

PMAY (U) Scheme

336 Flats In Jammu Being Allotted To People From Other States

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Housing Board will allot 336 economically weaker section (EWS) and low income group (LIG) flats to non-locals under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) mission here, officials said.

The board has invited online applications from the people of the country, who have migrated to Jammu temporarily or permanently, for allotment of flats.

According to a public notice issued recently, the housing board has set May 15 as the last date for filing an online application for the allotment of 336 EWS and LIG flats at Sunjwan on the outskirts of Jammu under the Affordable Rental Housing Complexes' (ARHC) scheme.

The scheme provides rental housing for EWS or LIG urban migrants including labourers, urban poor (street vendors, rickshaw pullers and other service providers), industrial workers, and migrants working with market or trade associations, educational/health institutions, hospitality sector, long term tourists or visitors, students



or any other persons of such category.

"Urban migrants/poor chose to live in informal settlements and shacks to save more from their daily earnings thereby compromising the basic necessities of housing. The site is suitably located at Sunjwan, in the vicinity of major Industrial estates Gangyal (5 kms) and Bari Brahmna (10 kms) radius, and approached through Chowadhi and Transport Nagar, Narwal," reads the notice.

"The site is located in a

developing area of Jammu suburbs provided with commercial establishment of daily needs, educational and health infrastructure. All building blocks are earthquake resistant and the layout comprises bedroom, living room, kitchen, toilet and bath," it states.

The flats are available on a monthly rent of Rs 2,200 (per flat for a total carpet area of 290 sqft).

The notice said the period of rent agreement for flats will be made initially for a period of

three years which will further be extendable for five years as per the need of the allottee subject to fulfilment of terms and conditions laid down in the agreement.

As many as 96 units allotment will be made by April 30 followed by 112 units allotment by June 30, while the rest of the 128 units allotment will be made in the third phase by October 31.

Post COVID-19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a clarion call for "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" to promote economic activities. Aligned with this vision, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has initiated ARHCs with an aim at creating vibrant, sustainable and inclusive affordable rental housing avenues for urban migrants and poor by 'aggregation of their demand at a given site' with all civic amenities, according to the board.

J-K Housing Board, a semi-government, autonomous and statutory organisation, has so far developed and allotted more than 10,000 plots of different sizes in various colonies at Kashmir and **More on P6**

Chinese Vessels In Indian Ocean, Indian Navy On Alert

Press Trust Of India

New Delhi: There is a "large presence" of Chinese vessels in the Indian Ocean Region and India keeps a "very close watch" on the developments in the region to protect and preserve its national interests in the maritime domain, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar said on Saturday.

During an interaction at a conclave here, he also said that the Indian Navy is seized of the docking of various PLA Navy ships at ports in Pakistan, and it is "keeping a watch on it".

Asked about the threat aspects, the Navy chief spoke of both conventional and non-conventional threats, besides those emerging from what he described as "silent and inclusive paradigm" resulting in a "web of threats" that are emerging.

Meanwhile, IAF Chief Air Marshal V R Chaudhari in a separate interaction themed on 'Indian Air Force: The Future is Now', held at The Chanakya Conclave in Delhi, said in future what needs to be worked on is that besides the **More on P6**

Security forces in huddle Strategy Devised to Counter Vehicle-borne IED, Sticky Bomb Threat



Anantnag: Following deadly attack on army vehicle at Bhata-Durian area of Poonch on April 21 that left five soldiers dead, top security officials Saturday were in a huddle in Southern district of Anantnag to devise counter strategy to foil vehicle-borne IED and sticky bomb threats. In the meeting, convoy movement was upgraded and a "fresh plan was devised for national highway security."

The meeting was chaired by the ADGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar and attended by top officials of army, CRPF, BSF, SSB and other security agencies. Officials privy to the meeting told Kashmir News Observer, that the meeting discussed vehicle borne IED threat and other potential threats from militants that include sticky bombs etc.

"All the officers/officials put forth their suggestions on how to counter vehicle-based IED and sticky bomb threats. Other possible militant threats were also discussed and a joint strategy devised to foil all the bids by the militants," the official said, wishing not to be quoted. He said that in the meeting many officials admitted that vehicle-borne IEDs and sticky bombs were a challenge. The official said that a joint strategy was needed to counter both the emerging threats effectively.

Sources said that the meeting evolved a consensus that security on national highways needs to be given a special focus. "Night patrolling and area domination will be increased on highways forthwith," he said. Present in **More on P6**

Militant Associate Slapped With PSA

Jammu: An alleged overground worker (OGW) of militants was booked under the Public Safety Act (PSA) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Saturday, police said.

Waqar Hussain Bajran, a resident of Bhanghai village in Thanamandi Tehsil, has been booked under the PSA for facilitating the movement of militants, police said in a statement.

The PSA is an administrative law that allows detention without charge or trial for up to two years in some cases.

"The accused indulged in anti-national activities and was working as an active guide-cum-facilitator for terrorist organisations till his arrest. Earlier, he had visited gulf countries including Saudi Arabia where he came into contact with militant organisations and was actively involved in providing logistics support to terrorist outfits," the statement said.

It said a case under various sections of **More on P6**



An Aerial view of tourist hotspot Boulevard and pristine Dal Lake captured by Kashmir Observer lensman Abid Bhat on a sunny weekend

Army Asks People To Report Any Suspicious Movement

More than a week after militants strafed one of its trucks in an ambush in Poonch and killed five soldiers, Indian Army on Saturday asked people to immediately report any suspicious movement to the security forces and stay away from engaging in militant activities. It said it found it "unbelievable" to see the names that have come up in investigation associated with the April 20 attack. The army said Pakistan does not want peace in Jammu & Kashmir and will always be on the lookout for disturbing it, be it through communal **More on P6**

ALL THE OFFICERS/OFFICIALS PUT FORTH THEIR SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO COUNTER vehicle-based IED and sticky bomb threats. Other possible militant threats were also discussed and a joint strategy devised to foil all the bids by the militants."

JKP Officers Get Training In Drone Tech, Space App Use

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Police conducted a five-day special course for its officers on the use of space applications in policing including drone technology, interception and investigation in Udhampur district, an official said on Saturday.

This comes amid the growing use of drones by Pakistan to smuggle weapons and drugs into J and K.

The training capsule, which started on April 25 at S K Police Academy and culminated on Saturday, witnessed the participation of 22 officers from different wings of police, the

official said.

He said the course has been designed to meet the basic objectives like general overview of satellites, orbits remote sensing, general overview of GPS, tools for crime mapping, use of communication equipment, drone technology, model-based drone detection, machine learning-based drone detection, interception and investigation, besides discussion and practical demonstrations on drone and futuristic technology.

"To meet the desired objectives, eminent guest speakers from IIT Jammu and faculty from Cyber Police Station Jammu were invited **More on P6**

Country's First Cable-Stayed Rail Bridge In Reasi Completed

Press Trust Of India

Jammu: The work on the country's first cable-stayed railway bridge at Anji Khad in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir has been completed, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said.

The completion of the bridge drew praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi who is keenly monitoring the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL), which will provide rail connectivity between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of the country.

"In 11 months, India's first cable-stayed rail bridge (Anji Khad) is ready..." Railway



Minister Ashwini Vaishnav tweeted on Friday, sharing a video of the completed bridge. The total length of the cable strand used in the bridge is 653 km.

Reacting to Vaishnav's tweet, the prime minister

wrote "excellent". The completion of Anji Khad bridge, having a single pylon with a height of 331 metres above the river bed on Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL), **More on P6**

Sherpa Takes Charge As Director Info

Srinagar: Minga Sherpa on Saturday assumed the charge of Director, Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu and Kashmir, here.

Minga Sherpa is 2017 batch IAS officer from AGMUT cadre who hails from Darjeeling, West Bengal.

Outgoing Director, Akshay Labroo; Joint Director, Information Kashmir, Mohammad Aslam and other senior officers of the department were present on the occasion.

Subsequently, after assuming the charge, the Director interacted with the officers



and officials and was briefed about working of the department. He asked the employees to work with utmost sincerity and dedication.

S H O R T T A K E S

2 Soldiers Dead In Ambulance Accident

Two Army personnel were killed on Saturday when an ambulance of the force skidded off the road and plunged into a gorge in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials said. The Army ambulance met with an accident near Dungi Gala near the Line of Control when its driver lost control while negotiating a sharp curve, the officials said. They added that the ambulance driver and a soldier died in the accident. Their bodies were retrieved from the gorge by rescuers.

Elderly Man Dies From Slab Fall

An elderly man died after falling from a slab in Watchi village of south Kashmir's Shopian district on Saturday. Quoting an official, a agency reported that the man identified as Mohammad Abdullah (70) of Watchi Zainpora fell from the slab of his house today morning. He said he was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital, however, doctors declared him dead on arrival. Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of the incident.

Militant Associate Held In Handwara

Government forces on Saturday arrested an associate of the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) outfit in Handwara area of North Kashmir's Kupwara district, police said. The man was nabbed from Ganai Mohalla Pahalpora Magam in the Handwara area of the north Kashmir district during routine checking, they said. One hand grenade and other incriminating material were seized from his possession, a police spokesman said. The man was **More on P6**

Two Pak Intruders Held Along LoC

A father-son duo from Pakistan-controlled Kashmir (PCK) were apprehended by the Army near the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district on Saturday, officials said. Sardar Abdul Hamid and his son Abbass of Polas village were nabbed by the troops in Gulpur sector shortly after they intruded into this side from across the border, the officials said. They said the questioning of the duo is in progress and it was not immediately clear **More on P6**

'Hardcore Criminal' Arrested In Samba

An alleged hardcore criminal was on Saturday arrested and heroin was seized from his possession in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said. Balwinder Singh alias "Goru", a resident of Vijaypur, was apprehended during a special checking at Ranjari village, Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba, Benam Tosh said. "The arrested accused is a hardcore criminal-cum-heroin supplier who was also wanted in two other cases, related to attempt to murder **More on P6**

Katra Resident Found Dead In Srinagar

A man from Katra was found in Batamallo area of Srinagar district on Saturday afternoon. Quoting an official, news agency KNO reported that a 40-year-old man was found unconscious at Batamallo bus stand following which police were informed. He said that the man identified as Rakesh Kumar, resident of Katra, was shifted to SMHS hospital Srinagar where doctors declared him dead on arrival. Meanwhile, police have started an investigation in this regard.

Scholarships This Week

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

Scholarship Name 1: IET India Scholarship Awards 2023

Description: The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) is inviting applications from undergraduate engineering students to sharpen their creativity, innovation, leadership and excellence. The scholarship aims to recognise and nurture future engineering leaders of India.
 Eligibility: Open for students studying in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th year of a full-time regular undergraduate engineering programme (in any field) at an AICTE/UGC-approved institution. The scholarship is also

open for lateral entry students who join the B.Tech programme in the 2nd year. They must have cleared all regular credit courses in a single attempt. Applicants must have scored at least 60% in aggregate or equivalent CGPA of at least 6 on a 10-point scale in the semesters cleared so far.
 Prizes & Rewards: Scholarships worth INR 10,00,000
 Last Date to Apply: 03-06-2023
 Application mode: Online applications only
 Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/IET3

Scholarship Name 2:

VAIBHAV Fellowship 2023

Description: VAIBHAV Fellowship 2023 is an opportunity offered by the Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi to Ph.D./M.D./M.S degree holders.
 Eligibility: Open to NRIs, PIOs, and OCIs living abroad with a Ph.D./M.D./M.S. from a recognized university. Applicants must be researchers with a proven track record of research & development in the top 500 QS World University-ranked academic/research/industrial organizations. They must plan to conduct research in an Indian institute for 1 month (minimum) to 2 months (maximum) in

a year, spread over 3 years.
 Prizes & Rewards: A fellowship of USD 5,000 and other benefits
 Last Date to Apply: 31-07-2023
 Application mode: Online applications only
 Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/VAIB6

Scholarship Name 3: Goonj Urban Fellowship 2023-24

Description: Goonj Urban Fellowship 2023-24 is an opportunity offered by Goonj (a non-profit organisation) to graduate students. It is a 12-month programme where fellows will be working in both urban and rural areas

in any part of the country by engaging with the communities on ground.
 Eligibility: Open for a candidate who is between the age group of 21 and 30 years as on 31st July 2023. The applicant must graduate by 31st July 2023. The students must be fluent in Hindi or English (reading, writing and speaking).

Prizes & Rewards: A monthly stipend of INR 20,000
 Last Date to Apply: 25-05-2023
 Application mode: Online applications only
 Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/GUF3

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT
Office Of The Executive Engineer Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam
 Engineering Complex Budgam PIN No.191111
 E-mail:- xennrbdivbud@gmail.com, Phone-FAX:- 01951-255208
 NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
 NIT No:-10-MDB of 2023-24/716-30 DATED:-25/04/2023.

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are being invited on Percentage basis (as applicable) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with the J&K Government, CPWD, Railways, and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc (In Rupees)	Earnest money CDR/FDR/BG (Rs)	Time of Completion (days)	Class of Contractor	Major Head of account
1	Upgradation of Arzal Guttipora to Wanganwadi Road by way of Providing and Laying of WBM G-II, 75mm thick compacted wet mix, 50mm thick compacted bituminous macadam and 25mm thick compacted semiside with 6mm thick seal coat.	34.62	1100.00	69240/-	15	AAV/BEE	C&T
2	Upgradation of Rawalpura Wacho Link Road by way of Providing and Laying of WBM G-II, 75mm thick compacted wet mix, 50mm thick compacted bituminous macadam and 25mm thick compacted semiside with 6mm thick seal coat.	27.69	1100.00	55380/-	15	AAV/BEE	C&T
3	Upgradation of Raithan School Check Pradhan by way of Providing and Laying of WBM G-II, 75mm thick compacted wet mix, 50mm thick compacted bituminous macadam and 25mm thick compacted semiside with 6mm thick seal coat.	29.69	1100.00	59380/-	15	AAV/BEE	C&T
4	Upgradation of Hardwala Shalkot Link road by way of Providing and Laying of WBM G-II, 75mm thick compacted wet mix, 50mm thick compacted bituminous macadam and 25mm thick compacted semiside with 6mm thick seal coat.	27.69	1100.00	55380/-	15	AAV/BEE	C&T
5	Upgradation of Checkmarg Link Road by way of Providing and Laying of WBM G-II, 75mm thick compacted wet mix, 50mm thick compacted bituminous macadam and 25mm thick compacted semiside with 6mm thick seal coat.	19.79	800.00	39580/-	10	BEE/CEE	C&T
6	Upgradation of Babapora Check Falchal road by way of Providing and Laying of WBM G-II, 75mm thick compacted wet mix, 50mm thick compacted bituminous macadam and 25mm thick compacted semiside with 6mm thick seal coat.	69.20	1600.00	138400/-	20	AVY	C&T

Project Authority: Chief Engineer, PWD (R&B) Kashmir
 Position of AAA: Accorded Position of TS: Accorded
 The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in on the dates listed below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	25/04/2023
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	25/04/2023
3.	Bid submission Start Date	25/04/2023
4.	Bid Submission End Date	10/05/2023 upto 4.00 PM.
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online) (Tech. Bids)	11/05/2023 11.00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Budgam.

No: EE/MDB/716-30
 DIPK-939/23 DATED:-29-04-2023

Sd/-
 Executive Engineer
 Muffasil (R&B) Division Budgam.

From Office Of The Advocate Bashir Sidiq
 Chamber No.215

In the case of
 Tariq Ahmad bhat
 S/o Ramzan Ahmad bhat R/o Gogibagh Srinagar (Caveator)

V/S
 PUBLIC AT LARGE (Non-Caveators)

In the matter of: Caveat petition in terms of section 148-A of C.P.C

The caveator has reasons to believe/apprehension that the non-caveator may file a suit or any other type of proceeding before the Hon'ble Court of Principal Sessions Judge Srinagar on the ground of distorted facts/misrepresentation or cooked up story and may succeed in obtaining some relief/order at his back/exparte against the caveator and in such eventuality the caveator will be put to an irreparable loss and inconvenience. It would be proper that caveator is given opportunity of being heard by the Hon'ble Court before passing any order.
 nj Sd/- Advocate

ASF ENTERPRISES

Sale and Services of Computers 2nd. Floor Munir Manzil Regal Chowk Srinagar (J&K), Ph.0194-24 77949, 9419001176, 9419776235

Sale and Sendee of Laptops, Desktops, Printers, Photocopiers, Faxes, CCTV Cameras, Security System and Refilling of all Types of Cartridges, Toners
 Registered Government order Suppliers.



Public Notice

I Zubair Farooq Tantry S/o Farooq Ahmad Tantry R/o Palhallan Raipora intends to apply in the Department of Tourism for Registration of my proposed Travel Unit under the name and style M/s Pure Gifted Vacations Situated Raipora Palhallan under Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011-12
 I will submit Domicile Certificate, Qualification Certificate, PAN Card, Experience Certificate (Minimum 05 Years), Character Certificate, Bank Statement (Minimum Balance 10000.00, Site Plan, Affidavit, Rent Deed duly attested by Sub-Registrar, Printing Material, (Letterhead/Visiting Card), Photograph of the Unit (Indoor and Outdoor) and Two Passport size Photographs to the Department as per prescribed checklist prior to Registration of my unit as an Excursion Agency.
 Now as per J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011/12, before my case is processed for registration by the Competent Authority, the matter is hereby notified for information of general Public. For objection, if any have the same should reach to the Assistant Director Tourism Gulmarg Kashmir within a period of 14 days from the publication of this notice. No objections beyond this period shall not be entertained.
 fko

انتقال پر ملال

یہ خبر نہایت ہی دکھ کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ مرحوم عبدالحمید بٹ (ذیلدار) ساکنہ پیشقام مورخہ 7 شوال المکرم 1444ھ بمطابق 28 اپریل 2023ء بروز جمعہ المبارک اس دنیائے فانی سے رخصت کر گئے۔ اس سلسلہ میں تعزیت پر سی مرحوم کے گھر واقع دریشمقام اسلام آباد میں تین روز تک جاری رہے گی۔ چہارم وفاختہ خوانی بروز سوموار مقامی قبرستان متصل مرکزی جامع مسجد پیشقام اور رہائشی مکان ہیر محلہ پیشقام میں منعقد کی جائے گی۔ مستورات مشروبات و میوہ جات ساتھ لائے کی زحمت نہ کریں۔ وارثین ہر ایک سے مرحوم کے حق میں دعائے مغفرت کی درخواست کرتے ہیں۔
 غلام نبی تانترے (فرزند سستی) معادل و عمیال و قرابتداران



PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Majid Bashir Mintoo S/O, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Mintoo R/O Ward No 4 MAIpath Kishtiwar have purchased Plot No. 298 in Housing Colony Bagh-e-Mehtab from Bashir Ahmad Bhat S/O Abdul Aziz Bhat R/O Baghi Mehtab Srinagar originally allotted in favour of Mohammad Yousuf Dar S/O Abdul Ahad Dar R/O Aali Kadal Qutubdinpora Srinagar. I have applied for transfer of leasehold rights of above said plot in my favour. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to the Managing Director, J&K Housing Board, Green Belt Park, Gandhinagar, Jammu within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice. However, no objection will be entertained after the expiry of the above said period.
 Majid Bashir Mintoo
 S/O, Dr. Bashir Ahmad Mintoo
 R/O Ward No 4 MAIpath Kishtiwar NJ

محلس ترسیم

یہ خبر نہایت افسوس کے ساتھ دی جاتی ہے کہ آصف علی فرزند محبوب علی صاحب چیف جج محترم (PDD) ساکنہ نالہ نل محلی بل ٹوٹر مورخہ 24 مارچ 2023ء کو امریکہ میں دارالافتاء سے دارالافتاء انتقال کر گئے۔ مرحوم کی اجابتی فاتحہ خوانی، تکہ دولت خادمہ ملی میں بروز اتوار مورخہ 24 مارچ 2023ء کو صبح 9:30 بجے انجام دی جائے گی جو بعد از ان دن بھر جاری رہے گی۔
 سوگواران
 ارشد حسین، ڈاکٹر جاہد پٹو، شوکت رسول مالگیر
 9419008278, 9419001580, 9419462399



PUBLIC NOTICE

My particulars in my passport bearing no: K6936190 has been wrongly written as Ishfaq Ahmad Para S/o Ghulam Momammad Para Mother's Name; Hasina Begum, while the correct particulars as per my school records is Ishfaq Ahmad Para S/o Ghulam Momammad Para Mother's Name; Hasena Begum which needs to be corrected. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the Regional Passport Office Srinagar within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.
 Ishfaq Ahmad Para
 S/o Gh. Mohammad Para
 R/O Ward No 2 Plan Bandipora BB_r

Office of the Advocate Zahoor Ahmad Bhat J&K High Court Srinagar.

Ref No: ZAB/0124/23 Dated: 25-04-2023
 In the case of:
 Ashiq Hussain Dar
 S/o: Ghulam Mohammad Dar
 R/o Rajbagh Near Solar Kashmir Srinagar (Caveator)

Public at large (NON-CAVEATORS)

That the caveator has reasonable apprehension that the suit, appeal or any proceeding may be filed against the caveator and in the event, if same has been filed in that event the caveator of his counsel be provided an opportunity of being heard before passing any order in the said proceedings and since the caveator does not know the name and number of the persons who may file/ Institute any case against the caveator, as such the Instant caveat petition is being filed against the general public.
 NJ Caveator through counsel
 Zahoor Ahmad Bhat Advocate J&K High Court Srinagar

از عدالت چیف جوڈیشل مجسٹریٹ سب جج سرینگر

با اجلاس راجا محمد تسلیم
 زینت اختر خیر غلام رسول شیخ ساکنہ باران
 چتر بند بالورینگر (سائل) بنام
 درخواست نمٹانے سائلہ سمانہ زینت اختر
 برادر اندراج کرنے تاریخ پیدائش 15-04-1977

معاہدہ مندرجہ عنوان الصد میں سائل اسانکے عدالت ہذا میں ایک درخواست قبول ہوئی ہے جس میں اندراج کرنے تاریخ تو فوجی دائرگی ہے۔ لہذا تمام اناس کو ہڈریا اختیار مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ نسبت درخواست سائل اسانکے منظور ہونے میں 07-05-2023 تک پیش کرے۔ بعد گزرنے معیار کوئی اندراج عرض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔
 تجزیہ الصد 29-04-2023 nj



Special Drive Conducted In City Markets To Check Quality, Prices Of Food Items

Observer News Service

Srinagar: On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, the team of Food Safety Department today conducted a special drive in various markets of Srinagar City to check the quality and prices of the food item.

A team of Officers headed by Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Designated Officer under FSSA Srinagar, Yameen ul Nabi carried out a surprise market checking in Nowpora, Khyam Chowk and other adjoining areas of the City to check the quality of ready to eat food items being sold in the area.

The team of Food Safety lifted various samples of ready to eat food items from Food Business Units operating in Khyam Chowk and other areas. The samples were sent for analytical purposes to the laboratory.

The Team also con-

ducted market checking in the Chanapora area and inspected several Bakery and other Food Business Units in the area.

During the inspection several Food Business Operators were compounded for violating various provisions under section 56 of FSS Act.

On the occasion, the Market Checking Team warned the erring Food Business Operators not to indulge in violations of Food Safety Regulations and insanitary conditions which are against public health failing which a hefty compound will be imposed upon them in future, which can even lead to closure of facility.

Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar has asked the Food Safety Department and other Market Checking teams to continue the drive to ensure all essential commodities are sold at Government approved rates as per the Food Safety Standards and Quality.



People buy mouth watering Kashmiri wazwan Anchar (pickle) from a vendor in old city, KO Photo, Abid Bhat

Drug Abuse Evolving Into Epidemic In Kashmir, Experts Sound Alarm

KASHMER Organizes One Day Workshop On Drug Abuse

Majid Nabi

Srinagar: As the number of drug abuse cases in the Kashmir valley have increased alarmingly over the past few years, experts believe that the problem has evolved into an epidemic that may be difficult to control, if timely measures are not taken at the community level.

At a one-day workshop on mental health awareness and substance abuse held at the Government College of Education, Maulana Azad Road by the Kashmir American Society for Healthcare and Medical Education Research (KASHMER) in this regard, experts like psychiatrists and counselors presented their viewpoint and offered solutions for how to stop the problem before it gets out of control.

They said organizing awareness campaigns at community level could aid in preventing drug abuse in the society to a great extent. For that, experts said the role of religious clerics and civil society is far more important.

"Drug abuse has become an epidemic in Kashmir, where young people use drugs in various forms and exhibit noticeable behavioral changes; I think

Services of religious clerics could be availed in this direction, while religious places like mosques could be the best places for spreading awareness among masses. Society cannot remain mute anymore, we have to break the taboo and rise against this issue before it's too late

the situation is far more concerning than it appears. Drug abuse not only has a negative effect on an individual who is into it, but destroys a family. So we as a society have a role to play to save our youth from dying a painful death," Dr Syed Riyaz, Project Head KASHMER told Kashmir Observer on the sidelines of the workshop.

He said parents are reluctant to admit their children, who are into drug

abuse in drug de-addiction centers because of the social stigma attached to the issue. Elaborating, Dr. Riyaz said the children below 15 years of age in Kashmir use narcotics without their parents even being aware of it.

"Services of religious clerics could be availed in this direction, while religious places like mosques could be the best places for spreading awareness among masses. Society cannot remain mute anymore, we have to break the taboo and rise against this issue before it's too late," he added.

Others who delivered lectures on the subject include former Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Srinagar, Syed Hanief Balkhi, Dr Nahida Nazir, founder member KASHMER, Prof Dr Seema Naz, Dr S Mohammad Salim Khan and Uzma Sami, Counselor Healthy Minds.

While expressing grave concern over the rising drug abuse in the society, the expert participants urged everyone, especially parents, to keep a close eye on the kids and look out for behavioral changes in them. They said society has to wake up to the issue before the substance abuse spreads its deadly tentacles.

KPDCL Bids Warm Farewell To Outgoing MD, Yasin M. Choudhary

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Ltd KPDCL today bade a warm farewell to the outgoing Managing Director (MD), Yasin.M.Choudhary.

At the event, all the chief engineers of KPDCL thanked him for his overall contribution to the organization.

Chief Engineer (Distribution), Er.Javed Yusuf Dar while speaking on the event thanked the Outgoing Managing Director for his dynamic leadership qualities and the milestones that this organization has achieved under his able guidance.

It has been a privilege for the whole organiza-

tion to work under the directions of the outgoing Managing Director; he said adding "We as an organization thank him for his bright ideas through which we were able to initiate many projects under Revamped Distribution Scheme (RDSS), which in few years will highly improve the power scenario of Kashmir Province".

All the senior officials of KPDCL highly appreciated the dedication and enthusiasm of the Outgoing Managing Director of KPDCL, through which all the O&M Divisions of Distribution have successfully achieved their milestones in a short span of time and reduced the T&C losses to a minimum.

Action Plan For Implementation Of "Catch The Rain, Save The Water"-2023 Reviewed

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In order to review and discuss the Action Plan for implementation and promotion of the "Catch the Rain, Save the Water" initiative for its conservation under Jal Shakti Abhiyan, a meeting was today held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad here at Meeting Hall of the DC office Complex.

The meeting was attended by Program Officer,

ICDS, Superintending Engineer Hydraulic, Chief Planning Officer, Superintending Engineer Mechanical PHE, Assistant Commissioner Development, DFO Urban/Dachigam, District Social Welfare Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Education Officer, District Soil & Conservation Officer, Executive Engineer REW, representatives from Department of Ecology Environment and Remote Sensing, besides other concerned.

At the outset, the Deputy

Commissioner held discussions regarding the implementation of "Catch the Rain, Save the Water" initiative by the line Departments under Jal Shakti Abhiyan with the central theme "Source Sustainability for Drinking Water" for year 2023.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stressed on making extra efforts for efficient management of water conservation and rain water harvesting, besides fully tapping ground water sources and springs across the District.

Govt of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Zonal Education Officer Tahab Pulwama
Block Code 01050 email: zeotahabssa@gmail.com | zeotahabdm@gmail.com
No: ZEO/T/23/2040 Dated: 29-04-2023
AUCTION NOTICE

School building in Department of Education Zone Tahab Pulwama which was declared unsafe by concerned JE vide HOIs letter No:GPS/A/117-23, Dated: 24-04-2023 for teaching/learning process. The school is running under name 'Govt. Girls Primary School Achan' and the building is located in village Achan, Tehsil Litter Shahoor, District Pulwama. Now we would like to Auction the school building & the same will be held on 06-05-2023 at the said village at 02:00 p.m with the following terms and conditions: -

- 1) The interested parties/agencies can inspect the school building along with the designated auction committee on 06-05-2023 & submit their bids for purchasing the material of the building.
- 2) The successful bidders will have to deposit 25% of the bidding amount in cash/cheque on the spot for onward deposition to District Treasury Pulwama.
- 3) The bidding agencies/parties would be required to lift all the material of the damaged building in one go & will be required to clear the sites at their own cost within one week after the auction, failing which deposited amount will be forfeited.
- 4) The successful bidder will be permitted to lift the material/items extracted from the damaged school building only after the bid amount is paid in full.
- 5) The undersigned reserves the right to accept/reject the bids.

DIPK-928/23 DATED: 29-04-2023 Zonal Education Officer Tahab Pulwama

J&K Bank logo and text: Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited Estates Department Zonal Office Anantnag W: www.jkbank.com

PREMISES REQUIRED

The Jammu & Kashmir Bank invites offers from Owners of premises for outright purchase/on lease basis for housing its Branch Fruit Mandi Batengoo, Anantnag, preferably on Ground Floor, as per the details given below:

S. No	Name of the Branch/ATM	Location	Carpet Area in sq. ft (approx.)	Built up Area/Land Area (approx.), in case of outright purchase basis
01	Fruit Mandi Batengoo Anantnag	Locality: Fruit Mandi, Batengoo, Tehsil: Anantnag, District: Anantnag	1200-1500 sq. ft	10 Marlas

Further details, requirements, terms and conditions, Technical Bids and Financial Bids proforma relating to the same can be obtained in person from Zonal Office Anantnag during working hours and also can be downloaded from Bank's website www.jkbank.com from 01/05/2023 under the link "EOI & Tender / Notification" in the Quick Access Tab.

The interested parties/persons owning the premises and having a clear title over the property should submit their offers in format prescribed by Bank by or before 22/05/2023 (05:00 PM IST) at Zonal Office Anantnag-192101.

Note: Those interested persons who have previously applied for any such tender need to apply afresh, as the previous tender notice stands quashed.

Bank reserves the right to cancel/reject any/all offer(s) without assigning any reason thereof.

Dated: 27/04/2023 Zonal Premises Committee

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India
CIN: L65110JK1928SGC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928 ; E : info@jkbank.com ; W : www.jkbank.com
DIPK-NB-459/23 dated: 29-04-2023

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AWANTIPORA, KASHMIR.
Tel: 01933-247954/247955. Website: www.iust.ac.in

Expression of Interest Providing pre-examination coaching for Competitive Examinations / Higher Studies to interested Candidates

For and on behalf of Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Kashmir, in view of low response sealed EOIs affixed with revenue stamp of 5/- are re-invited from reputed and prestigious coaching / training institutions for providing pre-examination coaching for Competitive Examinations (IAS/KAS/NDA/etc.) and for admission to Higher Studies (GATE/JRF/CAT/GMAT) to interested candidates. The detailed document can be downloaded from the University website: www.iust.ac.in and to be submitted by or before 12-05-2023, (4.00 PM) in the office of Dean Outreach, IUST. The EOI shall be accompanied with Demand Draft of Rs. 1000/- (as document fee, non-refundable) favoring Islamic University of Science and Technology, Kashmir. Terms and Conditions apply. Please note that the tenderer /s who have submitted the tender document in response to notice vide no: IUST/Reg/EOI/23/446 Dated: 31-03-2023 need not to submit EOI / Tender again and the EOI / Tender submitted in response to earlier EOI shall be considered.

No: IUST/Reg/Re-EOI/23/471 Dated: 28-04-2023 Sd/- Dean Outreach

DIPK-NB-468/23 dated: 29-04-2023

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488,2452222,2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmir EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

AIRPORTS
SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS
• SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
• ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
• BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
• BUBHERA: 01932-228243
• PAMPORE: 01933-294132
• PATTAN: 01954-293507
• QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

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

PRAYERS
FAJR 4:13
ZUHR 12:28
ASR 5:17
Magrib 7:16
ISHA 8:45

HIJRI CALENDAR
09 Shawwal
1444

This Day In History

- 1804 - The New Hague Theater opens in The Hague, the Netherlands
- 1860 - Navaho indians attack Fort Defiance (Canby)
- 1863 - Battle of Snyder's Bluff, Virginia (part of the Vicksburg Campaign of the American Civil War): General Sherman beaten by Confederate forces
- 1897 - English physicist J. J. Thomson announces his discovery of the electron in a lecture to the Royal Institution
- 1904 - Ice cream cone makes its debut
- 1945 - Red Army opens attack on German Reichstag building in Berlin.
- 1945 - Soviet Army frees Ravensbruck concentration camp
- 1945 - US troops attack the Elbe
- 1945 - Record 48 U-boats sunk by the Allies this month
- 1945 - Adolf Hitler commits suicide along with his new wife Eva Braun in the Führerbunker in Berlin as the Red Army captures the city.
- 1961 - Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba receives Lenin-Peace Prize
- 1962 - NASA civilian pilot Joseph A Walker takes X-15 to 75,190 m
- 1974 - US President Richard Nixon hands over partial transcripts of Watergate tape recordings
- 1975 - North Vietnamese troops capture Saigon, ending the Vietnam War
- 1976 - Muhammad Ali beats Jimmy Young in 15 for heavyweight boxing title
- 1984 - 1,700 skiers participate in an alpine event at Are, Sweden
- 1984 - Strong winds cause a 30 min delay in Toronto Blue Jays game
- 1989 - World Wide Web (WWW) is first launched in the public domain by CERN scientist Tim Berners-Lee
- 1990 - US 66th manned space mission STS 31 (Discovery 10) returns from space
- 1990 - US hostage Frank Reed freed after 4 years in hands of pro-Iranians

From KO Archives

Gunmen Kill 5 In Doda, Kupwara

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Unidentified gunmen overnight struck at two places in Doda and Kupwara districts and killed five persons, including three of a family and injured two others. Elsewhere security forces continued with their cordon and search operations across J&K, leading to the arrest of several suspected

Shooting by unidentified gunmen inside a house at Dachin in Doda district left two persons dead overnight. Reports reaching here said that unidentified masked gunmen intruded into the house of one Mohammad Ramzan son of Mo-hammad Subhan Khanday of Tunder, Dachin and fired indiscriminately upon the inmates. Two persons including the house-owner, Mohammad Ramzan of Tunder and Javid Iqbal son of Mohammad Subhan Bhat of Kishwar died on the spot, while Ramzan's son, Gul-zar Ahmad was injured in the shoot-out, after which the gunmen fled from the scene. Police accuse militants of the killings. No militant group has, so far, claimed responsibility. Meanwhile in a similar incident unidentified gunmen last evening intruded into the house of one Gulham Hassan Lone son of Mukhtar Lone of Litany Tilgam in Kupwara district and fired at the inmates, killing three persons, including the owner, reports said.

The gunmen carrying AK rifles barged into the house and sprayed bullets at the inmates, killing Gulham Hassan Lone, his daughter, Dilshada Bano and his son, Irshad Ahmad Lone, reports reaching here said.

Another son of Lone, Javid was hospitalized and his condition is serious. Police blamed the militants for the killing. And again, no militant group has claimed responsibility so far.

Last evening unknown gunmen intruded into the premises of the Poultry Project, Hari Parbhat and tried to kidnap Dr. Khurshid Ahmad Malik, Director Animal Husbandry. The employees raised a hue and cry, which made the gunmen to flee. Later a police party reached the spot from a neighbouring police station.

During the night intervening March 24 and 25, suspected militants opened fire at the police post Wachi in Pulwama district. The police returned the fire. The exchange of fire caused no damage to either side.

(Kashmir Observer, 30 April, 1999)

Will Resignations in Science Journals Expose Their Business Models?

Dr. Afroz Shah

The resignations are seen as one of the major blows to the centuries of seemingly obvious exploitation tactics of publishers, which could initiate probes and discussions on the tall economic structure of publishing companies, which has broadly remained under the carpet for a long time

The editorial process has emerged as the most significant aspect of quality control in knowledge production in science and other subjects. The traditional publication process follows a systematic route where researchers usually apply for competitive research grants to start their research work. If the proposal is good, it gets accepted and funded after a thorough review by the review committee. The source of research funding is public and comes mainly from the taxpayer's money. It also comes from private parties. The researchers then work on the project for years to produce their findings, and once they are ready with some results, they share those with others in the field. Typically, the authors will submit papers to scientific journals and conferences. The editorial board of journals consists of editors, and reviewers, the primary gatekeepers to allow publishing, who are often experienced and trained researchers with a critical eye to look at details and decide the fate of newly submitted works. Therefore, when an author submits an article, it is first checked by the editor or a team of editors to decide if it is worth publishing. If the editor is happy to proceed, then the article is sent to reviewers, who will have to investigate the details and submit their report back to the editors, and then the review reports are analyzed, and the decision is made to either accept or reject. If the paper is accepted, the publisher will have the right to profit by selling the article to readers, including authors, editors, and reviewers.

Unusually, the authors, editors, and reviewers who worked tirelessly to scrutinize the paper and its quality are not paid any monetary benefits. Instead, they get rewarded with journal acknowledgements, names on the journal editorial boards, discounts on publishing etc. It is nothing. The non-monetary benefits to the authors, editors and reviewers have been going on for centuries, and publishers have made many billions without paying anything for the peer reviewers. I call it the most tactical exploitation of researchers. The obvious exploitation mechanism enacted by publishers has yet to be discussed vigorously in the scientific community, as is, for example, the climate change issue. Publishing is one of the main gateways that enable knowledge creation and sharing with the world. Billions of people who get educated are read-



ing books and other material created by publishers. But little do they know that the content reached them was created by people who have yet to be paid for it because they did it as a social service. But why. Because they thought it was related to knowledge sharing with the world. They felt that reviewing was a sacred service to pay back to society. But they need to be more aware of the financial system publishers have built over the centuries of the free service by the authors, editors, and reviewers. However, the incoming of the Open Access mode of publishing, where authors must pay for publishing instead of consumers (readers), has rejuvenated the discussion about the economic benefits of publishing and who earns from it. It has done it right because now the authors are confronting the payments issues daily by being directly involved in payments to publishers. This is why it has made them suspicious of the age-old business with new tactics, leading to the opening of new journals that charge nothing to publish.

Elsevier is one of the top-ranked publishers, based in Amsterdam, Netherlands, publishing

thousands of journals and books, and is known to everyone in the world of publishing. Recently, 42 editors of two of its leading neuroscience journals resigned over failed negotiations to reduce the journal's high Article Processing Charges (APC). The journal NeuroImage charges US\$3,450 per article, while the NeuroImage: Reports charges \$900, expected to double to \$1,800 from 31 May 2023.

The resignations are seen as one of the major blows to the centuries of seemingly obvious exploitation tactics of publishers, which could initiate probes and discussions on the tall economic structure of publishing companies, which has broadly remained under the carpet for a long time. Time will tell us if the authors, editors, and reviewers will reap any benefit from the publishers.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer
The author is a Sr. Assistant Professor, Structural Geology, Department of Geosciences, Faculty of Science, Universiti Brunei Darussalam

Should Muslims visit Jerusalem?

As Israeli violence against Palestinians at Islam's third holiest site escalates, we, Muslims, need to reconsider how we do travel to Jerusalem.

Hebh Jamal

Israel does not have jurisdiction over al-Haram al-Sharif (the Noble Sanctuary), where Al-Aqsa is located. Under the internationally recognised status quo, Jordan and the Jordanian-appointed Jerusalem Waqf Council have the right to decide what happens on its premises.

Nevertheless, Israeli authorities imposed a ban on overnight worship in the Al-Aqsa compound, preventing Palestinians from freely practicing their faith, which was met with Palestinian resistance. Israeli authorities also once again banned many Palestinians from visiting the holy site, violating not just their right to free worship but also their rights to move freely within their own homeland.

By now, the international media has moved on from the story of Israeli violence in occupied East Jerusalem, but the Muslim community should not. It is time we reflect on how we should address Israeli violations of Islam's holy site and Israeli brutality against our Palestinian brothers and sisters.

One important question is how Muslims should approach pilgrimage to Al-Aqsa and travel to occupied Palestine.

Understanding the occupation

When considering this issue, it is crucial to have some understanding of the Israeli occupation and the apartheid system that Palestinians live under.

Palestinians are also denied freedom of movement within their own homeland. A series of checkpoints, roadblocks, segregated roads, an apartheid wall and an arbitrary system of permits prevent them from travelling freely between Gaza, the West Bank and Jerusalem.

This means that Palestinians – both Muslims and Christians – are often denied access to their holy sites while foreign tourists are free to visit and walk around as they please.

Palestinians are also regularly prevented from travelling abroad. In 2021, Israel imposed travel bans on more than 10,000 Palestinians.

Even Palestinian people from the diaspora are often not allowed into occupied Palestine and Jerusalem. Israeli border police collect information on who is of Palestinian descent, who has refugee status and what their aim is when they visit. And in many cases, foreign nationals of Palestinian descent who want to visit, live or work in Palestine are arbitrarily turned away at ports of entry controlled by Israel.

Even if you have a privileged passport that does not require a visa to enter Israel, you can still be denied entry.

Those who are residents of occupied East Jerusalem have nominal access to Al-Aqsa, but even they face restrictions. For example, Muslim pilgrims are allowed to enter the compound through the Mughrabi Gate, but Palestinians are not. The Israeli authorities also regularly and arbitrarily close Al-Aqsa "for security" reasons.

Israel's claim that it recognises and abides by the status quo at the holy sites is blatantly false. Israeli authorities violate Jordan's and the Waqf's rights every day by imposing their own security measures and deciding who gets to enter Al-Aqsa and who does not.

These violations have long fed debates, especially in the Arab world, about avoiding travel to Jerusalem. In 2012, the late Sheikh Yusuf Qaradawi issued a fatwa arguing that it is forbidden to make pilgrimage to Jerusalem because it is a form of normalisation of the Israeli state.

Israeli profits and the erasure of Palestinians

Apart from Israel's attacks on Al-Aqsa and Muslim worshippers, another issue to consider is how travelling to the holy places actually benefits Israel financially and inadvertently supports its propaganda.

Tourism is an important part of Israel's economy, accounting for 2.8 percent of the country's gross domestic product and 6 percent of its employment.

In 2019, Israel estimated that more than 127,000 tourists arrived from Muslim majority countries. Add to that Muslims from various diasporas, and you get a significant chunk of the 4.5 million tourists who visit Israel/Palestine annually.

With the signing in 2020 of a number of normalisation deals with Arab states, known as the Abraham Accords, Israel has sought to tap into new pools of potential Muslim tourists to boost its tourism sector.

The top result on Google when you enter "pilgrimage to Al-Aqsa" is the website of an Israel-based agency named Tourism of the World. The landing page for its Muslim pilgrimages to the "Sacred Land" quotes the Quran and lists various religiously significant places, such as Al-Aqsa, Omar Mosque and Jericho's Nabi Musa Mosque. Of course, it makes no mention of Palestine or the Palestinians.

The problem is that it is not just Israeli-run travel agencies that erase the Palestinian people and their suffering. A quick look at tour operators for Muslim travel reveals that many of them also employ the same erasure.

Emphasising the spiritual significance of the land while turning a blind eye to the plight of its Indigenous people normalises Israel's occupation and apartheid and reinforces its campaign of erasure against the Palestinian people.

Boycotting Israel, embracing Palestine

Palestinians, of course, do not feel they have the exclusive right to decide who from the Muslim community may visit Al-Aqsa and who cannot. But they have asked for solidarity with their cause.

Since 2005, this appeal has emerged in the form of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, which calls on "people of conscience" around the world to express their solidarity with the Palestinian people by boycotting Israel.

Heeding the call and deciding not to travel to Jerusalem is one option. But there is another: a pilgrimage to Jerusalem can instead offer tourists an opportunity to promote international soli-

darity with the Palestinian cause.

Choosing a travel agency or a group trip that does not violate the tenets of BDS is crucial. While some travel agencies incorporate interacting with local Palestinians as part of their tours, they do not adhere to BDS. There are even cases of travel agencies actively violating it by advertising tourist attractions such as the Tower of David Museum run illegally by the Israeli occupation authorities.

But BDS should be the bare minimum for every Muslim travelling to Jerusalem. Arguably, what is more important than doing no harm is in fact going to Palestine to learn about the entrenched settler colonialism, interact with Palestinians and strive to become their global ambassadors after returning home.

Through delegation trips, such as those done by groups like Eyewitness Palestine, travellers can undertake not only pilgrimage to the holy sites but also work towards building transnational solidarity and become advocates for justice and liberation within their own communities.

Fulfilling a sunnah does not have to go against the Palestinian cause. Struggling against injustice and standing up for the oppressed are key tenets of Islam. In this sense, it is only natural to support the Palestinian struggle by reimagining religious tourism to Jerusalem as a form of resistance to the occupation.

Muslims have to understand that the political and the spiritual are deeply intertwined. They should reject Israeli propaganda that dissociates Al-Aqsa from the Palestinian plight, help expose Israel's settler colonial project and amplify Palestinian voices that narrate their oppression and liberation.

Views expressed in the article are the author's own and do not necessarily represent the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer. The article was originally published by Al Jazeera

May 2023: To Be Read

Aleph Book Company

Here is May 2023's line-up of releases by Speaking Tiger. From historian Romila Thapar's essays and reflections to Ruskin Bond's timeless literary genius, there's something for all.

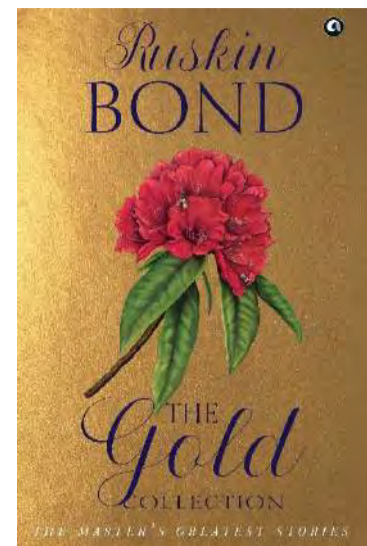
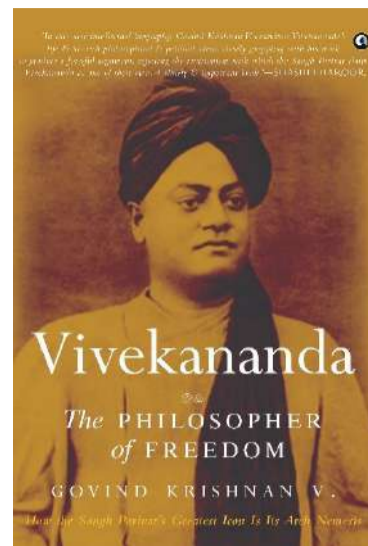
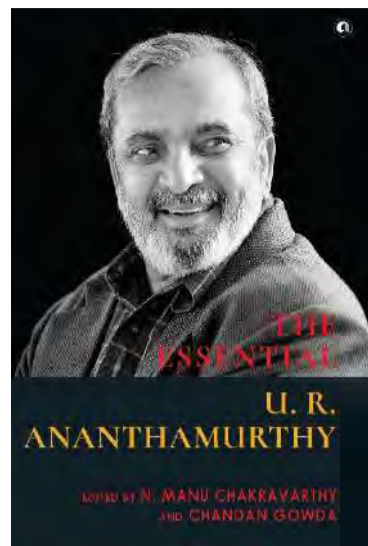
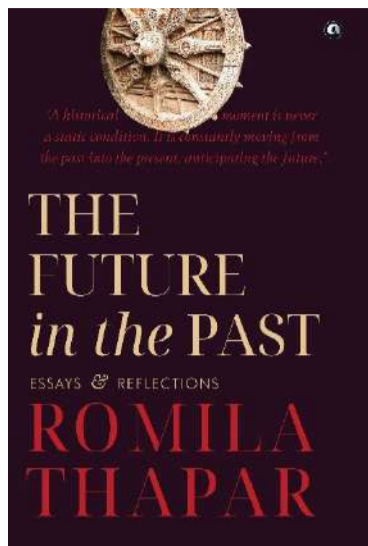
THE FUTURE IN THE PAST: ESSAYS AND REFLECTIONS

Romila Thapar
The Future in the Past brings together essays by Romila Thapar on issues and ideas that have preoccupied her throughout her career. These are subjects that surfaced frequently in discussions over the last six decades as they do even more so at present. Among them are the use and misuse of history, the myths surrounding the coming of the Aryans, religious fundamentalism in the study of society, the overt and the insidious attempts by right-wing elements to pervert Indian culture, variants of the Ramayana, the importance of museums, why dissent is important to democracy, the role of the public intellectual, and much more. Central to the arguments in these essays (versions of which first appeared in Seminar magazine) is an analysis of how the past permeates the present and influences the future.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Romila Thapar is Emeritus Professor of History at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She has been General President of the Indian History Congress. She is a Fellow of the British Academy and the American Philosophical Society and holds an Honorary D.Lit. each from Calcutta University, Oxford University, and the University of Chicago. She is an Honorary Fellow of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, St. Antony's College, Oxford, and SOAS, London. In 2008 Professor Thapar was awarded the prestigious Kluge Prize of the US Library of Congress, which honours lifetime achievement in studies such as history that are not covered by the Nobel Prize.

THE ESSENTIAL U. R. ANANTHAMURTHY

Edited by N. Manu Chakravarthy and Chandan Gowda
U. R. Ananthamurthy (1932–2014), writer, teacher, literary critic, and public intellectual, was born in Shivamogga district in Karnataka. In 1965, his debut novel, Samskara, took the literary world by storm with its unflinching portrayal of the rigid orthodoxy in Brahmin society. Since then, it has become a landmark novel of the modernist, or Navya, movement of the 1950s and 1960s in Kannada literature. In a career that spanned more than five decades, Ananthamurthy wrote five novels, several collections of short stories, poetry, and essays, a play, and an autobiography. He received



THESE ARE SUBJECTS THAT SURFACED FREQUENTLY IN DISCUSSIONS OVER THE LAST SIX DECADES AS THEY DO EVEN MORE SO AT PRESENT. Among them are the use and misuse of history, the myths surrounding the coming of the Aryans, religious fundamentalism in the study of society, the overt and the insidious attempts by right-wing elements to pervert Indian culture, variants of the Ramayana, the importance of museums, why dissent is important to democracy, the role of the public intellectual, and much more

the Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary honour, in 1994, and was nominated for the Man Booker International Prize in 2013.

The Essential U. R. Ananthamurthy is a five-part compendium of select fictional and non-fictional works, poetry, and autobiographical writings from one of India's most illustrious and outspoken writers. The section 'Novels' portrays characters in conflict with tradition, idealism, and modernity in a rapidly changing independent India through excerpts from powerful novels such as Samskara, Bharathipura, Avasthe, and Bhava. 'Poetry' presents five evocative poems on the themes of power and politics. 'Short Stories' highlights the chief themes that preoccupied Ananthamurthy—the constraints of the traditional order, the cultural dominance of the West, the sinister workings of power, and the creativity of political dissent. 'Essays and Speeches' captures the range and depth of Ananthamurthy's democratic imagination through his writings on cultural identity and literature, community and creativity, linguistic and nationalist politics, and on figures such as Mahatma Gandhi and Ram Manohar Lohia. And, the final section, 'Memoirs', gathers Ananthamurthy's memories of family, friendships, work, and travel from the different phases of his life.

The Essential U. R. Ananthamurthy offers a rich glimpse into the mind of one of modern India's most

profound writers and thinkers and demonstrates why Ananthamurthy's works will endure for generations to come.

ABOUT THE EDITORS
N. Manu Chakravarthy is a visiting professor of film and culture theory at several universities and film institutes. He won Swarna Kamal, the best film critic award, at the 58th National Film Awards in 2010 and the Karnataka Sahitya Akademi award for his book Madhyama Marg in 2014. In 2022, he presided as the chairman of the jury for the K. R. Mohanan Endowment Award at the International Film Festival, Kerala. He has recently completed a study of U. R. Ananthamurthy for the Sahitya Akademi.

Chandan Gowda is Ramakrishna Hegde Chair Professor of Decentralization Studies at the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bengaluru. He has translated U. R. Ananthamurthy's novella, Bara, and edited Theatres of Democracy: Selected Essays of Shiv Visvanathan, The Way I See It: A Gauri Lankesh Reader, and A Life in the World, a book of autobiographical interviews with Ananthamurthy. At present, he is co-translating and editing The Greatest Kannada Short Stories Ever Told. He is a columnist with Deccan Herald.

VIVEKANANDA THE PHILOSOPHER OF FREEDOM
Govind Krishnan V.
Known by many but understood

by few, Swami Vivekananda is a figure shrouded in mystery. However, in recent years there has been a greater tendency to understand, explain, and appropriate the monk and his legacy, especially by the Hindu Right. In Vivekananda: The Philosopher of Freedom, Govind Krishnan V. contests the Hindu Right's appropriation of Swami Vivekananda, arguably one of the most influential and defining figures of modern Hinduism. He attempts to show the reader that Vivekananda's religious philosophy, social thought, and ideology are the very antithesis of Hindutva.

Divided into three sections, this book brings into focus multiple facets of Vivekananda's short but eventful life. 'Part I: Life, Ideology, and Historical Context' begins with a short biography of Swami Vivekananda before examining how the RSS and the Sangh have used Hindu symbols, motifs, and issues like Ram Janmabhoomi, and contrasting this usage with Vivekananda's Hinduism. It then explores Vivekananda's early understanding of and relationship with Islam and Christianity. The section ends with an examination of the role Western civilization plays in Vivekananda's and the RSS's respective world views and the obvious clash between the former's internationalism and the latter's nativism. 'Part II: Hinduism, the Sangh, and the West' introduces the reader to important features of Vivekananda's writing and thinking which have become lost to our public memory.

It explores Vivekananda's views on themes relevant to the Hindutva project: Indian civilization, society, and culture; the nature of the caste system and Brahminism; the history of Islam in India; attitudes towards Islam and Christianity; Hindu mythology, belief, and rituals; individual liberty; attitudes towards the West; and so on. Finally, it situates Vivekananda's public life in the global context during a period of much change in fin de siècle Europe and America. Also surveyed is the cultural and intellectual framework of colonialism within which Vivekananda operated. The last section of the book, 'Part III: Vivekananda's Philosophy', begins with an exposition of Vivekananda's philosophy of universal religion and his theoretical framework and an explication of his famous assertion that religion should conform to reason as much as science does. The closing part of the book deals with Vivekananda's position on caste and gender and posits him as an anti-caste and proto-feminist reformer of his time. Cogently argued, Vivekananda: The Philosopher of Freedom pulls back the curtain on Vivekananda's outlook and shows why the great monk deserves to be reinstated as a liberal thinker in the popular cultural imagination.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Govind Krishnan V. is a long-form journalist based in Bangalore. He has reported from several states in India, focusing on investigative jour-

nalism and human rights. In 2014, he received the Red Ink Award for Human Rights reporting. He has written on politics, corruption, science, development, agriculture, religious fundamentalism, and crime. He has worked for Fountain Ink, Sunday Guardian, and the New Indian Express. His work has also appeared in Scroll.in, Firstpost, Deccan Chronicle, and the News Minute. Govind occasionally publishes academic articles on philosophy and English literature. He was shortlisted for the prestigious Einstein Fellowship in 2018 and received the Agha Shahid Ali Award for poetry instituted by Poetry Chain.

THE GOLD COLLECTION: THE MASTER'S GREATEST STORIES

Ruskin Bond
The ten stories in The Gold Collection are among the finest ever written by India's most beloved writer, Ruskin Bond. Some of them, including masterpieces like 'The Blue Umbrella', 'Angry River', and 'Panther's Moon', were written early in the writer's career, while others, such as 'Rhododendrons in the Mist' and 'Miracle at Happy Bazaar', are more recent. All of them remain as golden as they were when they first emerged from the master's imagination.

A collection that will be treasured by all those who love Ruskin Bond's fiction.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Ruskin Bond is the author of several bestselling novels and collections of short stories, essays, and poems. These include: The Room on the Roof (winner of the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize); A Flight of Pigeons; The Night Train at Deoli; Time Stops at Shamli; Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra (winner of the Sahitya Akademi Award); Angry River; The Blue Umbrella; Delhi Is Not Far; Rain in the Mountains; Tigers for Dinner; Tales of Fosterfogan; A Gathering of Friends; Upon an Old Wall Dreaming; Small Towns, Big Stories; Unhurried Tales; A Gallery of Rascals; Rhododendrons in the Mist; Miracle at Happy Bazaar (winner of the Kalinga Literary Festival Children's Book of the Year, 2021); It's a Wonderful Life; The Shadow on the Wall; Song of the Forest; and The Last Tiger.

Ruskin Bond was awarded the Padma Shri by the Government of India in 1999, a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Delhi government in 2012, and the Padma Bhushan in 2014. He was selected for the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Fellowship, 2021.

The listicle is an information promotional by Aleph Book Company and does not necessarily represent the editorial preferences of Kashmir Observer

Books for Good

Meg Elkins

Jane Fry

Lisa Farrell

TikTok allows video up to 10 minutes, but says surveys show almost half its users are stressed by anything longer than a minute. An Instagram video can be up to 90 seconds, but experts reckon the ideal time to maximise engagement is less than 15 seconds. Twitter doubled the length of tweets in 2017 to 280 characters, but the typical length is more like 33 characters.

It's easy to get sucked into short and sensational content. But if you're worried this may be harming your attention span, you should be. There's solid evidence that so many demands on our attention make us more stressed, and that the endless social comparison makes us feel worse about ourselves.

For better mental health, read a book.

Studies show a range of psychological benefits from book-reading. Reading fiction can increase your capacity for empathy, through the process of seeing the world through a relatable character. Reading has been found to reduce stress as effectively as yoga. It is being prescribed for depression – a treatment known as bibliotherapy.

Book-reading is also a strong marker of curiosity – a quality prized by employers such as Google. Our research shows reading is as strongly associated with curiosity as interest in science, and more strongly than mathematical ability.

And it's not just that curious minds are more likely to read because of a thirst for knowledge and under-

standing. That happens too, but our research has specifically been to investigate the role of reading in the development of curious minds.

Tracking reading and curiosity

Our findings come from analysing data from the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth, which tracks the progress of young Australians from the age of 15 till 25.

Longitudinal surveys provide valuable insights by surveying the same people – in this case a group of about 10,000 young people. Every year for ten years they are asked about their achievements, aspirations, education, employment and life satisfaction.

There have been five survey cohorts since 1998, the most recent starting in 2016. We analysed three of them – those beginning in 2003, 2006 and 2009, looking at the data up to age 20, at which age most have a job or are looking for one.

The survey data is rich enough to develop proxy measures of reading and curiosity levels. It includes participants' scores in the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment tests for reading, mathematics and science ability. There are survey questions about time spent reading for pleasure, time reading newspapers or magazines, and library use.

To measure curiosity, we used respondents' answers to questions about their interest in the following:

- ▶ learning new things
- ▶ thinking about why the world is in the state it is
- ▶ finding out more about things you don't understand
- ▶ finding out about a new idea
- ▶ finding out how something



works. We used statistical modelling to control for environmental and demographic variables and distinguish the effect of reading activity as a teenager on greater curiosity as a young adult. This modelling gives us confidence that reading is not just correlated with curiosity. Reading books helps build curiosity.

Gloom and doom-scrolling

Does this mean if you're older that it's too late to start reading? No. Our results relate to young people because the data was available. No matter what your age, deep reading has benefits over social-media scrolling.

The short-term dopamine rush of scrolling on a device is an elusive promise. It depletes rather than uplifts us. Our limbic brain – the part of the brain associated with our emotional and behavioural responses – remains trapped in a spiral of pleasure-seeking.

Studies show a high correlation between media multitasking and attention problems due to cognitive overload. The effect is most evident among young people, who have grown up with social media overexposure.

US social psychologist Jonathan Haidt is among the researchers warning that high social media use is a major contributor to declining mental health for teenage girls:

Boys are doing badly too, but their rates of depression and anxiety are not as high, and their increases since 2011 are smaller.

Why this "giant, obvious, international, and gendered cause"? Haidt writes: Instagram was founded in 2010. The iPhone 4 was released then too – the first smartphone with a front-facing camera. In 2012 Facebook bought Instagram, and that's the year that its user base exploded. By 2015, it was becoming normal for 12-year-old girls to spend hours each day taking selfies, editing selfies, and posting them for friends, enemies, and strangers to comment on, while also spending hours each day scrolling through photos of their

girls and fabulously wealthy female celebrities with (seemingly) vastly superior bodies and lives.

In 2020 Haidt published research showing girls are more vulnerable to "fear of missing out" and the aggression that social media tends to amplify. Since then he's become even more convinced of the correlation.

Social media, by design, is addictive.

With TikTok, for example, videos start automatically, based on what the algorithm already knows about you. But it doesn't just validate your preferences and feed you opinions that confirm your biases. It also varies the content so you don't know what is coming next. This is the same trick that keeps gamblers addicted.

Tips to get back into books

If you are having difficulty choosing between your phone and a book, here's a simple tip proven by behavioural science. To change behaviour it also helps to change your environment.

- Try the following:
- ▶ Carry a book at all times, or leave books around the house in convenient places.
 - ▶ Schedule reading time into your day. 20 minutes is enough. This reinforces the habit and ensures regular immersion in the book world.
 - ▶ If you're not enjoying a book, try another. Don't force yourself.

You'll feel better for it – and be prepared for a future employer asking you what books you're reading.

By arrangements with The Conversation

India's Ties With China 'Abnormal' Due To Violation Of Border Management Agreements By Beijing: Jaishankar

Santo Domingo: India wants to ensure that its relations with all countries advance without seeking exclusivity, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said as he underlined that China falls into a somewhat different category because of the currently "abnormal" nature of ties which is an outcome of a violation of border management agreements by Beijing.

Jaishankar, who arrived in Santo Domingo on his first official visit to the Dominican Republic, also said that India has seen a dramatic expansion in connectivity, contacts, and cooperation across the region. Pakistan, however, remains an exception to this in view of cross-border terrorism, he said on Friday while addressing the diplomatic corps and young

minds of the diplomatic school of the Dominican Republic.

"Whether it is the US, Europe, Russia, or Japan, we are trying to ensure that all these ties advance without seeking exclusivity. China falls in a somewhat different category because of the boundary dispute and the currently abnormal nature of our ties. That is an outcome of a violation of agreements regarding border management by them," Jaishankar said.

He said the rise of China and India in a parallel timeframe is also not without its competitive aspects. "When in other regions bid for Africa, the Pacific or Latin America, much of what is happening can be explained as the emergence of India's potential global footprint. In many cases, it is the result of autonomous forces such as business

or mobility," he said.

India has been slamming China's deployment of a massive number of troops and its aggressive behaviour along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh in violation of pacts on border management.

Earlier this week, India firmly told China that its violation of the border pacts has "eroded" the entire basis of bilateral ties and that all issues relating to the frontier must be resolved in accordance with the existing agreements.

The eastern Ladakh border stand-off erupted on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong Lake area. The ties between the two countries nosedived significantly following the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most

serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

In his address, Jaishankar went on to explain how India approaches the world and engages Latin America and what should today's India and tomorrow's India mean.

"India's most pressing priorities are obviously in its neighbourhood. Given its size and economic strength, it is very much for the collective benefit that India takes a generous and non-reciprocal approach to cooperation with smaller neighbours. And that's exactly what we have done in the last decade under Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said.

"It has seen a dramatic expansion in connectivity, contacts, and cooperation across the region. The exception to this of course, is Pakistan in view of

cross-border terrorism. But whether it is the COVID challenge or more recent debt pressures, India has always stepped up for its neighbours," he said, citing the case of Sri Lanka where India extended more than USD 4 billion of economic support during the island nation's worst economic crisis in decades.

Jaishankar said that India is developing the concept of extended neighbourhoods in all directions. With ASEAN, this has taken the form of what New Delhi calls the Act East Policy that has opened up a pathway to a deeper engagement with the Indo-Pacific that is being pursued, amongst others through a mechanism called the Quad comprising India, Japan, the US and Australia.

He pointed out that towards the

West, I2U2 (India, Israel, UAE, and USA) grouping. To the South, the outlook that shapes India's thinking goes by the acronym of Sagar - an Indian word for Oceans and to the North, India has been pursuing a strategy of connecting to Central Asia more effectively.

"For the first time in 2015, Prime Minister Modi articulated a comprehensive view that spanned the entirety of the Indian Ocean and its islands. This subsequently became the building block for the Indo-Pacific vision that emerged thereafter," he said.

"We are also practising the approach of engaging all major centres of power. Such multi-alignment reflects the reality of multipolarity. Obviously, each engagement has its own particular weight and focus," he added.

CONTD. FROM FRONT PAGE

336 Flats In Jammu

Jammu divisions under self-financing schemes, it said.

The housing colonies and flatted accommodation for EWS/LIG, Middle Income Group and High Income Group are mandated as per Act to be developed by the board not only in capital cities and district headquarters but also in rural areas.

The major housing projects presently undertaken are 760 EWS flats at Bhalwal, Jammu, development of Smart Township at Chatterhama in Ganderbal, development of colony/flatted accommodation at Bakoora in Ganderbal, flatted accommodation at Birpur, Samba, mega project at Gole Market Jammu, development of housing colony at Chak Bhalwal, Jammu, regularisation of satellite township at Chani Rama, Housing colony at Watapura, Bandipora and many more are in the pipeline, the board said.

As per the scheme, only EWS or LIG families with income not exceeding Rs 3 lakh (for EWS) and Rs 6 lakh (for LIG) per annum and presently residing in rented accommodation in and around Jammu city are eligible to apply for the flats.

The applicant should mandatorily have Aadhaar and should submit proof of income, employment and pursuing education (for students) while applying for allotment of rental flats at Sunjwan, Jammu under ARHC, the notice said.

Chinese Vessels

land-based offensive platforms, "we will have space-based offensive systems too".

This will lead to "reduced response time" and "greater effect" on adversaries, so the future lies in having "space-based offensive platforms," he said in response to a question from the audience on evolving military threats.

The IAF chief also said that the fundamental utilisation of space for military use is in three domains, including ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) and communication, which have seen a "quantum jump" in their capabilities in the last several years.

After Air Chief Marshal Chaudhari's session, the Navy chief took part in a session on 'Indian Navy in the 21st Century: Evolving Maritime Threats'.

The Indian Navy's role is to protect, promote and preserve national interests in the maritime domain, wherever they are, and it assesses the threats and challenges, the Navy chief said.

On a daily basis, it is being seen that there is a certain amount of contestation happening at sea. It is well below the threshold of conflict, but possibility of a full-fledged war cannot be ruled out, the Navy chief said.

On a question on PLA Navy ships docking at ports in Pakistan, he said, these ships are docking at ports in various countries, and not just in Pakistan.

As far as their visit to ports in Pakistan are concerned, "we are seized of it, and keep a watch on it," he said.

Admiral Kumar said the Pakistan Navy is modernising itself at a "good pace" and seeks to become a 50-platform force in 10-15 years, and they are adding new corvettes and frigates to their fleet.

As far as China is concerned, in the last 10 years, a large number of ships and submarines have been commissioned by it, the third aircraft carrier is under construction, and much larger destroyers they are working on, he said, adding, "we feel this will plateau at some time".

"We are keeping a very close watch in the Indian Ocean Region... and effort is to know whose presence is there and what are they up to, and monitoring it 24x7, and we deploy aircraft, UAVs, ships, submarines, etc.," the Navy chief said.

"There is a large presence of Chinese vessels. At any point of time, there are 3-6 Chinese warships in the Indian Ocean Region," he said, adding some are close to the Gulf of Oman, and some in the eastern part of the IOR, among other places.

Chinese research vessels are ever present, numbering from 2-4 and Chinese fishing vessels as well. So, there is a large presence of Chinese vessels in the Indian Ocean Region, and India Navy keeps track of it, the Navy chief said.

"So, we refine our plans, actions that are required to be taken, and this also feeds into our capability development," the Navy chief said.

Later, in response to a query from audience on Chinese research vessels, Admiral Kumar said, these vessels have the ability to track and collect electronic signals.

When they operate, close to "our areas of national interest", the Indian Navy keeps an eye, and it has its ships which "monitor them very, very closely".

On a question on whether modernisation and capability development has any link with threat assessment, he said, modernisation is part of the process and not threat-driven.

And, a Navy has to be a "well-balanced force", so, it's not about nuclear submarine vis-a-vis aircraft carrier, as each of the two bring their own capabilities and they are "not either/or", Admiral Kumar said.

On Atmanirbhar Bharat, he reiterated that the Indian Navy has "committed to the national leadership that we (Navy) will be fully Atmanirbhar by 2047".

He added that as Indian economy is poised to grow in coming years, the volume of trade will multiply along with it, and hence the importance of role of Indian Navy will also grow.

He explained that there are three components to a naval asset -- float, move and fight.

In float component, about 95 per cent self-reliance has been achieved, while in move components which includes system propellers etc., it is about 65 per cent. And, in fight component, the figure is about 55 per cent, the Navy chief said.

Among other challenges, Admiral Kumar, also spoke of the region being prone to natural disasters, as also "non-combatant evacuations" which have been happening rather frequently.

Admiral Kumar underlined the challenge of cyber threat as well and "weaponisation of cognitive domain" through largely use of social media.

Strategy Devised

the meeting were army's GoC Victor Force Maj General Prashant Srivastava, IG CRPF Kashmir Ops Sector M S Bhatia, IG BSF Ashok Yadav, Joint Director IB, Army's sector commanders in South Kashmir, DIGs of police, CRPF, SSB, ITBP & CID and SSPs of Anantnag, Pulwama, Kulgam and Awantipora.

A police spokesman said that during the meeting, potential threats from militants on national highways were discussed in detail and more counter measures were decided. "Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of convoy movement were also discussed and accordingly upgraded. All field officers gave their

assessment. ADGP Kashmir instructed all SSPs to focus on anti-militant operations, busting of militant modules by apprehending terrorist associates," the spokesman said.

He said that they were specially tasked to generate preventive intelligence and share timely amongst all stakeholders. "GoC Victor force asked sector commanders to do extensive area domination in night too," the spokesman said—(KNO)

Army Asks People

disturbances or by supplying drugs and intoxicants to corrupt the youth.

"The Central govt and the army have been working together for the development of the area and people of this region so that they could be part of the mainstream of the country. Keeping this in mind, people of all the communities should walk shoulder to shoulder with the army," it said in a statement here.

"Hence, the people of this area should keep away from such type of incident and activities in future, if someone is roaming suspected in the region, then the people of this area should immediately inform and assist the army and foil the major incident like Poonch," the army said, adding that people were equally responsible for the maintenance of peace in the region.

The army statement came a day after Director General of Police Dilbag Singh claimed they had uncovered the Poonch plot with the arrest of six locals for sheltering the militants before they carried out the attack, for which they used explosives and weapons delivered to them from Pakistan through drones.

"The Poonch region of Jammu and Kashmir has always witnessed heroic and historical events and battles fought by them in 1948, 1962, 1971 and 1999. Whenever, anyone has tried to spread unrest in this area the people have fought shoulder to shoulder with the Indian Army irrespective of their caste, creed, gender and religion," the army said.

Pakistan neither wants peace nor a stable government in Jammu and Kashmir, even more since the abolition of Article 370 in 2019, it said.

"Pakistan is trying to attract the poor and working people to terrorist activities with money. However, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have understood the mentality of Pakistan and opposed the terrorist attacks in J&K," the army said.

Poonch residents on Tuesday carried out a candle march to commemorate the dead soldiers and condemn the attack.

"The people of J&K should try to motivate their children and family and keep them updated with the old history of this region," the army said. PTI

Militant Associate

the Indian Penal Code, Arms Act and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act was registered against Bajran at police station Thanamandi.

"Keeping in view the activities of the accused as he poses a threat to the security of the state and under these circumstances he was ordered to be detained under PSA," the statement said.

It said aggressive counter-insurgency operations are going on in the district with strict steps being taken against those facilitating militants in any way.

JKP Officers Get

to share their wide range of knowledge and

experience among the participants," the official said.

Country's First

is yet another major breakthrough achieved by the Indian Railways, which is expecting to complete the Rs 37,000 crore project by the end of this year.

Minister of State for Railways Darshana Vikram Jardosh, who recently inspected the USBRL project by visiting various key locations including Anji Khad bridge and the nearby iconic Chenab bridge, termed the completion of the country's first cable-stayed bridge as "another milestone" despite difficult geographic conditions.

"I visited the bridge site and congratulated everyone for successfully installing all 96 cables of the bridge in a record time of 11 months. This asymmetrical cable-stayed bridge crosses the deep gorges of Anji river, a tributary of river Chenab," she said.

Jardosh said the bridge connects tunnel T2 on the Katra side and Tunnel T3 on the Reasi side.

"It has been the PM's vision to make Indian railways the best in the world. Overcoming geographic and climatic challenges, our engineers and railway officials have conquered the invincible," the minister said.

Described as a "true engineering marvel", the bridge has 48 cables each on lateral and central spans with work on its pylon started in 2017, officials said, adding the pylon is standing 191 metre from its foundation level.

They said it is the second highest railway bridge after the iconic arch bridge over Chenab at Kauri, which is the highest railway bridge in the world being 359 metres above the river bed level -- 35 metres higher than the iconic Eiffel tower in Paris.

Anji Khad bridge has a total length of 473.25 metres, while the length of the viaduct is 120 metres. The central embankment has a length of 94.25 meters, the officials said.

They said the bridge has been designed to handle heavy storms of strong winds and even explosions.

In October 2016, the Railways decided to build a cable-stayed bridge at Anji Khad after the plan to build an arch bridge similar to Chenab bridge was abandoned due to vulnerability of the structure, primarily due to concerns over geological stability of the region.

The Railway Ministry sanctioned the construction of the railway line from Udhampur to Baramulla via Srinagar in phases -- 25-km Udhampur to Katra in 1994, 118-km Qazigund to Baramulla and 129-km Katra to Qazigund in 1999.

In view of the

importance of the USBRL in providing seamless and hassle-free connectivity to Kashmir, the 272-km-long rail link was declared as a "National Project" in 2002.

Out of the total 272-km USBRL project, 161-km was commissioned in phases with first phase 118-km Qazigund-Baramulla section commissioned in October 2009, followed by 18-km Banihal-Qazigund in June 2013 and 25-km Udhampur-Katra in July 2014. The work on 111-km Katra-Banihal stretch is going on.

Militant Associate

identified as Khurshheed Ahmad Bhat, a resident of Amargarh, Tarathpora, he said.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Bhat was working as a militant associate for proscribed militant outfit JeM, the spokesman said.

He said a case has been registered and further investigation initiated.

Two Pak Intruders

whether they crossed the border inadvertently or with some intention.

However, no incriminating material was recovered from their possession, they said.

'Hardcore Criminal'

and criminal intimidation, registered against him at police stations Bari Brahmana and Vijaypur in the past two years," he said.

Meanwhile, the officer said police nabbed seven vagrants under preventive sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) after they were found wandering near suspected locations frequented by drug addicts in the Bari Brahmana area of Jammu.

He said police patrolling has been intensified around suspected hotspots of "chitta" as part of its efforts to eradicate the menace from the society.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Where, I, Mr. Mohammad Amin Mir S/O Late. Sonnaullah Mir R/O Baghi Hyder, Hyderpora, Srinagar, Jammu Kashmir, intends to apply in the Office of Prescribed Authority of Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir for registration of my proposed Paying Guest House/ Home Stay under the name and style Name/Style: Pinewood Villa, situated at Baghi Hyder, Hyderpora, under the Tourist Trade Act 1918/82/2011.

Whereas, I will submit Land Ownership Certificate from Concerned Tehsildar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy. Commissioner concerned, Rent/Lease Deed/Partnership Deed/ issued by the concerned Sub-Registrar, Judicial Magistrate (if applicable NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as Home stay), Character Certificate of the applicant from the concerned Police Station, undertaking from the owner as self-declaration, Public Notice inviting objections, if any in print media, list of family members' Name, Age, and Photograph self-attested by the owner, Photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application (each of exterior and individual bedrooms and bathrooms), Inspection report by the Committee (The recommendation of the inspection Committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view, the type of accommodation and amenity, Aadhar card.

Now before my case is processed for registration by the Prescribed Authority. The matter is hereby notified for information of the General Public/Organizations for objections if any and the same should reach to the office of the Prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in the leading local newspaper of the Valley. Objections received beyond the period of 1 day from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be processed under rules as per merit.

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

KASHMIR
OBSERVER

KO PODCAST

People In J&K Feel Disempowered By Bureaucratic Regime: Apni Party

Press Trust Of India

JAMMU: Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir residents want the restoration of their "honour and dignity", Apni Party chief Altaf Bukhari on Saturday demanded holding the much-delayed assembly elections in the Union Territory for the "empowerment of the people".



"The people across Jammu and Kashmir are feeling disempowered by the bureaucratic regime. On the other hand, the unnecessary delay in holding assembly elections has given rise to a feeling of alienation among the people that needs to be addressed at the earliest," Bukhari said at a public rally in Rajouri district.

The former minister alleged that the basic needs of the people -- be it electricity, drinking water, roads, infrastructure for hospitals and educational institutions -- are not available in Rajouri and its border villages due to the poor response from bureaucrats.

"As the civil administration has completely collapsed, it is the right time to restore the confidence of the people who are feeling sidelined with no elected representative or government in place," he said.

Bukhari said the people in the Jammu and the Kashmir regions have a similar demand to restore the statehood and hold assembly elections without delay.

"If elections can be held in Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat and other states and Union Territories, why are they delayed in Jammu and Kashmir?"

"The people want their honour and dignity to be restored with the restoration of statehood," he said.

Bukhari said the elected government is responsible to the people as it works for them.

"However, the babus (bureaucrats) are not answerable to the people. If we form the next government, the officials ignoring developmental works and engaging outsiders in village-level works will have to face action under the rules," he said.

Bukhari said the Apni Party was founded to work for the welfare of the people and to protect their basic rights -- be it land or jobs.

"The opposition parties created suspicion among the people following the foundation of the Apni Party as they lost their ground. These politicians were enjoying their days after the August 5, 2019, decision in the houses, guest houses and hotels but we did not remain silent.

"Unlike them, we risked ourselves and came out to represent the people," Bukhari said, adding, "We went to Delhi to get protection for the jobs and land for the residents of Jammu and Kashmir but the other parties that ruled Jammu and Kashmir from time to time went to Delhi to get protection for their own interests," Bukhari added.

On August 5, 2019, the Centre bifurcated Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories and abrogated the provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution that accorded special status to the erstwhile state.

Bukhari also slammed the political parties, including the BJP, for creating misunderstanding among the people of the two regions.

"They do divisive politics while we believe in unity and brotherhood among the people in Jammu and Kashmir," he alleged.

Veterinary Day Celebrations Conclude At Directorate Of Extension, SKUAST-K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Directorate of Extension, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir today concluded the week long veterinary day celebrations.

The weeklong event conducted all across the KVKS of region on the instructions of Honorable Vice Chancellor Prof. Nazir Ahmed Ganai was directly monitored and supervised by Director Extension, Prof. Dil Mohammad Makhdoomi.

While deliberating on the programme, Prof. Makhdoomi told that last Saturday of April is being celebrated all across the globe as World Veterinary Day with different themes.

This year the day falls on April 29 and the theme for World Veterinary Day 2023 is 'Promoting Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness in the Veterinary Profession'. Director Extension further said that this day marks the work that veterinary professionals and organizations are doing to help strengthen veterinary resilience while at the same time raising awareness of the important topic.

In this regard, a meeting was convened in the Directorate of Extension a week ago whereby all the KVKS of the valley were

directed to organize two days event which should include awareness, sensitization and lecture series covering various schools, colleges and other educational institutes.

In this regard all the KVKS of the region organized two days programmes in which importance of this day and role of veterinarians in ensuring good animal health was highlighted. Animal scientists from different KVKS delivered lectures on a variety of topics related to animal husbandry.

These covered important topics importance of animal husbandry in economy of Union Territory as well as the country, care and management of animals, healthy feed and feeding habits, first aid and artificial insemination, care during lactation and pregnancy of animals, processing and value addition of milk and different government schemes for the promotion of livestock sector.

Youths and students were also sensitized on different entrepreneurship opportunities in the animal husbandry sector. The officers/officials of animal husbandry department were also a part of this week long event. Consolidated lecture series of this day will be broadcasted on Krishi Radio of SKUAST-K soon for the benefit of all.

DC Baramulla Flags-Off Students 'Run For G20 Walkathon'

Observer News Service

BARAMULLA: With Baramulla district likely to host some G-20 events in the backdrop of proposed G-20 Summit, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr Syed Sehrish Asgar Saturday flagged off 'Run for G-20 Walkathon' from Government Boys Higher Secondary School Baramulla here.

The Walkathon was organized by Youth Services and Sports Baramulla wherein Hundreds of school children from various Educational zones, faculty and non-teaching staff participated in the event, which later culminated at the Dak Bungalow, here.

Speaking with regard to the event, Dr Sehrish said that the event is aimed at disseminating the message of India's G20 Presidency among the people in general and school children in particular.

The DC complimented Youth Services and Sports Department for organizing the rally of students and asserted that it will help to create awareness among the students regarding G-20 Summit besides exhorted upon the concerned Departments to involve more students and civil society members in large so that the general people will have the proper knowledge regarding the summit.

She further directed the departments to organize seminars and debate competitions in all educational institutions over India attaining presidency of G-20.

While interacting with students, the DC educated them that India's G20 presidency is a momentous occasion which gives us an opportunity to place priorities and narratives on the global agenda.



MINGHA SHERPA ON SATURDAY received a warm welcome on assuming charge of Director Information of Information and Public Relations (DIPR).

MVD Kashmir Issues SOPs To Tackle Unregistered Vehicles

Unregistered Vehicles On Roads To Face Hefty Fines, Jail Under MVA

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: In view of rising instances of unregistered vehicles plying on the roads, the Regional Transport Officer Kashmir has issued Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to address the same.

According to the SOPs, the first offence of an unregistered vehicle being found on roads will be met with a ₹5,000 penalty under the Motor Vehicles Act, while the second offence will result in a ₹10,000 fine or a prison sentence for the owner which may extend to one year, or both.

Additionally, non-display of registration mark on High Security Registration Plates (HSRPs) will be similarly punishable.

"The showrooms must adhere to the rule of releasing vehicles with registration numbers on HSRP without fail. In case it is found that dealers have violated this norm, not only will the face penalty under MVA, but they will be held



liable for any crimes committed using such vehicles", an RTO official said.

To ensure uniform implementation of laws, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been put in place. These SOPs require enforcement teams to record and preserve evidence of vehicles without registration numbers by taking photos or videos.

Furthermore, enforcement

teams must also prepare a daily report of vehicles fined or impounded and send it to the control room.

Additionally, a fortnightly report of all vehicle challans/impounds, along with their respective Supplier Dealers, shall be presented to RTO/ARTO. This report can then be used to take action against the dealers, which may include forfeiture of their security deposits.

Amid Erratic Weather Forecast Till May 4

Agencies

SRINAGAR: Amid forecast for erratic weather till May 4, the night temperatures continued to hover below normal in Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Saturday.

Quoting a meteorological department official, new agency GNS reported that Srinagar recorded a low of 7.4°C against 6.5°C on the previous night and it was 1.9°C below normal for the summer capital.

Qazigund, he said, recorded a low of 7.2°C against 6.8°C on the previous night and it was 0.6°C below normal for the gateway town of Kashmir.

Pahalgam, he said, recorded a low of 3.8°C against 4.2°C on the previous night and it was 0.6°C below normal for the famous tourist resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district.

Kokernag recorded a low of 6.4°C against 5.7°C on the previous night and it was 1.7°C below normal for the place, the officials said.

Gulmarg recorded a low of minus 0.5°C against minus 1.0°C on previous night and it was 4.7°C below normal for the famous skiing resort in north Kashmir's Baramulla district, he said.



In Kupwara town, he said, the mercury settled at 6.4°C against 5.6°C on the previous night and it was 1.4°C below normal for the north Kashmir area.

Jammu recorded a low of 19.7°C against 19.4°C on the previous night. It was 2.2°C below normal for J&K's winter capital, he said.

Banihal, he said, recorded a low of 7.6°C (2.1°C below normal), Batote 8.4°C (3.6°C below normal), Katra 14.8°C (4.1°C below normal) and Bhadarwah 6.4°C (2.5°C below normal). Ladakh's Leh recorded a low of minus 4.4°C, the official said.

Regarding rainfall in last 24 hours till 8:30 a.m. this morning, he said, Srinagar recorded 4.6mm, Qazigund 612.8mm, Pahalgam 12.9mm, Kupwara

0.8mm, Kokernag 8.2mm, Gulmarg 9.2mm, Banihal 10.2mm, Batote 0.6mm and Kathua 1.0mm.

About the forecast, he said, from April 29- May 2nd, the weather is expected to be partly cloudy. "Possibility of intermittent rain/thunderstorm at scattered places is expected towards late afternoon/evening (50% chance)."

From May 3-4, he said, there is possibility of widespread light to moderate rain and thunder in J&K. "Some places are likely to receive heavy rains," he said. Overall, he said, weather is very likely to remain erratic till May 4.

"Farmers are advised to postpone spraying of orchards till May 4," he added.

Dr Farooq Asks People To Defeat Forces Trying To Weaken J&K

Press Trust Of India

SRINAGAR: National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah Saturday asked people to defeat the forces trying to weaken Jammu and Kashmir and cautioned party functionaries against forces working against the interests of the people of the Union Territory.



Such people do not want the real representative voices of Jammu and Kashmir to take centre stage and be heard, he said while addressing party functionaries at NC headquarters here.

Abdullah claimed that having real and representative voices in place makes their "pursuit of reckless experimentation" in the region more difficult.

"It is for us to understand what the division of our voices would entail or what its results would be. Any misstep at this juncture will have far-reaching consequences," the NC chief said.

He called for stepping up the party's outreach to people and asked NC functionaries to knock on every door and inform people about the challenges the region faces.

"Party's vision and mission have to reach every home. Today, we see mushrooming of political parties and leaders in every nook and corner of Kashmir. The risky

political vacuum created by the decisions of August 2019 cannot be filled by such air-dropped leaders.

"It is only a representative government that will meet the challenge of instilling faith in the hearts of people," Abdullah, the Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar, said.

The BJP-led government at the Centre on August 5, 2019, revoked provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution which granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated it into two Union territories.

J&K Bank Top Management Interacts With Lassipora Industrialists

Let's Join Hands For Economic Prosperity Of The Region: Baldev Prakash

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Taking direct feedback from the people associated with the industrial sector, J&K Bank MD & CEO Baldev Prakash Saturday interacted with representatives of Industrial Association Lassipora led by its president Haji Muzaffar at Industrial Growth Centre, Pulwama.

MD & CEO was accompanied by General Manager Corporate

the introduction of more digital platforms, MD & CEO stated that it was time Bank and industrial sector join hands to take economic prosperity of the UT to another level.

While calling J&K Bank "Humara Apna Bank", Haji Muzaffar said, "It gives us immense pleasure that you have come to listen to the people who consider J&K Bank as their own bank and J&K's backbone. We



Banking Ashutosh Sareen, General Manager Credit & Business Operations (Kashmir Division) Tabassum Nazir, Zonal Head Pulwama Tariq Ali, Zonal Head Srinagar Shabir Ahmad besides senior officials of the Bank.

President Cold Stores Association Majid Aslam Wafai along with dozens of entrepreneurs participated in the interactive session conducted by Industrial Association Lassipora representing hundreds of units holders housed in one of the leading industrial centres of North India.

On the occasion, MD & CEO assured the participants of Bank's continued patronage and handholding to industrial sector within regulatory norms.

"We value your association because your progress adds to our growth as well. Therefore, we continue to take measures aimed at ease and comfort of doing business for our entrepreneurs. Establishing Large Credit Units was a step in that direction with dedicated and well trained relationship managers catering to High Networth Individuals."

Insisting that Turn Around Time of the credit proposals will be minimised further with

have gone through thick and thin but our trust and connection with J&K Bank hasn't dwindled a bit."

"However, we expect J&K Bank to realign some of its strategies to keep pace with changing scenarios in the industrial sector", he added.

While hailing Bank management headed by MD & CEO for giving a patient hearing to unit holders, Majid Wafai said, "Our units wouldn't have materialised had there not been financial support from J&K Bank. Majority of us are first generation entrepreneurs and J&K Bank has guided and supported us in setting up these units. Our successful journeys are synonymous with J&K Bank and it gives us heart and hope that our mentoring financial institution has embarked on path of renewed success and profitability."

During the interaction, General Manager Ashutosh Sareen highlighted various steps taken by the Bank to encourage entrepreneurial excellence in the region.

The session concluded with vote of thanks by General Manager Tabassum Nazir, wherein she stated that customer satisfaction was the cornerstone of Bank's success.

DC Kupwara Chairs Public Darbar At Tangdar

Observer News Service

KUPWARA: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Dr. Doifode Sagar Dattatray Saturday visited far flung sub division Karnah of Kupwara district and chaired a mega public darbar at Tangdar.

SDM Karnah, Dr. Gulzar Ahmad Rather; Tehsildar Karnah, BDO, Ex. Engineer SSD Karnah, besides, PRIs and people in large number attended the public darbar.

In his address, the DC said that the government is committed for grassroot development of the far flung areas of UT like Karnah to ensure people are benefitted in these areas.

Referring to the tourism development, he said that during

the year 2022-23, Kupwara district registered a tourist footfall upto 3.75 lakh which is over and above the previous year 2020-21 in which around 40000 tourists had visited the district. He said during the ongoing year, 2.5 lakh people had visited the district so far out of them around 30000 people visited Teetwal area of Karnah sub division.

The DC said that more homestays need to be developed in these areas to encourage more and more tourist inflow. He appealed the unemployed educated youth to get loan under PMEGP scheme upto Rs.10 lakh with 35 to 40% subsidy and develop homestays and other tourist facilities to generate their own livelihood.

G20 Meet Will Boost Kashmir's Tourism Industry: Azad

Press Trust Of India

SHOPIAN: Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chief Ghulam Nabi Azad on Saturday said the upcoming G20 working group meeting in Kashmir will give a boost to the tourism sector in the valley.

"A working group meeting related to tourism is taking place here which is a good thing. Our state is a tourism restate and the G-20 event here will obviously have big leaders from other countries. So, it will give us exposure at the interna-



tional level," Azad told reporters after addressing a public meeting here in south Kashmir.

He said the recommendations of the G-20 working group related to tourism in Jammu and Kashmir will give the Union Territory international exposure.

"In the times to come, we

will have to be ready for that in terms of infrastructure and other requirements," he added.

On the ongoing protest by wrestlers in Delhi over alleged sexual harassment of players, the former Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha said there should be room for protests in a democracy.

"India is a huge country with a population of 130 crore. Some things happen in some parts of the country and protests take place over that which is right. There should be protests in a democracy," he said.



GT Beat KKR By 7 Wickets

Press Trust of India

KOLKATA: Gujarat Titans beat Kolkata Knight Riders by seven wickets in their Indian Premier League match, here on Saturday.

Invited to bat, young Afghanistan keeper-batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz slammed 81 off 39 balls but KKR managed a below-par score of 179 for 7.

Gurbaz hit seven sixes and five fours in his scintillating knock while 'birthday boy' Andre Russell (34 off 19 balls) also used long handle to good effect

towards the end.

GT chased down the target with 13 balls to spare, reaching 180 for 3 in 17.5 overs. Vijay Shankar remained not out on 51 while Shubman Gill and David Miller contributed 49 and 32 not out respectively.

Brief Scores: Kolkata Knight Riders: 179 for 7 in 20 overs (Rahmanullah Gurbaz 81; Noor Ahmed 2/21, Josh Little 2/25). Gujarat Titans: 180 for 3 in 17.5 overs (Vijay Shankar 51 not out, Shubman Gill 49; Sunil Narine 1/24).

Kohli Should Lead In Rohit's Absence: Ravi Shastri

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI: Former head coach Ravi Shastri feels India should look "in the direction" of Virat Kohli to lead the side in a major game, like the WTC final, if skipper Rohit Sharma is unavailable due to "unforeseen circumstances". Shastri added that the Indian team management should have asked Kohli to lead the side in the postponed final Test of the England tour last year once Rohit was ruled out of the fixture.

"If it's for a major game like that, I want Rohit to be fit, he is the captain. But god forbid something happens under unforeseen circumstances, definitely I'll look in that direction,"

Shastri told ESPNcricinfo when asked if Kohli should lead the team at the WTC final if Rohit is unavailable.

Shastri said he would have recommended the talismanic batter's name to the board for captaincy for the postponed fifth Test against England. "Once Rohit was injured, I thought Virat would captain."

"If I was still there - I'm sure Rahul (Dravid) might have done the same thing, I have not spoken to him - I would've recommended to the board that it's only fair he leads because he was captain of the team that was leading 2-1 in the series and probably could have got the best out of the team," he said.

CSK Favourites Vs Punjab In Battle Of 'Kings'



Press Trust of India

CHENNAI: Chennai Super Kings will head into the IPL match against Punjab Kings as favourites with spin bowlers expected to play a huge role in the home side's scheme of things, here on Sunday.

Both teams head into the game on the back of defeats in their previous matches. While CSK fell short by 32 runs against Rajasthan Royals, PBKS lost to Lucknow Super Giants by 56 runs.

CSK, however, will be happy to return to home comforts, where spin is king and their shrewd captain M S Dhoni will look to strangle the PBKS batters. A high-flying CSK was ambushed in Jaipur as the batters came up short, chasing 203 for victory against the Royals.

The CSK batting unit, which has been performing, couldn't quite get going against RR. Opener Devon Conway, who has been in top form, faltered.

Apart from Conway, opener Ruturaj Gaikwad and Ajinkya Rahane have been the key batters for CSK, while Shivam Dube has shown he is capable of scoring quick runs.

Ravindra Jadeja's lack of runs would be a worry for the CSK think-tank but the all-rounder more than makes up for it with his splendid bowling and fielding. All eyes will be on Dhoni, who is seemingly on a farewell run and the crowd would be delighted if the talismanic skipper faces even a few deliveries.

Dhoni turned to his spinners when the Royals were on rampage and Maheesh Theekshana and Ravindra Jadeja were immediately able to stem the flow of runs.

Come Sunday, the skipper will once again rely on his spinners to turn the ball and bamboozle the opposition. CSK is likely continue with its three-pronged spin attack of Jadeja, Theekshana and Moeen Ali.

Punjab Kings, on the other

hand, have struggled for consistency and the return of skipper Shikhar Dhawan did not help the team's cause on Friday. Up against a daunting target, the PBKS batters scored at a decent pace and did their best to reach 200 but couldn't take the side over the line. They will have their task cut out against the spin-heavy CSK.

The top-order comprising Dhawan, Prabhsimran Singh and Atharva Taide needs to get going while Liam Livingstone is yet to come into his own and get a big score. Sam Curran led the way against Mumbai Indians and his contribution with both bat and ball holds the key for the team.

Pacers Arshdeep Singh and Kagiso Rabada, who were taken to the cleaners by LSG batters, will have to regroup quickly. Leg-spinner Rahul Chahar's spell in the middle overs would also be crucial on a Chennai track which is usually slow and low.

(Match starts at 3.30 PM).

Man United Sale: Sheikh Jassim, Ratcliffe Make 3rd Bids

Agencies

MANCHESTER: After a third round of bidding for Manchester United, Qatari banker Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad Al Thani and British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe are still hoping to take control of the storied soccer team.

Persons with knowledge of the bids said the latest offers were submitted on Friday. The persons spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not permitted to comment publicly.

Sheikh Jassim and Ratcliffe confirmed their intention to buy United this year after current owners, the Glazer family, announced in November their willingness to listen to offers for the English Premier League club.

While the Glazers could yet decide to remain in control, merchant bank Raine Group has fielded bids from potential buy-

tained from the start that he is seeking majority ownership.

United supporters have long campaigned to drive out the Glazers after the family's late patriarch, Malcolm, bought the club for around USD 1.4 billion in 2005.

Fans were angered by the leveraged nature of the buyout that loaded debt onto the club. Ill feelings also grew as the team's success declined over the past decade.

The Glazers' confirmation that it would consider a sale was celebrated by large sections of United's support, but concerns were raised about the amount of time it has taken to conclude the process.

The Glazers, who also own the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers, want the process to be completed in time for the start of the off-season transfer window. Prospective new owners would



ers and investors as it explores strategic alternatives. The size of the bids are not known, but it is estimated the price could be around USD 6 billion if a full sale goes through.

Sheikh Jassim's proposal includes a "significant amount of additional capital and infrastructure investment" that would go directly to United, the person with knowledge of the bid said.

Following reports that Ratcliffe, the owner of petrochemicals giant INEOS, would be willing to let the Glazers retain a minority stake, he has main-

be expected to invest heavily in the squad this summer, with manager Erik ten Hag needing a top-class center forward following the departure of Cristiano Ronaldo earlier in the season.

A redevelopment or rebuilding of Old Trafford could also cost in excess of USD 1 billion, while investment could also be made into the club's training facilities. Sheikh Jassim has previously stated his commitment to invest in the stadium, training center and playing squads in a bid to "return the club to its former glories both on and off the pitch."

Bun Maska



Chai

Chai Ka Chaska With Bun Maska



JK Bank Lawns, Opp Ghat
6 Boulevard, Srinagar

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SWIGGY