioned its members about issues in receiving SMS and advised them to use alternate methods like email to receive the OTP for authentication.

As per the revised guidelines, entities that want to communicate through SMS with their customers will now have to register themselves with telecom operators. As per the guidelines, these entities and bulk SMS service providers will be accountable to telcos, who will be directly accountable to TRAI. The system will be governed through distributed ledger technology (DLT) or blockchain and all the entities listed on this platform will be interlinked with each other. The regulations by TRAI man-

date registration of transaction and service-related OTP templates. Every content template that is being registered by a principal entity (telco) is required to contain a 'brand name' or complete business name, brand name and trademark in the content field. Any entity which does not have registration and sender ID approved by telcos, will find that its SMSes are not being processed and would fail to deliver to the intended recipient.

From 8 March 2021, this process, known as template registration and scrubbing, has gone live. However, it resulted in customers not receiving OTPs.

According to the ET report, both telcos and financial service providers like banks are blaming each other for the mess. While banks are holding hasty implementation responsible for this, telcos say service providers failed to register sender ID and template required for the distributed ledger technology (DLT) scrubbing platform.

"The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) earlier in the day reached out to both the TRAI and Reserve Bank of India (RBI), seeking an immediate postponement of the regulation. But an official at the telecom regulatory body said constant reminders were sent to banks regarding the impending deadline for the past 15 days," the report says.

Quoting sources from banking and payment service providers, the report says, "The first day of these new rules saw transaction services across the board being disrupted including unified payments interface (UPI), Aadhaar enabled Payments (AePS), netbanking and credit card payments due to lack of registration of sender ID and content.

Under the new regulations, SMSes are categorised in three activities, transactional, promotional and service, including implicit and explicit. Transactional category is reserved for banks for sending OTPs. Service related informative messages will fall under the implicit category. If a customer has opted to receive promotional SMS from a particular entity then it will be come under the explicit category. General promotional SMS including offers, discounts will be delivered only to subscribers who have not opted for do-not-disturb (DND) or do-not-call (DNC).

Earlier, in September 2020, the Delhi High Court had asked the telecom regulator to act in accordance with the law against unregistered entities and against those persons not complying with its regulations, to curb the problem of UCCS.

Biden Admin Reimposes Sanctions On Israeli Mining Magnate



Agenceis

The United States on Monday revoked a sanctions waiver for Israeli mining magnate Dan Gertler that was issued in the last days of the Trump administration.

The Treasury Department said exempting Gertler from sanctions was "inconsistent with America's strong foreign policy interests in combating corruption around the world," specifically in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

The action came after Congolese and international human rights groups and several US legislators last month called on the Biden administration to reverse a last-minute move by Biden's Republican predecessor, Donald Trump.

The Treasury imposed the sanctions in December 2017 and June 2018, accusing Gertler of using his friendship with Democratic Republic of the Congo's former president, Joseph Kabila, to win sweetheart mining deals worth more than a billion dollars.

The Trump administration eased the sanctions in a secret action in

its last week in office in January, a licence granted by the Treasury Department showed. While the licence did not remove Gertler, an associate and more than 30 of his companies from the sanctions list, it authorised, until January 31, 2022, "all transactions and activities" otherwise prohibited by sanctions against them.

The original designation of Gertler under the Magnitsky Sanctions programme made clear "Mr Gertler engaged in extensive public corruption," the Treasury said in a statement on Monday.

The sanctions had prohibited Gertler from doing business with US citizens, companies or banks, effectively barring him from doing transactions in dollars. Gertler has denied wrongdoing and argued that his investments in the DRC bolstered the country's development.

Democratic Senator Ben Cardin, the lead author of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, said Gertler should not have been granted "an eleventh-hour permit" to do business with US banks and companies.

for confirmation, increasing efficiency, and reducing queues and customer waiting time on the shop floor.

"Instant voice-based confirmations of payments help merchants keep track of all transactions, protecting them from getting duped by those showing fake screens and false confirmations...The Soundbox 2.0 comes equipped with a digitally enabled screen that gives instant visual confirmation of the paid amount along with the voice-based response," he said.

Merchants can also use the device to fetch the payment summary for the entire day, and also notifies when it is running out of charge.

While the device supports five languages - English, Hindi, Tamil, Telegu and Kannada, the company plans to add more regional languages, including Marathi, over the next few months.

Sharma said the company is exploring getting the devices manufactured in India. The devices are currently imported from Taiwan, China and a few other countries.

Besides, Paytm's Smart POS for Android phones solutions empowers merchants to accept card payments through their smartphones. This application transforms a smartphone into a device that accepts debit and credit card payments just like a regular card machine.

Supported by Paytm, smart POS enables merchants to seamlessly start accepting contactless card payments anytime and anywhere. Paytm has partnered with financial services institutions,

Top Militant

reporters at Sopore, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sopore, Javid Iqbal said that a militant was killed in the operation that was launched on the basis of a specific input.

Today's gunfight between militants and the government forces comes almost after two week lull.

On February 24, police had claimed to have killed two unidentified militants in an encounter in a forest area in south Kashmir's Anantnag district

Meanwhile, a police spokesperson in a statement issued here said that Khawaja was involved in dozens of militancy related and other crime cases, including attacks on security forces and civilian atrocities. The Al-Badr chief, he said, was also the main recruiter of innocent youth into militant ranks.

Divulging details of cases registered against him, the police spokesperson said that Khwaja was responsible for a grenade blast in October 28, 2019 at the bus stand Sopore in which 19 civilians sustained injuries. In the same year in March, he said, Khwaja had carried out a rifle grenade attack on police Post Warpora, in which two police personnel.

"He also attacked a joint naka party of Police and CRPF at Bismillah-Colony, Model-Town Sopore, in which four CRPF personnel got seriously injured and one among them while being evacuated to hospital succumbed to injuries. In the incident one civilian identified as Bashir Ahmad Khan was also killed by the bullets fired by militants on July 1, 2020," he said.

Besides it, the police spokesperson said that the killed Al-Badr chief was also involved in an attack on a CRPF party at Ahad-Baba crossing in Noorbagh on April 18 last year in which 3 CRPF personnel were killed and two seriously injured.

He further said that Khwaja also had a hand in the killing of a civilian Danish Manzoor Najar of Bomai Sopore and attack on police party at Warpora Chowk, in which one SPO and one civilian were killed and another SPO got injured on 04-03-2020.

"He was also involved in killing of civilians and grenade attacks on Police/SFs establishments. He was also involved in providing arms and ammunition to militant associates for carrying out subversive activities in the area," the police spokesperson said, adding that the killed militant was operating in Langate, upper and lower Qazilabad, Handwara, Sopore, Zainageer, Tuijar, Barahampora and other areas of north Kashmir.

"Incriminating materials including arms & ammunition were recovered from the site of encounter. All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe his complicity in other crimes," he said.

He further said that the last rites of the killed militant shall be performed after conducting his medico-legal formalities and his nearest family members shall be allowed to participate in the last rites.

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

Militancy Declined

were killed in 2020 in comparison to 157 in 2019. Till February 2021, 15 militant incidents occurred in the Union Territory in which eight militants were killed, he said in a written reply.

The minister said 33 security personnel and six civilians were killed in Jammu and Kashmir in 2020 and 27 security personnel and five civilians were killed in 2019.

"After the abrogation of Article 370, the number of militant incidents in Jammu and Kashmir has reduced significantly," he said.

Reddy said the central government has adopted a policy of zero tolerance towards militancy and has taken various measures, such as strengthening of security apparatus, strict enforcement of law against anti-national elements, intensified cordon and search operations to effectively deal with the challenges posed by the militant organisations.

The security forces also keep a close watch on persons who attempt to provide support to militants and initiate action against them, he said.

173 People

Jammu and Kashmir has further reported that no person is under home arrest under the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act.

Kashmir To

with lightning, hail and gusty winds" in Kashmir as well as Jammu divisions. There are four types colour codes signifying the level of caution: green which means no action, yellow—situation to be watched), amber –government agencies need to be prepared for severe weather and red –action needed by the agencies. Earlier upper reaches of the Valley including Gulmarg received fresh snowfall while rains lashed plains.

A meteorological department official said that the world famous skiing resort, received 37 centimetres fresh snowfall in last 24 hours till 0830 hours. In past 48 hours, the tourist destination in north Kashmir received 50cm (1.65ft) of snow and recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4.2 degree Celsius against minus 3.5 degree Celsius on the previous night, the official said.

Srinagar, the official said, received 14.9mm of rain during 24 hours even as it recorded a low of 5.2 degree Celsius against 5.8 degree Celsius on the previous night. The temperature was 1.9 degree Celsius above normal for this time of the year in this summer capital, the official said. Qazigund recorded a low of 2.8 degree Celsius against 4.8 degree Celsius on the previous night and received 33.2mm of rain during the time.

The mercury settled at 2.1 degree Celsius against minus 1.4 degree Celsius on the earlier night at Pahalgam while the famous resort received 6.9mm rain.

Kokernag, also in south Kashmir, recorded a low of 1.1 degree Celsius against 3.9 degree Celsius on the previous night while it received 19.7mm of rain.

The minimum temperature settled at 3.7 degree Celsius in Kupwara against 3.9 degree Celsius on the previous night while the north Kashmir district received 2.4mm rain, the official said. Leh received 2 centimetres of snow while it recorded a low of minus 4.3 degree Celsius, the official said. (GNS)

GB Assembly

Gilgit-Baltistan", saying it is intended to camouflage the "illegal" occupation of the region by Islamabad.

The leaders of Gilgit-Baltistan on Tuesday demanded that the government of Pakistan give the region provisional provincial status and provide it with representation in Parliament and other constitutional bodies.

The resolution stated that a bill to amend the Constitution of Pakistan to declare Gilgit-Baltistan a province of Pakistan should be passed by Parliament without causing any damage to the country's stance on the Kashmir issue.

"The demand for constitutional rights is a unanimous demand of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan, not that of an individual/party. The unity we've shown on this issue needs to be repeated again at a federal level," Chief Minister Khan said.

In December, Prime Minister Khan constituted a 12-member committee to make recommendations

about changing the status of Gilgit-Baltistan.

On November 1 last year, Spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Anurag Srivastava said that India "firmly rejects" the attempt by Pakistan to bring material changes to a part of Indian territory which is under Islamabad's "illegal and forcible occupation" and asked it to immediately vacate such areas.

DDC Members

and staged a protest in support of their demand for better status and monthly honorarium.

The protest came a day after the Jammu and Kashmir administration amended its warrant of precedence, placing the DDC chairpersons equivalent to administrative secretaries, vice chairpersons to vice-chancellors of universities and the DDC members to district magistrates.

The members, affiliated with different political parties including the BJP, the National Conference, the Congress, the PDP, the CP(M) and independents from across the Union Territory, gathered as per the schedule at the Convention Centre here for the training programme, scheduled to be inaugurated by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha.

However, they boycotted the programme and staged a massive protest in the lawns against the administration demanding better protocol and monthly honorarium, including ministerial status for the DDC chairperson and minister of state (MoS) status for vice chairperson.

As per the government order, the DDC chairpersons would get monthly honorarium of Rs 35,000 including Rs 1,500 travel allowance and Rs 500 telephone charges. Vice chairpersons will get Rs 25,000 including Rs 1,500 travel allowance and Rs 500 telephone charges and members will get Rs 15,000 including Rs 1,500 travel allowance and Rs 500 telephone charges.

Secretary Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Sheetal Nanda made repeated attempts to hold dialogue with the slogan-shouting protesters, who termed the government order as "crude joke" with them and sought the intervention of the central government and the Lt Governor.

"We have unanimously decided to boycott this programme and lodge our protest. We want the administration to review its wrong decision and accord ministerial status to the chairperson, MoS status to vice-chairperson and members to a status as given to MLAs," DDC chairperson and senior BJP leader Bharat Bushan told reporters.

DDC chairperson from Budgam Nazir Ahmad Khan said the government has played with their honour by lowering their status and left them red faced before their electorate.

"The Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) chairpersons are conferred with the cabinet status and members are enjoying MOS status. The Srinagar and Jammu mayors also enjoy the MoS status, while as we are representing the entire district and given a status of an administrative secretary," he said.

Khan said the government issued the order of precedence deliberately ahead of the training programme to put a seal on it.

"We will not accept it...the situation in Kashmir is grave where we have to live under constant threat and accompany by our personal security officers (PSOs) and feed them as well. We spend Rs 3,000 to Rs 4,000 per day," he said, adding this is not an issue of any party but "we have joined hands to protect our honour".

Another DDC chairperson Ghulam Mustafa Khan said, "If we were not given our rights, how come we protect the rights of our people who have voted for us. The government has disgraced us and by this order of precedence conveyed a message that we have no importance which is not acceptable to us."

He said the monthly honorarium announced by the government would encourage corruption.

DDC member Taranjeet Singh demanded the immediate intervention of the central government and the Lt Governor in addressing the issue.

"We will continue our protest till our demands are met, he said.

BJP Supports

training-cum-workshop here during the day and staged a protest to press for better status and a monthly honorarium.

The protest came a day after the Jammu and Kashmir administration amended its warrant of precedence, placing DDC chairpersons at par with administrative secretaries, vice-chairpersons with vice-chancellors of universities, and DDC members with district magistrates.

"The anger and resentment shown by the DDC members are genuine. They were elected by the people, and if they do not get adequate powers and the befitting protocol, they will not get the respect and will not be heard during their visit to the civil secretariat, mini secretariat, deputy commissioners office," Raina said.

He added that the order of precedence issued by the administration is not only an insult to the elected members but also to the people in general.

"The Lt governor has always favoured strengthening the democratic institutions and won acclaims by holding the maiden DDC elections in the Union territory, but it is the bureaucracy which has played the spoilsport and conspired (against the DDC members)," Raina said.

He urged the Lt Governor to consider the demands of the DDC members with an open heart.

"DDC chairpersons should at least be given the status of minister of state, vice-chairpersons deputy ministers and the members should be equivalent to commissioner secretaries. Block Development Council (BDC) chairpersons should also be kept above district development commissioners so that these elected grassroots level representatives can perform their duties to the satisfaction of the people by mobilising government departments and address the grievances of the public by holding village-level meetings," the BJP leader said.

Meanwhile, Peoples Conference president and former minister Sajad Lone also expressed disappointment over the lowering of status of the DDC chairpersons, vice-chairpersons and members, and blamed the bureaucrats.

"DDC protocol powers disappointment - humiliation. Problem is the new stakeholder created by the union Govt post August 5- BUREAUCRAT Ever powerful. He/she will never facilitate democracy. will c anybody elected by people as a threat. This is simple analysis. And no rocket science," Lone wrote on Twitter.

Mehbooba Moves

of documents and to give evidence.

Mufti has also sought an interim stay on the summons until the question of law in relation to constitutionality of Section 50 of the Act is decided.

"She has not been informed if she is being summoned as an accused or as a witness. She has also not been informed of what she is being summoned in connection with and the scheduled offence under the PMLA which gave rise to the proceedings in respect of which impugned summons has been issued to her. The petitioner is not the subject of investigation, nor is she an accused, in any of the scheduled offences to the best of her knowledge," the plea said.

The plea claimed that ever since Mufti was released from the preventive detention following the formal abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution, there have been a series of hostile acts by the State, against her, acquaintances and old family friends, who have all been summoned by the ED and a roving inquiry about her personal, political and financial affairs was made, in the course of which their personal devices have been seized. She has also written a letter to the ED pointing to the roving nature of the inquiry undertaken in the case thus far and that in the event that she is questioned, she will insist on the legitimacy of the process, it said.

"As a responsible member of society, the petitioner is always ready and willing to aid the process of law. However, it is equally her duty to bring to the notice of this court, deviations from due process in legislative and executive acts. The petitioner apprehends that the impugned notice is a means of bringing undue pressure and harassment upon her and therefore, the petitioner wishes to assert her constitutional rights in this regard," the petition said.

After receiving the ED summons, Mufti had said the Centre's "tactics to intimidate and browbeat political opponents" won't work.

"GoI's tactics to intimidate & browbeat political opponents to make them toe their line has become tediously predictable. They don't want us to raise questions about its punitive actions & policies. Such short-sighted scheming won't work," she had written on Twitter, without any mention of the ED notice.

Private Schools

take a final decision, the private school management shall finalise the supportive documents before the committee, FFRC said in an order.

"The FFRC after receiving various representations from stakeholders regarding charging of transport fee during the period of lockdown issued a notice to all private schools of UT of Jammu and Kashmir with the direction to submit information of various documents of transportation to FFRC," it reads.

FFRC said that in absence of proof and evidence in support of the data submitted by the private schools, the committee may not be in a position to decide the matter in a just and proper manner.

"Therefore, all private Schools of UT of Jammu and Kashmir are directed to submit supportive documents including receipts in case of insurance, taxes, bank interest and fee received," FFRC said.

The FFRC has also asked the management to submit the payroll of drivers and conductors who were on rolls during a lockdown period along with their contact details, copies of RCs of vehicles owned, number of students availing bus facility and the bank statement wherever applicable—(KNO)

Illegal Occupation

from Kamah Kafil-Ur-Rehman and others, seeking court's direction to allow them to occupy the present accommodation which they are in possession for last more than two decades in MLA Hostel, MA Road here.

"The unauthorized occupants must realize that rights and duties go correlative to each other, inasmuch as the rights of one person entail the duties of another person, whereas, the duties of one person entail the rights of another person," the court said, adding, "In this context, the unauthorized occupants must appreciate that their act of overstaying in the premise directly infringes the right of another. No law or direction can entirely control this act of disobedience, but for self-realization among the unauthorized occupants."

The court said that the natural resources, public lands and the public goods, like Government

Bungalows, official residence are public property that belong to the people of the country.

"The 'Doctrine of Equality', which emerges from the concepts of justice and fairness, must guide the State in the distribution/ allocation of the same. Any former Minister/ Legislator/ Retired Officer/ Politician/ Political person, once he/ she demits the office, is on a par with the common citizen, though by virtue of the office held, he/ she may be entitled to security and other protocols as per assessment of the concerned filed agency," the court said But allotment of Government bungalow, to be occupied during the lifetime of such persons, would not be guided by the constitutional principle of equality"

SKUAST KASHMIR

Office of the Principal Investigator DBT funded project Division of Animal Genetics and Breeding

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I he application with bio-data must reach the Principal Investigator by or before 15-3-2021 The eligible candidates will be informed for interview through mail or telephonically. The candidates must bring original and attested copies of all documents along with the bio-data at time of interview. No TA DA will be paid for attending the interview. Terms and conditions will be strictly as per DBT norms.

AU/AGB/DBT/2021/207
Dated: 08/03/2021

Dr Syed Shanaz

Principal Investigator

The court said that it was of the considered view that there was no merit in the petition and accordingly dismissed it.

"Interim direction(s), if any subsisting as on date, shall stand vacated. As a necessary corollary, the continuous occupation/ possession of the Government accommodation in question by the petitioners is held to be bad in law," the court said, adding, "The petitioners thus, shall, if still in occupation, hand over the possession of the said Government accommodation occupied by them within one month from today and the Government, in turn, shall also recover appropriate rent from the petitioners for the period during which they were in authorized/ unauthorized occupation of the same."

The court however, made clear here that insofar as the contention of the petitioners regarding threat perception to the life and liberty of their own self as well as their family members is concerned, the petitioners shall be at liberty to approach the competent authority in the Government of Jammu and Kashmir for seeking redressal of this grievance.

J&K Filed 196

total of 196 cases have been registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act During 2015-2019.

The graph maintained by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) reveals that between 2015 to 2019 highest number of 109 cases were registered in 2019 while no case was registered in 2017 throughout the year.

It said that 30 cases were registered in 2015, 25 in 2016, and 32 cases in 2018 taking the total cases registered to 196.

The MHA informed that the State Governments are competent to deal with such offences under the extant provisions of laws. "National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles and publishes statistical data on crimes in its publication "Crime in India". Published reports are available till the year 2019. Analysis of this data for cases registered under various crime heads on crimes against children does not show any uniform trend", the MHA said.

It said that the Government has approved setting up of 1023 Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) including 389 exclusive POCOS Courts for expeditious trial and disposal of cases related to rape and to POCOS Act.

"As per published information the Conviction Rate for POCOS cases in 2019 was 34.9", the MHA reply said—(KNO)

In Conversation

quietude in the neighbourhood. And, the silence that nights carried had the heaviness of the events that had happened during the day.

Rubaiyya Sayeed's kidnapping was one such incident that haunted me for weeks. I kept wondering about her — her powerful father couldn't save his daughter from being abducted. I wondered what she must have felt.

A couple of years later when our relatives started talking about rapes in hushed tones, I couldn't ask anyone about it. I didn't know what and how to ask. But, the probability of something bad happening to me kept growing inside me.

As a young girl, the first time I grew conscious of my body that was changing its contours into a young woman's body, was when I had to walk through a crackdown.

That day, I didn't hang my bag on my shoulder but I hugged it as if adding an extra layer of protection. I felt being attractive could mean serious trouble, so I stopped caring for myself or the way I looked.

And then there were times when I wanted to become invisible. I also developed a habit of pulling out my hair, about which I have written in one of the early chapters in the book.

Amidst all that fear and anxiety, I also fell in love, wrote letters, found a neglected room in the house to dance stealthily in and listened to the songs from banned radio stations.

YD: Was it frustrating to counter outsiders' views of Kashmir as a place for 'honeymoononly' or 'infested with terrorism'?

FB: When I was growing up, I was of the belief that the events happening on the global stage in 1989 had been rather too big for the world to pay attention to what was happening in Kashmir.

There were the Tiananmen Square protests and their aftermath, the fall of Berlin wall and Dalai Lama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize —all in the same year.

Because of which, I naively thought the world was too busy elsewhere, so the onus was on us to tell our stories.

Initially, I'd speak to people, patiently, than feel frustrated when talking about Kashmir. Later, when I realised that there was enough reportage on Kashmir for people to see how the situation on ground was, I did feel disillusioned. I spoke less and started writing more.

YD: How does Rumours of Spring address the conflict over decades?

FB: One text is not enough to contain the multitudes of the decades of conflict. The period I have written about is from 1989-1994 and there is still more to write.

The book is not only about the conflict or causalities but also about a way of life that no longer exists in Kashmir.

It is about the transformation of a teenage girl into a young adult that coincides with the transformation of Kashmir.

YD: According to you, what kind of

other voices should talk about the conflict? Do you think as more people speak from their experiences, it will be easy for the world to connect to the struggles?

FB: We need to hear all the voices. The conflict has impacted everyone differently.

Let's hope the world sees beyond the binaries and acknowledges the struggles of survival that the people, especially that of women and children, that they endure on a daily basis.

YD: What can be done to sensitise people about Kashmir?

FB: Facts are out there aplenty. To awaken and re-awaken a sense of empathy, compassion in times like these when dehumanising of a people is the narrative driven on purpose, when even the blinding of children seems normalised.

Covid-19 Claims

1965—729 in Jammu and 1236 in Kashmir.

Meanwhile, among the 77 fresh cases, officials said sixty were reported from Kashmir and the remaining 18 from Jammu division thus taking the total number of people infected by the virus to 127191, they said.

Giving district wise details, the officials said, Srinagar reported 36, Baramulla 10, Budgam 9, Pulwama 1, Anantnag 4, Jammu 13, Rajouri 1 and Kathua 2 new cases of Covid-19.

Moreover, they said, 87 more patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals—18 from Jammu Division and 69 from Kashmir Valley.

42 Militant

organizations which have received foreign support. "The number of militants killed during the last three years and the current year till date. The number of people victimized by the terrorists during the said period till date, State-wise. The steps taken by the Government to stop militancy till date and the extent to which success has been achieved so far?" the reply reads.

The reply further states that said that the Government has declared 42 organizations as militant organisations and listed their names in the First Schedule of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

"Militancy in India has largely been sponsored from across the border", MHA said.

The MHA said that the Government has taken various steps in this regard including strengthening of legal framework, streamlining of intelligence mechanism, setting up of National Investigation Agency (NIA) for investigation and prosecution of militancy-related cases, having various hubs of National Security Guards (NSG), stepping up the border and coastal security, modernization of police forces and capacity building of state police forces, etc.

"Due to the concerted and coordinated efforts of all the stakeholders, militancy-related violence has been contained to a large extent in the country", the MHA said—(KNO)

25 Shops, Three

afternoon of Tuesday were damaged in the fire besides goods and property worth lakhs were reduced to ashes.

Tehsildar Damhal Hanjipora, Niyaz Ahmad Bhat said that total 17 souls were affected after the fire engulfed the whole shopping complex, damaging at least 25 shops and three houses belonging to Abdul Satar Wani, his sons Javid Ahmad Wani and Fayaz Ahmad Wani all from Nehama, Kulgam.

He said five fire tenders were rushed to douse the flames. "It was after hectic efforts that the fire was controlled," he said.

A police official said fire broke out in a shop apparently due to a short circuit and within no time engulfed in the three houses near the market.

Meanwhile, the locals alleged that it took time for the fire servicemen to reach the place of incident.

They appealed the local administration to come forward and to help the affected people with compensation—(KNO)

LAWDA Demolishes

3 single storey houses, 1 one shed, one plinth and one second storey, an official spokesperson said. He said despite resistance from the public at many places, the demolition was carried out successfully.

"The Enforcement wing will continue with demolition of illegal constructions/ removal of encroachments and in case anybody found shall be dealt as per law," the official spokesperson said.

Woman Murdered

the inspection of the crime scene suggested a theft attempt as the motive behind the murder.

"We received an information from a relative of the deceased that she is not responding to the phone calls and rushed to the house where she was found murdered," the officer said, adding police are looking into different angles to crack this case.

The body was sent for post-mortem and the woman's husband has been picked up for questioning, the additional SP said.

He said a case has been registered and further investigation is on to arrest those behind the killing. (PTI)

از وقت تا ب تحصیلدار زمین کشیش ریہ با اجلاس ارشاد احمد کھٹاڑ سے صاحب درخواست مخائب:۔ آصف احمد قاضی صاحب جان دادا وان محمد قاضی صاحب سنان کشیش ریہ (پتوہ) تحصیل ضلع اہت ناگ بٹنر حصول موٹا کاسٹ سرٹیفکیٹ 294 SRO

استخبار برکراڈ گاھی ہر خاص و عام

معاملہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں سالکان صدر نے ایک درخواست بٹنر حصول موٹا کاسٹ سرٹیفکیٹ دفتر بازہ میں پیش کیا ہے حسب رپورٹ پٹواری علاقہ تحصیل افراد کیہ بذیل درج ہے:-

نام صاحب کتبہ مودولیت	عمر	پیشہ	آدمائی
آصف احمد قاضی پھر گل محمد قاضی	22 سال	زیر تعلیم	
گل محمد قاضی	65 سال	مزدوری	4000
عید جان دفتر گل محمد قاضی	22 سال	زیر تعلیم	

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گزرنے کے بعد کوئی بھی اعتراض یا تامل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

تحریر صدر نائب تحصیلدار زمین کشیش ریہ

mja

'England Players Suffered Weight Loss In 4th Test Against India,' Reveals Ben Stokes



Press Trust of India

AHMEDABAD: Star England all-rounder Ben Stokes has revealed that he and his teammates endured sudden weight loss during the fourth and final Test against India here after a stomach illness hit the tourists before the match.

England lost the four-match Test series 1-3 after going down in the final match by an innings and 25 runs last week.

"Players are totally committed to England and I think that was emphasised last week when a few of us went down with illness that made operating in 41 degree heat particularly taxing," Stokes told UK's 'Daily Mirror'.

"I lost 5kg in a week, Dom Sibley 4kg and Jimmy Anderson 3kg among others. Jack Leach was ducking off the field in between bowling spells and spending more time than is ideal in the toilet."

Rishabh Pant and Washington Sundar scored 101 and 96 respectively to guide India to 365 in their first innings. The hosts then returned to dismiss England for 135 to win the match.

"This is in no way an excuse, because everyone was ready to play, and India and Rishabh Pant especially produced a terrific performance, but I take off my hat to the effort that was put in by players who gave everything they had to try and win for England," said Stokes.

The England team drew a lot of flak from former players follow-

ing their performance in the Test series but Stokes said it was important to shut that out to focus on improving the game.

"Pundits have a job to do and that's fine. But their responsibility isn't to make us better players and a better team. That is our job and that is what we have to focus on," said Stokes.

"The opinions that really matter are those of your captain, your coaches and your team mates who are trying to make the team and you as a player as good as you can be."

Stokes said a loss like this can dent the confidence of the youngsters in the team.

"For a lot of guys this was their first tour of India and it has been a steep learning curve, but that is part and parcel of being a cricketer at this level. The next test is how you react to those moments," he said.

"I wouldn't want any player, especially a young lad like Ollie Pope, Zak Crawley or Dom Sibley, leaving this tour and thinking they are not good enough to be here. They most definitely are."

"I have been through times like this in my career and your confidence can take a knock from a tour like this... you have to use the disappointment in the best way you can to motivate you to improve."

England will next play India in a five-match T20 series beginning on March 12 here.



Without Coach & Captain, Real Kashmir Take On Confident TRAU In I-League Today

Press Trust of India

KALYANI: A coach and captain-less Real Kashmir FC will face a daunting task in returning to winning ways and to stay in the title race when they take on a confident TRAU FC in an I-League match on Wednesday.

After remaining unbeaten throughout the first nine games of the season, RKFC finds itself on the cusp of falling out of the title race after it was beaten by league leaders Churchill Brothers in the opening game of phase-II.

But the Srinagar-based Real Kashmir suffered another blow as All India Football Federation (AIFF) on 6th March found head coach David Robertson and club captain Mason Robertson guilty of insulting match officials and banned the father-son duo for 4

matches as well as fining them both Rs. 4 lakh.

The Snow Leopards find themselves in fifth spot with 17 points from 11 games and need nothing short of three points against TRAU to revive their title claim.

"We have already played TRAU once this season they scored very early, but we fought back for a point. This time around we want to win against them, get the three points and move on to the next challenge," RKFC assistant coach James Lindsay said.

While Real Kashmir full back cum midfielder Abhash Thapa said, "We have been unlucky despite playing well in a few games like Sudeva, Churchill. We are motivated to prove ourselves every time we step on. We have four more games, and it is very important to continue playing as a team. We want to prove that we were beaten,

but are not down, and will come back stronger."

TRAU, meanwhile, are on high spirits after Bidyashagar Singh's hat-trick helped them cruise past Mohammedan SC 4-0 in their previous match.

Despite being on a three-match winning streak, the Red Pythons trail leaders Churchill Brothers by seven points as they sit in third place with 19 points from 11 games. And Nandakumar Singh's side will look to build on their positive streak against RKFC on Wednesday.

"We are a young team and have immense potential. We have been prolific in scoring goals, but defensively there have been few mistakes. I am satisfied with what we have achieved and I am not thinking about whether we can win the title. The team needs to build on this momentum," Nandakumar said.

The match will kick off at 4.05 PM.

'Rishabh Pant Can Be A Match-Winner For India In T20s,' Says VVS Laxman



Press Trust of India

MUMBAI: Former India batsman VVS Laxman believes Rishabh Pant can be a match-winner for the country in the T20 format and needs to be given a longer rope keeping the upcoming T20 World Cup in mind.

The 23-year-old wicket-keeper batsman was recently named in the limited overs squad for the upcoming five T20Is against England after being dropped from the white-ball leg of the Australia tour.

Pant has been in terrific form in Tests and played a key role in India's win in Sydney and Brisbane against Australia and the fourth Test against England in Ahmedabad.

"We have seen him play under pressure for Delhi Capitals and win matches. As a left-hand batsman, he gives that option where the opposition captain can feel the heat once he gets going," Laxman said on Star Sports show 'Game Plan'.

"I think he is a great addition and I hope they don't judge him by one or two innings because if you're keeping in mind the world cup, it can be a long rope. Once he has the security, we know that he can win matches just by himself."

Pant cracked a breathtaking 101 off 118 balls to help India score 365 in the fourth Test, be-

sides scoring a 97 at Sydney and an unbeaten 89 at Brisbane that led India to a historic series win against Australia in January.

India will be taking on England in a five-match T20 International series, starting on March 12.

Laxman, a veteran of 134 Tests, feels Pant can fulfil the finisher's role in the team along with Hardik Pandya and Ravindra Jadeja.

"In this situation, it could just strengthen the finishers in the Indian team because over the last one and half years, we are overly dependent on Hardik Pandya and (Ravindra) Jadeja when he comes in at No. 7," said Laxman.

"But if there is one batsman in the Indian batting line-up who from the first ball can play those shots it is Pandya. Pant with the kind of form and maturity...it's not only about the form but the maturity with which he's batted in Test matches, I think he (Pant) will be a match-winner."

Laxman also had words of praise for Mumbai batsman Suryakumar Yadav, who has earned his maiden national call-up for the T20 series against England, starting March 12.

"He deserves it, I think he (Suryakumar) is a great role model for youngsters, especially in India," said Laxman.

"We're not sure if he (Suryakumar) will get to play in the playing XI, but he definitely deserves a spot in the squad."

Serena Williams Says She's 'Proud' Of Meghan Markle

Agencies

LOS ANGELES: Tennis star Serena Williams says she's "proud" of Meghan Markle following her interview with Oprah Winfrey. Williams called Meghan "my selfless friend" in an Instagram post after the sit-down aired on Sunday night in the US praising the Duchess of Sussex as "brave".

"I know it is never easy," Williams said in the caption. "You are strong- both you and Harry."

Meghan revealed in the interview that she experienced suicidal thoughts after joining the royal family. She also said there were concerns within the palace while she was pregnant with son Archie about how dark his skin might be. Williams said Meghan's words "illustrate the pain and cruelty" Meghan has experienced.

"I know first-hand the sexism and racism institutions and the media use to vilify women and people of colour to minimise us, to break us down and demonise us," Williams wrote.

"The mental health consequences of systemic oppression and victimisation are devastating, isolating and all too often lethal."

Williams said she wants her daughter, Meghan's daughter and "your daughter", referring to readers, "to live in a society that is driven by respect".



Ashwin Named ICC Player Of The Month For February

Press Trust of India

DUBAI: India's premier off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin was on Tuesday named the ICC men's Player of the Month (February) for his stellar show against England in a four-match Test series at home which his side won 3-1.

England's Tammy Beaumont was adjudged the women's Player of the Month. In the three Tests he played, Ashwin scored a 106 in the second innings of India's second Test victory over England at

Chennai and took his 400th Test wicket in the third Test victory at Ahmedabad.

Besides the century, Ashwin scalped a staggering 24 wickets against England in February to help India pocket the four-match Test series 3-1 and help his team secure the spot in the WTC final against New Zealand.

Scoring a total of 176 runs across these games and taking 24 wickets, Ashwin was the unanimous choice to win in the men's category for February and garnered the most votes in the fan vote, the ICC said in a statement.

England Test captain Joe Root (333 runs and 6 wickets in 3 Tests against India), and West Indies Test debutant Kyle Mayers, who scored a match-winning 210 to help his team successfully chase 395 and win the first Test against Bangladesh, were nominated alongside Ashwin for the honour.

Beaumont played three ODIs in February against New Zealand where she passed fifty in each of these, totalling 231 runs.

Commenting on Ashwin's performance in February, Ian Bishop, representing the ICC Voting Academy, said: "Ashwin's consistent wicket taking, even in helpful conditions have helped to put his team ahead in a very important series. His century in the second Test was as critical as it came when England were trying to claw their way back into the match."

Kane Williamson To Miss New Zealand Vs Bangladesh ODI Series



Agencies

WELLINGTON: Captain Kane Williamson will miss New Zealand's three one-day internationals against Bangladesh later this month with an elbow injury.

In a statement New Zealand Cricket medical manager Dayle Shackel said Williamson has a small tear in his left elbow tendon that requires immediate treatment.

"Kane's been managing the elbow injury to varying degrees this summer and unfortunately it hasn't improved," Shackel said.

"He obviously has a high volume of training and playing across the three formats which has inhibited his ability to recover."

"We believe he now needs a period of rest and rehabilitation to get the injury right."

Williamson is now unlikely to play for New Zealand at home again during the southern hemisphere summer.

The one-day internationals will be played on March 20, 23 and 26. Williamson will also likely miss three Twenty20 internationals against Bangladesh on March 28 and 30 and April 1 while traveling to the Indian Premier League.

He will rejoin New Zealand for its two-test series against England in May before the World Test Championship final against India at Southampton from June 18 to 22.

Mortal Remains Of Athletics Coach Nikolai Snesev Taken To His Home Country

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: The mortal remains of India's middle and long-distance coach Nikolai Snesev was on Tuesday taken to his home country Belarus, four days after he was found dead in his hostel room at the National Institute of Sports at Patiala.

The dead body was first taken to Dubai by a 'flydubai' flight from the Indira Gandhi International Airport at around noon en route to Belarus capital Minsk.

Snesev's mortal remains, to be taken by another flight from Dubai, is expected to reach Minsk on Wednesday. This after the officials of the Athletics Federation of India completed the formalities to transport the coffin to Minsk.

"The coffin containing the dead body was sent from Patiala on Mon-



day night and was received by AFI officials here. All the formalities were finished in the morning today and handed over to the concerned airlines for transportation to Minsk," an AFI official told PTI.

"We have handed over all the relevant papers from the police, hospital

and accepting party in Minsk. We have also spoken to Mrs Nikolai and have sent the flight details and other information to her."

The AFI official said that the post-mortem report only mentioned "natural death" of Snesev. His dead body was earlier sent to a government hospital in Patiala for post-mortem.

"The post-mortem report only mentioned natural death," the AFI official said.

The 72-year-old Snesev, who returned to India after a gap of two years to be at the helm till the end of September, was found dead when the coaches at the NIS broke his room door after he did not report for the Indian Grand Prix 3 held on Friday last.

He had come for the meet from his base in Bengaluru. He had arrived in India only on March 2.

Chelsea Retains 4th Spot In PL With 2-0 Home Win Over Everton

Agencies

LONDON: Kai Havertz is finally making an impact at Chelsea and helping the pursuit of Champions League qualification.

The Germany playmaker Havertz has struggled to convince since joining from Bayer Leverkusen in the off-season for up to 70 million pounds (then USD 92 million).

Havertz struggled under previous Chelsea manager Frank Lampard, suffering lasting effects from a coronavirus infection and battling for regular first-team action.

But Havertz helped Chelsea to beat Everton 2-0 at Stamford Bridge on Monday and was unlucky not to have a goal to his name after starring in the false nine position.

Havertz was unlucky not to be credited with Chelsea's first goal, with Ben Godfrey's deflection even-



tually confirmed as an own goal. The lively forward later saw a neat finish ruled out for handball before winning a penalty that Jorginho converted.

"I'm very happy with his performance, no doubt about his quality his talent and also not about his character," Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel said.

"He needs to adapt to the Premier League, he needs to be at a club where you play to win every game, where the highest standards are normal. That's a normal process also for him to adapt to this mentality."

Chelsea's mean-spirited defense under Tuchel continues to set new standards in west London. The Ger-

man has now become the first manager to secure five clean sheets in his first five home league games.

Chelsea boasts nine clean sheets in Tuchel's 11 matches in charge, and only Maurizio Sarri with 12 games has enjoyed a longer unbeaten start to life at the club. It leaves Chelsea two points ahead of fifth-placed West Ham, which beat Leeds 2-0 in the other game on Monday.

A year ago, West Ham was out of the relegation zone only on goal difference. Now the east London club is chasing European qualification.

West Ham took the lead in the 21st minute with virtually its first attack.

Jesse Lingard played a neat one-two with Said Benrahma and skipped into the area, where Luke Ayling clumsily brought him down. The Manchester United loanee's penalty was saved by Leeds goalkeeper Ilan Meslier but he netted from the rebound.

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