



Maximum : 9°  
Minimum : -2°  
Humidity :25%

SUNSET  
Today 05:29 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 07:35 AM



## P8 LIFE & TIMES

### TAKE CARE YOUR HANDS THIS WINTER

Who does not want beautiful, soft and smooth hands? Yet if your hands are rough, scaly, dull-looking, tanned and the skin around the nail is peeling off, then you are not alone. Winter is hard on your hands. Smooth, supple ...

## P6 GLOBAL BRITAIN

THINK

Global Britain is the new strategy, through which the UK aspires to re-emerge as a key player at the global stage



## P12 OBSERVER OUTPOST

### WOMAN GIVES LIFE TO FOUR PEOPLE; HEART SENT THROUGH GREEN CORRIDOR FOR TRANSPLANT

The woman's liver and two kidneys were also used in separate transplant procedures.



## Wisdom Quote!

“Obscurity and a competence—that is the life that is best worth living.”

—Mark Twain

## news DIGEST

### Crime Branch Charges Four ‘Fraudsters’

SRINAGAR: The Crime Branch, Kashmir on Saturday filed a charge sheet against four people for duping youth with the promise of providing bank jobs.

An official of the Crime Branch said that the challan in case (FIR No. 19/2009) under section 419,420,468,471,120-B RPC before the Court of Judge Small Causes Srinagar against four accused persons— Farooq Ahmad Mohand of Tral, Waheeda Shah of HMT, Imtiyaz Ahmad Bhat of Amda Kadal and Avtar Krishan Pandita of Shopian, at present Barnai Jammu. ● More On P2

### Cop Killed After Car Falls Into Gorge

SRINAGAR: A policeman was killed on Saturday after the car he was travelling in, met with an accident at Ramban along Jammu-Srinagar highway, officials said.

Mohammad Altaf Mir of Lolab in Kupwara district was killed when the car Grand I10 (JK01AH6950) he was travelling in, rolled down into a gorge at Ratanbas area near Banihal along the thoroughfare, the only road link connecting Kashmir Valley with the outside world, news agency GNS reported. Quoting an unnamed police officer, the report said that Mir was a police Head Constable in IRP's 14 battalion and was returning from home to join duty in Jammu.

### Polytechnic Students Demand Online Exams

SRINAGAR: The backlog students of Government polytechnic colleges on Saturday urged the authorities to conduct their examinations in online mode due to the prevailing situation. While talking to Kashmir Observer, the students said that due to lack of regular classes and ban on high speed internet service since last year, they haven't been able to fully concentrate on their studies. They said that it's ironic that JKSBOTE has decided to go for regular exams in the midst of the pandemic. They urged higher authorities to conduct their examinations in online mode.

### Tipper Mows Down Scooty Rider

SRINAGAR: A young scooty rider on Saturday was crushed to death by a speedy tipper in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district

2-year-old Faizan Ahmad Para of Beehama was critically injured when a speedy tipper hit his two-wheeler near Qamaria ground on Saturday afternoon, reports said. The injured youth was instantly removed to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him brought dead.

Meanwhile, a police official said that they have taken cognizance of the accident and started further investigations in this regard.

### ‘Drug Peddler’ Booked Under PSA

SRINAGAR: Police said on Saturday that it has booked an alleged notorious drug peddler under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

Firdous Ahmad Mir at Fira Codeine of Kadlabal Pampore, who was booked under FIR number 98/2020 after a huge quantity of contraband substance was recovered from him in Awantipora, was detained under Public Safety Act after obtaining sanctions from the concerned authorities, a police spokesperson said Saturday. “It is pertinent to mention here that he is the 8th person ● More On P2

# Two Militants Killed In 19-Hour Long Encounter

## OBSERVER NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Two local militants were killed and two soldiers injured during a fierce 19-hour-long gunfight in south Kashmir's Shopian district that ended on Saturday, police said.

A joint team of police, army's 44RR and CRPF laid a siege around Kanigam area of the district on Friday afternoon after receiving specific input about the presence of militants, a police spokesperson said Saturday. During the search operation, he said, the

the whole area was put under strict cordon,” the police spokesperson said.

During the wee hours, he said, the holed-up militants fired indiscriminately when the search team reiterated surrender offer to them.

“In the ensuing encounter, two militants were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the spot,” he said.

He identified them as Owais Farooq of Awantipora and Asif Lone of Shopian, both associated with Al Badr outfit.

As per police records, the police

## Militant, Aide Arrested In Jammu: Police

SRINAGAR: Police in Jammu on Saturday claimed to have arrested a militant of ‘The Resistance Front’ (TRF) and his associate along with arms and ammunition in Narwal area of the city outskirts. ● More On P2

militants were given an opportunity to lay down their arms and surrender.

“However, they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which was retaliated leading to an encounter. In the initial firing two army personnel got injured and were shifted to hospital for treatment. Due to darkness, the operation was suspended and

spokesperson said that both the militants were part of the group involved in several activities, including attacks on government forces. Lone, he said was also involved in an attack on army's naka party at Trenz Shopian besides pasting threatening posters in Zainapora asking people to stay away from recently concluded DDC elections. ● More On P2

## Shopian ‘Fake’ Encounter

## Police Files Charges Against Army Captain, 2 Others



## OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

SRINAGAR: Two days after army said that it has completed Summary of Evidence against two of its men involved in Shopian fake encounter, the special investigation team (SIT) of police on Saturday filed charge sheet against three persons including an army captain who were involved in the case.

The 300-page charge-sheet was presented before the court of Principal and Sessions Judge Shopian on Saturday against the three people involved in the case, including a senior army officer, news agency KNO quoted Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Wajahat Hussain as saying.

Hussain, who is heading the special probe team, identified the trio as Captain Bupinder of army's 62 RR, Tabish Ahmad, a resident of Shopian and Bilal Ahmad, a resident of Pulwama.

The police charge-sheet against the accused comes two days after the army said that the Summary of Evidence against two of its men involved in the encounter has been completed and a possible court martial could take place after completion of formalities.

General Officer in Command of XV Corps Lt Gen B S Raju said on Thursday the Summary of Evidence has been completed but refused to give away any details of the outcome. ● More On P2

## India, Pak Troops Trade Fire, Again

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: After exchanging fire along the Line of Control (LoC) for three consecutive days, the Indian and Pakistani troops traded heavy gunfire along the International Border (IB) in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Saturday.

Pakistani Rangers violated the ceasefire by resorting to unprovoked firing at forward posts along the IB in Kathua district, they said. Firing from across the IB in the Satpal Border Outpost area of Hiranagar sector started around 9.35 pm on Friday, prompting strong retaliation by the Border Security Force (BSF), they said. ● More On P2

## J&K Reports 249 New Cases, 6 More Coronavirus Deaths

## OBSERVER MONITORING DESK

SRINAGAR: At least six more people died of coronavirus in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday while 249 more people tested positive for Covid-19, including 2 minors and 11 travellers during the last 24 hours.

In Jammu region, four people lost the battle with the deadly infection while two people died of virus in Kashmir Valley, officials said. Among the victims, officials said, included a 78-year-old man from Fateh Kadal here and a 70-year-old man from Plan area of Bandipora. The four victims from the winter capital included a 78-year-old man from Digiana and a 60-year-old man from Rehari Colony while two others were

## Anti India Sloganeering In 2010

## Police Presents Charge Sheet Against Malik, Aga Hassan

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir police on Saturday presented chargesheet against two senior separatist leaders for raising 'anti-India slogans' during a rally in north Kashmir's Bandipora district in the year 2010.

The charge sheet was presented against JKLF Supremo Muhammad Yasin Malik and Anjuman-e-Sharie Shiyan leader Aga Syed Hassan, who according to police raised anti-India slogans at a public rally in Inderkoot village of Sumbal in north Kashmir's Bandipora district in the year 2010.

According to the police sources, an FIR 278/2010 under section 188, 353 RPC was registered in 2010 against the two separatist leaders for raising anti-India slogans.

“Police presented the charge sheet before the Munsif court Sumbal on Saturday”, reports said. Malik and Aga Syed were booked by the Sumbal police in 2010 for holding pro-independence rallies and gatherings in the Inderkoot area of Sumbal town.

Malik is currently lodged in New Delhi's Tihar Jail. —Agencies

## Omar Takes Pot Shots At J&K Govt, Opposition Parties



KO Photo: Abid Bhat

## Says DDC Members Being Forced To Join BJP's B-Team

SRINAGAR: National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Saturday said the BJP, its allies and the administration in Jammu and Kashmir should accept the verdict of the District Development Council elections and stop indulging in “horse-trading” which will only discredit democracy and the institutions. ● More On P2

a 60-year-old man from Doda and a 65-year-old woman from Poonch.

With these deaths, the total fatality count in J&K reached 1867—1177 in the Valley and 690 in the Jammu region.

Srinagar district with 445 deaths tops the list followed by Jammu (352), Baramulla (170), Budgam (107), Kupwara (90), Pulwama (88), Anantnag (83), Doda (62), Bandipora (60), Udhampur (57), Kulgam (53), Rajouri (54), Kathua (48), Ganderbal (43), Shopian (37), Samba (38), Poonch (23), Ramban (21), Kishtwar(21), and Reasi(14).

Meanwhile, 2 minors and 11 travellers were among 249 new cases detected across the Union Territory on Saturday. ● More On P2

## Kashmir Shivers In Frigid ‘Chillai-Kalan’

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR: There was no let-up in cold wave conditions in Kashmir on Saturday as the minimum temperature stayed below the freezing point, even as the meteorological department said the valley is likely to receive light rain and snow over the next few days.

The weather across Kashmir has remained dry and cold since the snowfall on December 12, with the night temperature staying several degrees below the freezing point, MeT department officials said.

The officials said Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 3.7 degrees Celsius, slightly up from the previous night's minus 4.3 degrees Celsius. In the south Kashmir tourist resort of Pahalgam, the

The weather department said there is a possibility of light rain and snowfall in the valley for the next few days starting Saturday.

mercury settled at minus 4.5 degrees Celsius, up from minus 5.9 degrees Celsius the previous night. The famous ski resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir was the coldest place in the valley at minus 6.5 degrees Celsius, down from minus 5.6 degrees Celsius the previous night, according to the officials.

Qazigund recorded a minimum temperature of minus 4 degrees Celsius, Kupwara minus 3.6 degrees Celsius and Kokernag minus 4.0 degrees Celsius, the officials said. Kashmir is currently under the

grip of ‘Chillai Kalan’ -- a 40-day period of harshest winter when a cold wave grips the region and the temperature drops considerably leading to the freezing of water bodies, as well as the water supply lines in several parts of the valley.

The chances of snowfall are the maximum during this period and most areas, especially in the higher reaches, receive heavy snowfall, the officials said.

The ‘Chillai-Kalan’, which began on December 21, will end on January 31. However, the cold wave continues even after that in Kashmir with a 20-day ‘Chillai-Khurd’ (small cold) and a 10-day ‘Chillai-Bachha’ (baby cold).

The weather department said there is a possibility of light rain and snowfall in the valley for the next few days starting Saturday.

## PEOPLE HAVE LEFT History Behind And Voted For A Future Of Hope’

## PM Chooses ‘Pheran’ To Launch Scheme

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has often chosen to dress in the traditional attire of a region while attending an event related to it, and it was a Kashmiri ‘pheran’ on Saturday as he launched the Ayushman Bharat scheme to extend health insurance benefits to all residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sources close to the prime minister said he had received the pheran as a gift in winters last year from a farm labourer from Jammu and Kashmir. Modi had planned to wear this during his visit to the region, but the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic meant that such a trip could not materialise.

He took the opportunity of the launch of the scheme through video-conference on Saturday to wear the “special gift”, the sources said.

He has also been recently donning Bengali shawls multiple times in his virtual programmes.

## J&K Remained Peaceful During Modi’s 6-Year Rule: Shah

JAMMU: The six-year rule of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from 2014 will be remembered as the most peaceful period in the history of Jammu and Kashmir since 1990, Union Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday.

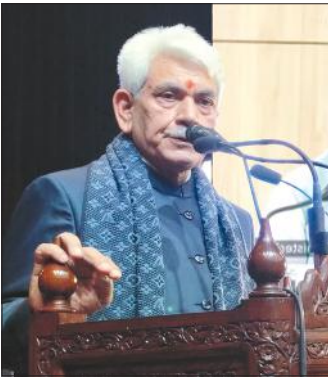
Shah also lauded Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and his administration for conducting peaceful and transparent District Development Council (DDC) polls and assured the people of Jammu and Kashmir that all the promises made by Modi will be fulfilled in a time-bound manner.

“The prime minister has a special attachment and love for the people of J-K. Whenever, we are meeting him, his focus remains on three things -- speedy development of Jammu and Kashmir to ensure benefits reach an ordinary person for his upliftment, strengthening of grassroot democracy and a peaceful security scenario.

“After August 5 last year, there is a visible change (in J&K) in every field, whether related to unfinished projects, implementation of centrally sponsored ● More On P2

# JK Entering Golden Era Of Development: LG

## Says DDC Members To Be Administered Oath On Monday



## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU: Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir is entering a golden era of development under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday said his administration would fast track developmental projects and create ample employment opportunities for youths.

He also announced 6,000 government jobs will be given to Kashmiri pandit migrants under a prime minister's

package and as many residential quarters will be arranged for them in the Valley over the next two years.

Expressing happiness over the successful conduct of the District Development Council (DDC) elections despite “attempts by inimical elements to trigger violence”, Sinha said the elected members would be administered the oath under the Constitution on December 28.

The Lt Governor was speaking to welcome the Prime Minister at the launch of a scheme extending benefits of Ayushman Bharat to the residents of the Union territory.

Modi rolled out the Social Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine (SEHAT) scheme, under which 15 lakh families would be provided a health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh each per family per year on a floater basis, thus covering the entire population. Earlier, five lakh deprived families were covered under the scheme.

“As per the directions of the Prime Minister, we are achieving new milestones. We are entering a golden phase of development,” Sinha said, adding transparency with accountability is being ensured and new avenues of skill development and entrepreneurship provided to ensure employment to the local youth. ● More On P2



## Crime Branch ...

"Two accused persons were produced before the Court while section 512 CRPC was invoked against the two others," the official added.

He said that the case was filed after a written complaint received from Axis Bank Branch Head Bahu Fort Jammu, stating therein that some unknown persons were cheating aspiring candidates on pretext of providing jobs. (GNS)

## Drug Peddler ...

who has been booked under Public Safety Act in the drug peddling cases in Police District Awantipora. Besides, 109 persons have been arrested in drug related cases during this year and 55 FIRs have been registered in Police District Awantipora," he added.

## Two Militants ...

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

The police spokesperson further said that the last rites of the killed militants shall be performed after conducting their medico-legal formalities at Baramulla and their nearest family members shall be allowed to participate. "In this connection a case under relevant sections of law has been registered and investigation has been initiated," he said. "People are requested to cooperate with police till the area is completely sanitized and cleared of all the explosive materials, if any," he added.

## Ayushman Bharat ..

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the Union Territory's Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, also spoke on the occasion.

The scheme will provide free-of-cost insurance cover to all residents of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the PMO said, adding that it will extend financial cover of up to Rs 5 lakh per family on a floater basis to all residents of the UT.

There is provision for operational extension of the 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana' (PM-JAY) to approximately 15 lakh additional families, the PMO statement said, adding that the scheme will operate on insurance mode in convergence with PM-JAY.

The benefits of the scheme will be portable across the country. The hospitals empanelled under the PM-JAY scheme shall provide services under this scheme as well, the PMO said. (PTI)

## Militant, Aide ...

Based on a reliable input regarding movement of militants with automatic weapons towards Srinagar, the special operation group (SOG) of police laid a naka in Narwal area of Jammu city, a police spokesperson said. Around 5:30pm, he said, a car tried to escape from the checkpoint when the SOG team was conducting searches of the vehicles

"Observing the suspicious movement, the SOG team immediately chased the vehicle and apprehended it with the two suspects Raees Ahmad Dar of Churath, Qazigund and Subzar Ahmad Sheikh of Ashmuji, Kulgam," the police spokesperson said.

He said during searches, an AK series rifle, 2 magazines and sixty rounds besides a pistol and 15 rounds were recovered from the bag in possession of Raees.

"On this, a Case FIR no. 359/20 U/S 120-B/121/121-A/122 IPC, 7/25 A. Act, 18/20/38/39 Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), 1967, has been registered at PS Bahu Fort and investigation is taken up," he added. The police spokesperson further claimed that Raees has a history of involvement in militant activities and has 4 cases registered against him.

"Initial investigation reveals that he is working for TRF. The role of his associate is also being ascertained," he said.

"Jammu police is further investigating the case to unearth a complete network of associates providing support to militant activities," he added.

## DDC Polls ...

It shows the gap between what some parties preach and what they do, and also highlights their commitment to democracy, he said in a dig at his rivals.

Noting that local body polls were last held in 2006 in Puducherry, he said its term ended in 2011 but new elections were not held.

"You will be surprised to know that the Supreme Court had given an order in this regard in 2018, but the government there has been delaying it," the prime minister said.

The district development council polls in Jammu and Kashmir have written a new chapter in the troubled region and have strengthened democracy, he said.

Noting that the people braved cold weather and the COVID-19 pandemic to enthusiastically participate in the election, the prime minister said he had heard from every political party about the high level of transparency during the polls and how free they were.

"I feel so proud... This is a moment of pride for India," he said, lauding the local administration and security forces.

These election results have thrown up victors, many of whom have come up from among the masses and who have won due to their work, not their name, he said, in a dig at dynastic parties.

"This is the beginning of a new leadership of a new era in a new decade," he said.

He said that the BJP was once a part of the government in the erstwhile state and added that it pulled out because the

saffron party wanted panchayat elections and people to be given their rights. In these polls, people have left history behind and voted for a future of hope, he said.

With every resident of Jammu and Kashmir now eligible for health insurance up to Rs five lakh, Modi said it was a historic day for the region.

In an apparent reference to Article 370, which had given special status to Jammu and Kashmir and was abrogated by his government last year, Modi said earlier most schemes and laws meant for the country had the provision "except J & K".

This has become history, and over 170 central Acts are now applicable to the union territory, giving its people their rights and ending all discrimination, he added.

"This is our government's commitment that no part of the country is deprived of development any longer. Better living conditions in every territory will further strengthen national unity and integrity," he asserted.

An official statement said about six lakh families of the UT were getting the benefit of the Ayushman Bharat scheme, and now all 21 lakh families will get it.

Noting that its residents can avail of the health insurance anywhere in India except a state like West Bengal, the prime minister took a jibe at the Trinamool Congress government there for not joining the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

The Centre has undertaken all-round development of Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

Modi said a big mistake of those who were in power for decades in the country was to ignore the development of border regions, including Jammu and Kashmir and the northeastern states, but his government has rectified this.

Holding previous regimes responsible for ignoring border areas and its residents in Jammu and Kashmir, Modi said that shelling from across the LoC has always been a concern and the security forces have been given "a free hand to reply to the enemy."

He said that under the slogan of "sab ka saath, sab ka vikas", the construction of underground bunkers are in full swing in border areas of J&K to protect its people in times of shelling.

"Shelling has always been a concern for us. We have taken a series of steps to protect the border residents and to ensure development of border areas. Security forces have been given a free hand (to reply) during shelling," the Prime Minister said.

He said during the pandemic about 18 lakh LPG cylinders were refilled in Jammu and Kashmir. More than 10 lakh toilets were built under the Swachh Bharat programme, he said, adding it too contributed to improving the health of the people.

The setting up of IIT and IIM in Jammu and Kashmir would help in providing quality higher education to the students, he said, noting that two AIIMS and two cancer institutes are also being built in the union territory.

## J&K Remained ...

schemes, infrastructure development and security situation," Shah said.

On August 5 last year, the Centre had abrogated the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the erstwhile state into two Union Territories.

Joining Modi via video-conference for the launch of a scheme extending benefits of Ayushman Bharat to all residents of the Union territory, Shah who was in Guwahati, said that as far as security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir was concerned, the people in Kashmir were enjoying peace since Modi took over as the prime minister in 2014.

"I can say with full faith that during the last six years of Modi's rule from 2014 to 2020, Kashmir witnessed the most peaceful period since 1990 and it will be remembered in the history of J-K," he said.

Shah asserted that peace is essential for development, tourism and employment generation for the youth.

"Development is impossible without peace. For tourism to flourish, peace is again imperative. Peace is key to fulfillment of the dreams of youth," he said.

The home minister said the prime minister has kept his promise to take democracy to grassroots level.

He said the J-K administration performed its responsibility at a miraculous speed as a result of which government schemes were reaching the public.

"The people of J-K are reaping benefits of the schemes. Unfinished work on infrastructure projects started under the leadership of Modi in 2014 gathered speed after August 5 and we are hopeful that within the next one year all the projects will be completed," he said.

Referring to the recently conducted DDC polls, Shah praised the LG and his administration for ensuring peaceful and transparent polls.

"Not a single drop of blood was shed during polling which also recorded a heavy turnout. When the DDCs are formed, elected representatives will prioritise works in their districts in accordance with the sentiment, wishes and aspirations of the locals and will ensure that the development work reaches every household," he said.

He said that instead of transferring funds to the J-K administration, the money will be directly given to the DDC to carry out the development of each district.

The minister said the central government as well as the J-K administration is bound to fulfil all the promises made

to the people of the Union territory by Modi over the past six years.

"I want to assure the people of J-K that all the promises made by the prime minister will be fulfilled," he said, expressing hope that the Union territory will witness a new dawn under the leadership of Sinha who along with his administration is working at a "miraculous speed" to implement government schemes, complete development projects and maintain peace.

Terming the launch of the health scheme as a "great day" for the people of J-K, he said it will bring a transformation in the health sector by adding 15 lakh families who will get a health insurance cover of Rs five lakh free of cost.

"The scheme is already in force in the country, including J-K, for the past two years. Now adding 15 lakh families to cover all residents of J-K is the first in the country. This is because of the special bond the PM has with the Union Territory and the efforts of the Lt Governor," he said.

He said the scheme has proved to be a miracle for the seven crore poor people in the country.

"So far over 1.5 crore have benefited by getting free treatment, including minor and major surgeries," he said.

Referring to the various measures taken by the administration to strengthen the health-related infrastructure in the UT, the Union minister said the day is not far when the people of Jammu and Kashmir will not have to go outside for treatment.

Health infrastructure is going to get stronger with people coming from outside to invest here, he said.

He also praised the Lt Governor administration for its handling of the coronavirus pandemic and said the government's efforts kept J-K safe.(PTI)

## J&K Reports ...

Among them, officials said, 126 are from Jammu division and 123 from Kashmir Valley thus taking the total number of people infected by the virus to 119877.

Giving a district wise break-up, the officials said Srinagar reported 49, Baramulla 8, Budgam 15, Kupwara 10, Pulwama 9, Anantnag 8, Bandipora 2, Ganderbal 8, Kulgam 4, Shopian 10, Jammu 96, Udhampur 2, Rajouri 7, Doda 5, Kathua 4, Kishtwar 4, Poonch 1, Ramban 7 and Reasi 4 new cases of coronavirus.

Moreover, they said, 369 more patients have recovered and were discharged from various hospitals— 203 from Jammu Division and 166 from Kashmir. (With GNS inputs)

## India, Pak ...

The officials said cross-border firing between the two sides continued till 2:45 am on Saturday, but there was no immediate report of any damage on the Indian side.

The latest ceasefire violation comes a day after two Army porters – Altaf Hussain and Mohammad Zaif – were injured in Pakistani firing along the Line of Control at Dalhan in Poonch district.

The porters, both residents of Noorkote village, were moving towards a forward post when they were fired upon by Pakistani troops from across the border, causing serious injuries to them, the officials said, adding both were hospitalised and their condition was stated to be stable. (PTI)

## Police Files ...

"Yes, the Summary of Evidence has been completed and the army will take next course of action as per the law," Lt Raju had said here.

The army had ordered a Court of Inquiry earlier this year after reports appeared on social media that three youths have been killed by soldiers in a fake encounter and passed off as militants.

The Court of Inquiry, which completed its probe earlier in September, had found "prima facie" evidence that troops had "exceeded" powers under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) during the July 18 encounter in which three men were killed. Following this, the army had initiated disciplinary proceedings.

Officials in know of the development said the two army personnel may face court martial proceedings for violating the powers vested under the AFSPA, 1990 and not following the Do's and Don'ts of Chief of Army Staff as approved by the Supreme Court.

The officials said the accused personnel may face serious charges under the law.

They also said the role of the three civilians as well as the person who had allegedly led the army to the youths in Amshipura in Shopian needs to be thoroughly examined by the police.

The three civilians killed in Amshipura were Intiyaz Ahmed, Abrar Ahmed and Mohammed Ibrar, hailing from Rajouri district. Their identities were subsequently confirmed through a DNA test. The bodies were handed over to their families in Baramulla in October.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha had visited the families of the three Rajouri youths and expressed condolences. He had also assured the families that the UT government will extend full support to them and ensure that justice is done in the case.

He had also conveyed the message of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the government stands with the aggrieved families, and they will be taken care of with all support from the

government. (With PTI inputs)

## Omar Takes ...

He accused the Apni Party, led by former PDP leader Altaf Bukhari, and the union territory administration of using coercive tactics to buy loyalties of newly elected DDC members.

"In case of Shopian district, some of the winners -- from Congress, PDP and National Conference -- are brought to Srinagar and coerced to join the Apni Party," Omar told reporters at a press conference here.

An audio recording of a telephone conversation was played to buttress the claims made by the former chief minister in which the husband of a winning candidate from Shopian, belonging to the National Conference, is promised the release of his brother within three days if he makes his wife to "join Altaf Bukhari's party".

The woman DDC member, Yasmeena Jan, had joined the Apni Party on Friday.

Omar said the BJP, the Apni Party and the administration should accept the verdict of the people in favour of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD).

"PAGD won most of the seats, Why cannot the BJP, the Apni Party, the Centre and the administration accept it. The prime minister in a health-related function today spoke about DDC elections and democracy."

"Every BJP leader has been trumpeting that DDC elections were a victory of democracy... We want to tell them 'stop playing with democracy'," he added.

The National Conference vice president alleged that at present, the efforts are focussed on subverting the democratic verdict in Shopian district.

"Who knows where all it can lead if it is not stopped now," he said.

"If this (horse-trading) is not stopped, I think democracy and institutions are being discredited. This is anything but democracy," Omar added.

The NC leader said the anti-defection laws should be applied to all candidates who switch sides after the election results.

"There is an anti-defection law in Parliament, assembly and panchayats, it should be applied to DDC as well. Let those switching sides contest again and we will know who stands where."

Asked about "friendly contests" between PAGD constituents on several seats in the Valley, Omar said there were difficulties but by and large the alliance had succeeded in overcoming them.

"The alliance is just a few months old. And elections were announced soon after the alliance was formed. We have by and large been able to overcome the problems but you also have to understand that there were several good candidates in some seats," he said.

Asked about the role of the Congress in seat sharing, Omar said it was understood that the national party was a part of the alliance as it was one of the signatories to the original resolution on August 4, 2019.

"However, the Congress only wanted a seat-sharing agreement which was not acceptable to the alliance," he said.

Asked about the future of the PAGD -- an amalgam of various mainstream political parties demanding the restoration of special status to Jammu and Kashmir -- Omar said the alliance has a bigger mission ahead of it and will continue to pursue it.

"The DDC elections have shown that the majority of people do not accept the

decisions taken on August 5, 2019. We have never claimed that all the people do not accept it but the majority does not," he said. (PTI)

## JK Entering Golden ...

A new phase of development has started in J&K since August last year, he said.

"We speeded up the developmental works and also provided financial assistance to 1500 youth under entrepreneurship development to make them self-reliant," he said.

Sinha said there is no dearth of talent in the Union Territory and efforts are on to bring in investment and provide employment opportunities to youths.

"The process of appointment of doctors has been completed and (the process of) providing jobs to 13,000 youth is underway," he said, adding unemployed Kashmiri migrant pandits would be provided 6,000 jobs and as many flats under Prime Minister's employment package.

"The package was not implemented so far. I assure you that they will be provided jobs within next five months besides 4000 flats within one and a half years and rest within two years for their rehabilitation (in the valley)," he said.

to various developmental projects, he said the people in the capital cities of Jammu and Srinagar would ride the metro train within the next three years. "We have already speeded up work on the incomplete developmental projects to complete these within the stipulated time," he said.

Referring to his meeting with the Prime Minister before taking over as Lt Governor of J&K, Sinha said, "You expressed concern over the issue of unemployment and wanted building of an atmosphere where the local youth could get employment."

"You also talked about J&K lagging behind other states and the need to bring it into the mainstream and taking development to new heights," Sinha said.

He said his administration fast tracked developmental projects, handed over the three-tier panchayati raj system to the people and is moving in the direction to make J&K "Atmanirbhar" (self-reliance), he said.

The LG said all incomplete projects sanctioned under Prime Minister's development package would be completed by 2022.

Sinha said new initiatives in agriculture and horticulture are being taken to tap the true potential of these sectors.

"There has been remarkable progress in all the schemes including rural roads, PM Awas Yojana and Swachh Bharat Mission," he said.

He said despite all-out attempts by inimical elements to trigger violence, the DDC elections were conducted successfully in a peaceful manner with transparency.

"I have religiously followed your directions to ensure free and fair elections in a peaceful atmosphere. People deserve praise for strengthening democracy at the grassroots level by enthusiastically taking part in the festival of democracy," he said, thanking the PM.

The new DDC members will carry forward development works in their districts, he said.

Earlier, Financial Commissioner (Health and Medical Education) Atal Dulloo termed the launch of the Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY Sehat scheme a "historic day" for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said J&K has achieved remarkable feat in almost all health indicators and

the SEHAT scheme has come as a win-win situation for both the people of the UT as well as the health institutions.

"The universal health coverage aims at providing financial risk protection and risk mitigation and ensuring quality and affordable essential health services to the people and also reducing the out of pocket expenditure," he said.

He said 97,000 deprived people have got treated at an estimated cost of Rs 54 crore under the centrally-sponsored scheme in the UT. (PTI)

## ACB Conducts Surprise Check At RTO Offices In 3 Jammu Districts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**JAMMU:** The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Saturday conducted joint surprise check (JSC) in the regional transport offices and driving test locations at three different districts in Jammu and Kashmir, an official said.

The day-long JSC was conducted following reliable information that there is widespread corruption in the regional transport offices located at Jammu, Samba and Kathua districts in the Jammu region while processing learner's licences, driving licences, registration certificates and also for clearing candidates in the driving tests, a spokesperson of the ACB said.

He said the surprise checking was conducted after taking the concerned regional transport officers in confidence.

The spokesperson said the teams checked all the vital points in the RTO offices in Jammu, Samba and Kathua, which are allegedly prone to corruption.

"The teams also scrutinised the records, interacted with public who were appearing for driving tests to see if any middlemen or touts are involved in the process of clearing the tests and also in getting the learner's licence or driving licence in an easy manner," the spokesperson said.

He said files for issuance of driving licences and registration certificates were scrutinised to ascertain the reason of pendency and their copies collected for further study.

The spokesperson said mobiles and desks of the RTO officials were checked for any onward messages seeking favours besides the amount of cash lying with them.

"The collected records, statements of the public present there and the observations made are being scrutinised for further course of action. If any malafide/criminal negligence/connivance is found on the part of the officials of RTO, further legal action as envisaged under law will be taken," he said. PTI

## Royal Springs Golf Course Cheshmashahi Srinagar

E-NIT No.56of 2020-21 Dated 26-12 .2020

For and on behalf of Secretary Royal Springs Golf Course, Cheshmashahi, Srinagar e-tenders (In two cover system) invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors Regd. With UTI J&K for each of the following Item/work,

S. No	Name of work	Est. cost (Rs in lacs).	Earnest money/ Bid Security (In Rs)	Cost of tender document (in Rs)	Time of Completion	Class of contract	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Iron fencing around Azam Baba Sahib at RSGC Srinagar	1.15 Lakhs	2300/= in Shape of CDR/FDR in favour of Turf Manager RSGC	100/= Non Refundable in shape of DD in favour Secretary RSGC or Bank Challan SB-12341 J&K Bank Brain Branch Nishat Srinagar	15 working days	DEE	5452- Toursim

Special conditions :-

I. In case the offered bid is below 60% of the advertised cost or more, such bid / bids will be out rightly rejected.

II. In case more than one bidder have quoted equal bid amounts or bids are found to a "Tie" Ist lowest will from draw of lots.

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	26-12.2020 4:00 PM
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 26-12.2020 to 06-01.2021 (4.00PM)
3.	Bid submission Start Date	26-12.2020 4:00 PM
4.	Bid Submission End Date	06-01-2021 4:00 PM
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids(Online)	07-01.202111:00 AM in the office of Turf Manager RSGC Srinagar

General Conditions:

- The successful bidder shall submit original Demand Drafts/CDR and copies of Registration Certificate and PAN//GST No. in person within two days from the opening of the bids failing which proceeding as warranted under rules shall be initiated in the matter.
- The bidders will provide email ID and complete postal address including cell numbers.
- The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Bids
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if-a. Any bidder/ tenderer withdraw his bid/ tender during the period of bid validity or make any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.b. Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within the specified time limit.c. Failure of Successful bidder to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- If the bidder has not uploaded rate for any item/items of the rate list/quantity schedule, the item for which no rate has been quoted/uploaded deemed at HTR (Highest Tendered Rate) received for the particular work at the time of evaluation while preparing comparative statement, however, LTR (Lowest Tendered Rate) shall be allowed in the allotment of the contract as per standard practice, in case such bidder is successful bidder. Furthermore in case the tenderer has uploaded/ quoted rates as "Free of cost" or "nil rates" against all items of the work, the tenderer shall be out rightly rejected.
- The rates uploaded/quoted by the tenderer for the items/items shall be entertained upto 2 digits only after decimal for the calculation purposes. However, in case the rate quoted is equivalent to zero value, the same shall be calculated on HTR basis.
- Bidders are advised not to make any change in BOQ (Bill of Quantities) contents. In no case they should attempt to create similar BOQ manually. The BOQ downloaded should be used for filling the item rate inclusive of all taxes and it should be saved with the same name as it contains.
- Price escalation and Taxes-The unit rates and prices shall be quoted by the bidder entirely in Indian Rupees and the rates quoted shall be deemed to include price escalation and all taxes upto completion of the work, unless otherwise specified. Deduction on account of taxes shall be made from the bills of the contractor on gross amount of the bill as per the rates prevailing at the time of recovery.
- Bidders are advised to use "My Documents" area in their user on e-Tendering portal to store such documents as reqd.
- The bidder at his own responsibility and risk should visit and examine the site of work and its surroundings before submission of bid.
- Non attendance of pre-bid meeting will not be cause of disqualification of the bidder.
- All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English Language.
- Any bid/s received beyond 15% above the advertized cost of the work shall not be entertained and fresh tenders shall be invited without any further notice.

DIPK-NB-4855/20

No: RSGC/TM/2020-21/308-11

Dated:- 26-12 .2020.

Sd/  
Turf Manager  
Royal Springs Golf Course  
Srinagar.



# Kashmir Religious Bodies Urge Caution As New Virus Strain Spreads

Observer News Service

**SRINAGAR:** The Muthahida Majlis-e-Ulema (MMU) Jammu & Kashmir, has asked people not to let their guard down and take the spread of the Covid-19 seriously.

The constituent bodies of the MMU led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq in a joint statement expressed dismay that people are not adhering to the precautionary measures as laid down by health experts to combat the global outbreak.

MMU said that unless the pandemic is brought under control hopefully by the introduction of the vaccine, following precautionary measures is obligatory on all for their safety and the safety of others around them.

The conglomerate said that the new strain of the virus infecting people in some countries is found to be more powerful and transmit at a faster speed and so are more worrisome.



File Photo

In such a situation people should be all the more cautious and strictly maintain social distancing, use masks and sanitisers and follow all preventive measures in religious

as well as public places.

MMU said that Islam values human life above all and ensuring the safety of each human being especially under

such circumstances is part of Islamic teachings, adding that the need of the hour is to take complete precautions and turn to Almighty Allah to seek re-

pentance of our sins and end to this lethal outbreak.

Those who have signed the appeal include MMU constituents Anjuman Auqaf Jamia Masjid, Dar-ul-Uloom Raheemiya, Muslim Personal Law Board, Jamiat Ahle Hadees, Jama'at-e-Islami, Anjuman Sharie Shiayan, Itihaad-ul-Muslimeen, Anjuman Himayat-ul-Islam, Jamiat Hamdania, Karwaan-e-Islami, Anjuman Ulema-e-Ahnaaf, Dar-ul-Uloom Qasmia, Dar-ul-Uloom Bilaliya, Anjuman Nusrat-ul-Islam, Anjuman Mazhar-ul-Haq, Jamiat-ul-Aima Wal Ulema, Anjuman Aima Wa Mashaa'ikh Kashmir, Dar-ul-Uloom Naqshbandiya, Dar-ul-Uloom Rasheediya, Ahl-e-Bayt Foundation, Madrasa Kanz-ul-Uloom, Peruwaan-e-Wilayat, Auqaf Islamiya Khirram Sirhama, Anjuman Tanzeem-ul-Makaaatib, Muhammadi Trust, Anjuman Ulema Wa Aima Kashmir and Karwaan-e-Khattam-e-Nabuwat International.

## Police Seeks Public Help In Identifying Hospital Attacker

**SRINAGAR:** Police station Nageen has sought help from the public for identifying a masked person whose attack on a government servant was caught on a video that is making rounds on social media.

Police said it received a written complaint from BMO Hazratbal stating that one person (unknown) manhandled the staff member of the hospital and misbehaved with them thereby deterred a public servant from discharging his official duties. A video in this regard also went viral in which a masked man wearing a cap could be seen fighting with another man (Staff

member).

Upon receipt of this complaint, FIR No 193/20 U/S 353 IPC was registered in PS Nageen & investigation set into motion, police said.

Since the accused hasn't been identified nor any entry has been registered in the hospital entry book, manhunt has been launched to nab the accused, it said.

"All efforts are being made to arrest the accused and also the general public is also requested to help PS Nageen (Srinagar) in identifying the culprit so that he could be arrested for taking law into his hands".

## CUK's SLS Holds Induction Programme

**GANDERBAL:** School of Legal Studies, Central University of Kashmir (CUK) organised a six day induction-cum-orientation programme for the fresh batches of students of BA.LLB and LL.M from 17th to 24th December.

Eminent jurists and luminaries from academics, Bar and Bench spoke in the different sessions of the programme which included CUK Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mehraj Din Mir, Prof. Emeritus (Dr.) Virendra Kumar, UGC Emeritus Fellow and Formerly Chairman, Department of Laws, Panjab University, Chandigarh and others.

The speakers sensitized the students about the globalization and globalized justice which calls for lawyering beyond borders. They contended that the new economic and political world order has considerably increased

opportunities for the law students with talent and acumen, but at the same time it has increased competition as well.

They also discussed challenges and opportunities for law students who are now required to sharpen their advocacy skills to meet the requirements of changing world, equipped with science and technology, loaded with economic incentives, focusing on marginalized and weaker sections of society, hitherto, 'deprived of access to justice and equal share in progress and development.' They highlighted it is the law alone that offers diverse employment chances, apart from professional advocacy. The students have to make a choice of their employment and then whole heartedly have to focus on their preparation.

## Adbee Markaz Kamraz Opens Head Office

**BARAMULLA:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr G N Itoo accompanied by various concerned officers today inaugurated the head office building of Adbee Markaz Kamraz J&K at Kanispora Baramulla.

The DC on the occasion complimented various stakeholders associated with the field of art and culture and said that such an initiative is a step forward to promote art and culture in the district. He reiterated the administration's commitment of providing every possible assistance in this regard.

Moreover, DC highlighted the role of poets and others concerned in highlighting various social issues through their literary works and urged upon them to play their part in this regard.

Meanwhile, various poets and other concerned stakeholders expressed gratitude to the administration and said that this will be the focal point for the learning of art and culture.

## LAWDA Demolishes Structures In Shahdad Bagh

The Enforcement Wing of Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LAWDA) today conducted a demolition drive in Shahdad Bagh and Habak areas of Srinagar city.

During the drive, 03 Single storey houses, 02 second storeys and one block raised illegally by the violators were demolished on the spot.

Besides it was given out that the legal action shall follow against the violators under law.

## KGP Students Stage Protest, Demands Online Exams

**Srinagar:** Students of different semesters from various polytechnic colleges of Kashmir staged a protest here in Press Enclave Srinagar on Saturday. The protesting students carried placards reading: "Online Classes, Online Exams", the students were demanding online exams for backlog papers for which college authorities have already issued the date sheet in offline mode.

The protesting students while speaking to the media said when college authorities can take online classes why can't they take online exams.

"Recently college authorities have issued the date sheet for our backlog papers and they want us to appear in exams. We appeal to the authorities to postpone our offline exam and roll out a new date sheet for online exams, one of the protesting students said.

### LEGAL HAIR CERTIFICATE

It is clear that the family of Late Ab Rahman Ganie is as under

Name	Relation	Age
Sada Begum	Wife	50Yrs
Nazir Ah Ganie	Son	30Yrs
Shakeela	Daughter	32Yrs
Zareefa Begum	Daughter	29Yrs
Mehmooda Bano	Daughter	25Yrs
Ruksana Bano	Daughter	24Yrs
Parvaiz Ah Ganie	Son	23Yrs
Rameez Ah Gani	Son	22Yrs
Tanveer Ah Ganie	Son	21Yrs
Yasir Ah Ganie	Son	20Yrs

The above mentioned names are the late Abdul Rahman Ganie S/o Late Gh Rasool Ganie. The family needs legal Hire certificate so that they could take their legal rights. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the concerned office within a period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After that no objection shall be entertained.

AJIAZ KO

### DIAL-EMMA



- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 2452222, 2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

### AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311 ✈

### RAILWAYS



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

### HIGHWAY STATUS



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

## This Day in History

- 537 - Hagia Sophia inaugurated by the Emperor Justinian I as an Eastern Orthodox cathedral
- 1512 - Spanish Crown issues the Laws of Burgos, governing the conduct of settlers with regards to native Indians in the New World
- 1679 - Dutch troops capture Madurees prince Trunudjojo in Java
- 1703 - England & Portugal sign Methuen-Asiento-trade agreement
- 1741 - Prussian forces took Olmütz, Czechoslovakia
- 1862 - Battle of Chickasaw Bluffs, MS (Chickasaw Bayou)
- 1862 - Battle of Elizabethtown, Kentucky
- 1918 - The Great Poland Uprising against the Germans begins.
- Assassination Attempt
- 1923 - Emperor Hirohito of Japan narrowly evades an assassination attempt by a Korean independence activist, Lee Bong-chang
- 1924 - Albania is declared a dictatorship under Ahmed Beg Zofu
- 1924 - The US signs a treaty with the Dominican Republic, which supersedes that of 1907: in July, the US had withdrawn its Marines and ended its occupation
- 1934 - Shah of Persia Mohammad Reza Pahlavi declares Persia now Iran
- 1939 - Between 20,000 & 40,000 die in magnitude 8 quake in Erzincan Turkey.
- 1941 - Japan bombs Manila even though it was declared an "open city".
- 1943 - France transfers most of her powers in Lebanon to Lebanese government.
- 1945 - International Monetary Fund formally established by 29 member countries.
- 1945 - The World Bank was created with the signing of an agreement by 28 nations.
- 1961 - Belgium & Congo resume diplomatic relations.
- 1968 - Apollo 8 returns to Earth.
- 1975 - Explosion at Chasna Colliery collapses drowning 350 (Dhanbad India).
- 1978 - Spain becomes a democracy after 40 years of dictatorship.
- 1979 - Soviet troops invade Afghanistan, President Hafizullah Amin overthrown.
- 1981 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalinsk USSR
- 1982 - Imran Khan 8-60 to bring innings victory v India at Karachi
- 1987 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalinsk USSR
- 1988 - Bulgaria stops jamming Radio Free Europe after more than 3 decades
- 1995 - Australian cricketer David Boon completes his 21st Test Cricket century (110 v SL, MCG)
- 1996 - Taliban forces retake the strategic Bagram air base which solidifies their buffer zone around Kabul.
- 2001 - The People's Republic of China is granted permanent normal trade relations with the United States.
- 2002 - Two truck bombs kill 72 and wound 200 at the pro-Moscow headquarters of the Chechen government in Grozny, Chechnya.
- 2004 - Radiation from an explosion on the magnetar SGR 1806-20 reaches Earth. It is the brightest extrasolar event known to have been witnessed on the planet. MurderAssassination
- 2007 - Former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is assassinated by a suicide bomber.
- 2012 - NASA unveils plans to capture a 500 ton asteroid in 2025.
- 2008 - Israel launches Operation Cast Lead in the Gaza Strip, beginning with an airstrike that hits 100 targets in 220 seconds killing around 250 people
- 2009 - The World Health Organization says 208 countries, territories and communities have reported HINI cases, including at least 12,220 deaths
- 2012 - NASA unveils plans to capture a 500 ton asteroid in 2025
- 2013 - 29 people are killed after a bus plunged off the Huay Tong Bridge, Thailand
- 2015 - Iraqi forces retake IS held city of Ramadi (ISIS first captured in May)

## From KO Archives

## Internet Telephony Soon

Observer News Service

**NEW DELHI:** In a major policy decision, the government has decided to scrap the old Telegraph Act and replace it with a new Convergence Act, which allows making telephone calls through the Internet, Union Information Technology Minister Pramod Mahajan announced in Pune on Sunday.

Under the existing 1886 Telegraph Act, there were separate rules for delivery of voice and picture data through telecommunication channels and hence using the Internet to make telephone calls (Internet telephony) was not permissible, he said addressing the concluding function of a two-day conference on Information Technology and Biotechnology.

The new Convergence Act takes into consideration all these aspects and evolves a uniform law, Mahajan said. He said the Convergence Act will have uniform laws regarding the delivery system of voice, picture, digital and other forms of data through telecommunication channels. He said the final version of the new Convergence Act was ready and will be cleared by December 21 by a Group of Minister dealing with this act. By December 25, it will be released on the Net for people to give suggestions and objections.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 27 DECEMBER, 2000)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my Driving License Bearing License No.JK0320180004116 and my Name is Wrongly entered is Shabir Ahmad Sheikh While my Correct name is Sabir Ahamd Sheikh.Now I applied for its duplicate and Correction if anybody has any objection in this regard may file at ARTO Anantnag within Seven (7) days after that no objection shall be entertained

Name:- Sabir Ahamd Sheikh  
S/O Mohd Yousuf Sheikh  
R/O Panchalthan Chittergul Anantnag

MJA

### PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost my school living and character certificate of class 10th under the examination roll number 101314 session Apr-May 1991 D O B 01-12-1967.Now I am applying for the duplicate certificate if any person have any objection he may contact the headmaster Govt.high school verinag with in the period of seven days. After that no objection will be entertained

BALL KRISTEN RAINA  
S/O PREM NATH RAINA  
R/O VERINAG

MJA

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The name of my son has been wrongly written in school records as Aafan Altaf While his correct name is Mohammad Aafan Mir .which needs immediate correction .If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in the office of the principal Crescent School of learning Kralpora Within a period of seven days from the date of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice .After that no objection shall be entertained.

Altaf Hussain Mir  
S/o Mohammad Aafan Mir  
R/o Rawatpora Tehsil Kralpora Kupwara

Zia Kup

## ZONAL ARMED POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU

Subject: - Induction of In-service Police Personnel as ASI(Stenography)/ SgCt.(M).

Refr:- PHQ Advertisement Notice issued under endorsement:- No. Estt/G-o62013/19953-20023 daed 10.03.2018. No. Estt/G-06/2013/20024-20094 dated 10.03.2018.

### NOTIFICATION

For the conversion of in-service Police Personnel of J&K Police into Ministerial Executive Cadre as SgCt.(M), board constituted for the purpose, is going to conduct the typing test of the Police Personnel of Jammu Zone based Units w.e.f 04.01.2021 to 18.01.2021 and for Kashmir Zone based Units w.e.f 04.01.2021 to 14.01.2021 at NIELIT Jammu and NIELIT Srinagar respectively.

Similarly, for the post of ASI(S), Stenography / type test of in-service aspirants of Jammu Zone based Units is scheduled to held w.e.f.19.01.2021 to 21.01.2021 and for Kashmir Zone based Units w.e.f 14.01.2021 to 21.01.2021 at NIELIT Jammu and NIELIT Srinagar respectively.

The admit cards of all the aspirants will be made available on official website of J&K Police i.e. www.ikpolice.gov.in w.e.f 24.12.2020 and accordingly all the candidates who have applied for the aforesaid conversion are hereby advised to download their respective admit cards. Besides, all the aspirants are directed to come alongwith with admit cards with recent passport size photograph attested by the immediate supervisory officer and their original credentials i.e academic, date of birth and technical education viz; six months certificate in computer applications (duly recognized by J&K Govt.) on the scheduled date, time and venue.

**Note:- No candidate shall be allowed to appear in the prescribed tests without the above mentioned documents / formalities.**

(Danesh Rana) IPS  
Inspector General of Police,  
Armed Jammu Zone Jammu,  
Chairman Central Board.

No: ZAPHQ-J/Estt/MEC-Induction/2020/ 22-26  
Dated: 24 .12.2020.

DIPK-10915/20



Government of Jammu and Kashmir  
J&K Services Selection Board

(www.jkssb.nic.in)  
Advertisement No.05 of 2020.  
Dated: 24-12-2020

Subject:- Advertisement for District/Divisional/UT Cadreposts of various Departments under provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir Civil Services – Decentralization and Recruitment Act, 2010 and rules made there under read with other rules governing the subject.  
Reference:-Requisitions of Posts/Vacancies received from various Indenting Departments as per the details given below:

S.No.	Department	No. of posts received	Wide Indent No./reference of indent
1.	Science & Technology	11	ST/Adm/12/2019 Dated 10-12-2020
2.	ARI and Training	35	ARI/SP/14/2014 Dated 29-09-2020 followed by ARI/SP/14/2014 dated 15-12-2020
3.	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	44	LD(Estt)2019/51 dated 05-10-2020 followed by LD(SL)2015/14-Adv.Gen dated 08-12-2020
4.	Public Works(R&B) Department	490	PW(R&B)NG/124/2019 Dated 30-09-2020 followed by PW(R&B)NG/124/2019 Dated 17-12-2020
	Total	580	

- Date of Commencement for submission of online applications=31-12-2020.
- Last Date for submission of online applications =20 -01-2021.
- Annexure "A" = Name of the Post, Cadre, Pay Level, Category wise break up of posts, Qualification and Criteria for selection.
- Annexure "B"=Certificate regarding physical limitation.
- Annexure "C"=letter of undertaking for using own Scribe.

Total Number of posts advertised = 580

The J&K Services Selection Board invitesonline application from eligible candidates for participating in the selection process for District/Divisional/UT Cadre posts shown in Annexure "A" to this Notification.

The detailed terms and conditions with regard to eligibility, educational qualification, domicile, reservation, etc are as follows:-

- (1) Appointment of the candidates: -
- i. The Appointment and other service conditions in respect of the candidate selected through this selection process, shall be governed by the provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir Probationer (Condition of Services, Pay & Allowances) and Fixation of Tenure Rules, 2020, notified vide S.O 192 dated 17th of June 2020.
- ii. The reservation under this Advertisement Notification shall be applicable in accordance with the provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir's SO 127 of 2020 dated20.04.2020.
- (2) Domicile: -The candidate should be a Domicile of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir as defined in terms of the Notifications issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India vide S.O 1229 (E) dated 31-03-2020 and S.O 1245(E) dated 03-04-2020 read with the General Administration Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir's S.O 166 dated 18-05-2020.
- The candidate must possess Domicile Certificate issued by the Competent Authority on the format prescribed for the purpose, on or before the last date of submission of online application form.
- (3) Vacancies: -The UT, Divisional & District Cadre Wise details of notified posts are given in Annexure "A"to this notification.
- (4) Age limit: - (as on 01-01-2020)

The requirement of age for Open Merit & various Reserved Categories candidates is as follows: -

S.No	Category	Age limit	Not born before	Not born After
1	OM	40	01-01-1980	01-01-2002
2	SC	43	01-01-1977	01-01-2002
3	ST	43	01-01-1977	01-01-2002
4	RBA	43	01-01-1977	01-01-2002
5	ALC/IB	43	01-01-1977	01-01-2002
6	EWS(Economically Weaker Section)	43	01-01-1977	01-01-2002
7	PSP (Pahari Speaking People)	43	01-01-1977	01-01-2002
8	OSC (Other Social Caste)	43	01-01-1977	01-01-2002
9	Physically Challenged Person	42	01-01-1978	01-01-2002
10	Ex-Servicemen	48	01-01-1972	01-01-2002
11	Government Service/Contractual Employment	40	01-01-1980	01-01-2002

(5) QUALIFICATION REQUIRED: -

- (I) As per the Indent(s) received from the respective Indenting Department(s), the qualification for the posts notified are shown in Annexure "A" to this Advertisement Notification.
- (II) The candidates who are declared qualified by the Board for Document Verification will be required to produce the relevant Certificates such as Mark sheets, Provisional Certificates, etc. for completion of Graduation /Post-Graduation Degree/PhD Degree in original as proof of having acquired the prescribed educational qualification on or before the cutoff date fixed for filling online application form, failing which the candidature of such candidates shall be cancelled by the Board. The candidates who are able to prove, by documentary evidence, that the result of the qualifying examination was declared on or before the cut-off date i.e 20-01-2021and he/ she has been declared passed, will also be considered to meet the educational qualification.
- (III) Candidates may note that their candidature will remain provisional till the genuineness of their documents relating to educational qualification is verified by the Appointing Authority.
- (IV) In case of candidates claiming possession of equivalent educational qualification(where it is applicable/required), it shall be mandatory to produce relevant Equivalence Certificate from the concerned competent authorities at the time of Document Verification. However, final decision regarding selection of such candidates will be taken by the Board/concerned Departments, as the case may be.
- (V) Any candidate having his/her qualification other than prescribed, shall not be eligible for posts advertised in this notification.
- (VI) The degrees/ diplomas obtained through distance modes which are in consonance with the Govt. Order No. 252-HE of 2012dated30.05.2012 shall be entertained subject to the terms and conditions mentioned therein.

- (6) RESERVATION:
- (I) Reservation for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes(ST), Economically Weaker Section(EWS), Persons with Disabilities (PwD), Pahari Speaking People(PSP), etc for the above posts, wherever applicable and admissible, would be as determined & communicated by the Indenting Department, in accordance with the provisions of S.O 127 dated 20-04-2020.
- (II) A candidate seeking his /her consideration under Reserved Categories must ensure that he/she possess a valid/ Category Certificate as on the Cut Off Date.
- (III) Candidates may note that their candidature will remain provisional till the genuineness of the Reserved Category Certificate is verified by the Appointing Authority.
- (IV) Candidates are cautioned to note that in case a claim for reservation is made on the basis of false/fake/fraudulent certificate, he/she shall be debarred from the examination(s) conducted by the Board, in addition to any other action as may be deemed appropriate.

- (7) HORIZONTAL RESERVATION (WHEREVER APPLICABLE UNDER RULES)-
- I) The Horizontal Reservation for Ex-Servicemen and Physically Handicapped persons to the extent of 6% and 4% respectively means the reservation which would cut across the vertical reservation and the persons selected shall have to be placed in the appropriate category by making necessary adjustments. In respect of Physically Handicapped persons, reservation shall be available only for services, posts and type of disability identified for the purpose by the competent authority.
- II) The Horizontal Reservation to the extent of 6% of the available vacancies shall be provided to the Ex- Servicemen, upto such pay scales, as has been specified by the competent authority in S.O 127 dated 20-04-2020,and other applicable rules.
- III) Permissible Disabilities for PwD candidates: -
- (a) The disabilities identified/ permissible for the instant posts advertised through this notification, shall be notified separately in accordance with the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and Rules/Orders issued thereunder and in consultation with the Indenting Department, before finalization of the selection process.
- (b) The posts may be declared as identified for additional disabilities as per the provisions of the "Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016" and Rules /Orders issued thereunder at any later date in consultation with the Indenting Department. Candidates with such disabilities for which the posts are declared as identified will also be eligible for final selection.

- 8) APPLICATION FEE:-
- (i) Fee payable: Rs 350/- (Rs Three Hundred Fifty only)
- (ii) Fee can be paid only online through Net Banking, Credit or Debit cards.
- (iii) Applications received without the prescribed fee shall not be considered and summarily rejected. No representation against such rejection will be entertained. Fee once paid shall not be refunded under any circumstances nor will it be adjusted against any other examination or selection.
- (IV) All the disputes related to refund of excess payment, if any, are subject matter of the J&K Service Selection Board.Candidates are advised to apply for refund of excess payment, if any, through official portal www.ssbjk.org.inonly. No chargeback request shall be entertained.

(9) CENTRE OF EXAMINATION:  
The J&K Services Selection Board shall notify the Venue /Centre of examination separately. No representation/ request for change in this regard shall be entertained, whatsoever be the reason.

- (10) SCHEME OF EXAMINATION:
- (i) The Examination will consist of Objective Type, Multiple choice questions only except for items mentioned otherwise in the relevant column of Annexure 'A' to this notification. The questions will be set in English only.
- (ii) There will be negative marking of 0.25 marks for each wrong answer.
- (iii) Tentative Answer Keys, in due course after the Examination, will be placed on the website of the Board (www.jkssb.nic.in). Any representation regarding Answer Keys received within the time limit fixed by the Board at the time of uploading of the Answer Keys, will be scrutinized and the decision of the Board in this regard will be final. No representation regarding Answer keys shall be entertained, afterwards.
- (IV) Marks scored by candidates in written test will be normalized if required, to determine final merit and cut-off marks.

(11) SYLLABI FOR THESE POSTS SHALL BE NOTIFIED SEPARATELY.

- (12) ADMISSION TO THE EXAMINATION:
- (i) The Board will not undertake detailed scrutiny of applications for the eligibility and other aspects at the time of written examination and, therefore, candidature will be accepted only provisionally. The candidates are advised to go through the requirements of educational qualification, age, reserved category and satisfy themselves that they are eligible for the post. Copies of supporting documents will be sought at the time of Document Verification. When scrutiny is undertaken, if any claim made in the application is not found substantiated or correct, the candidature will be cancelled, Criminal Proceedings under law shall be initiated, or any other action as may be deemed appropriate by the Board, shall be taken.
- (ii) All candidates who register themselves in response to this Advertisement Notification, by the closing date and time and whose applications are found to be in order, and are provisionally accepted by the Board as per the terms and conditions of this Advertisement Notice, will be assigned Roll numbers and issued Admit Card/Roll No slip for appearing in the Written Examination.
- (iii) The Examination details will be uploaded on the official website of the Board i.e www.jkssb.nic.in. Examination detail/Roll Number slips will not be issued by post for any stage of examination. Therefore, candidates are advised to visit the official website of Board regularly for updates and information about the examination.
- (IV) Information about the Examination indicating the Time Table and City/ Centre of Examination for the candidates will be uploaded on the websites of the Board about two weeks before the date of examination. If any candidate does not find his/ her Roll Number on the website of

the Board, one week before the date of examination, he/ she must immediately contact the concerned Divisional Office of the J&K Services Selection Board, with proof of having submitted his/ her application. Failure to do so will deprive him/ her of any claim for consideration.

- (V) Candidate must submit his/ her online Application form, Email-ID and Mobile Number along with his/ her Name, Date of Birth and Name of the Examination, while addressing any communication to the Board. Communication from the candidate not furnishing these particulars shall not be entertained.
- (VI) Facility for download of Admit Cards will be available about one week before the Date of Examination on the official website of the Board i.e www.jkssb.nic.in. Candidate must bring printout of the Admit Card/Roll Number Card/Slip to the Examination Hall.
- (vii) In addition to the Roll Number Card/Slip, it is mandatory to carry at least two passport size recent colour photographs, Original valid Photo-ID proof such as:
- i. Aadhaar Card/ Printout of E-Aadhaar,
- ii. Voter's ID Card,
- iii.Driving License,
- iv.PAN Card,
- v. Passport,
- vi. School/ College/University I-Card,
- vii. Employer ID Card (Govt./ PSU/ Private), etc.

(13)PROVISION OF COMPENSATORY TIME AND ASSISTANCE OF SCRIBE:

- (I) In case of persons with benchmark disabilities in the category of blindness, locomotor disability (both arm affected-BA) and cerebral palsy, the facility of scribe will be provided, if desired by the candidate.
- (II) In case of remaining categories of persons with benchmark disabilities, the provision of scribe will be provided on production of a certificate to the effect that the person concerned has physical limitation to write, and scribe is essential to write examination on his/ her behalf, from a specialist doctor working in a Government Health Institution duly countersigned by the concerned Medical Superintendent in this regard.
- (III) In case a candidate opts for his/ her own scribe, the qualification of the scribe should be one step below the minimum qualification of the candidate as prescribed against each unique Advertisement Item No. (e.g- less than Graduation if the prescribed minimum qualification is Graduation for the candidate taking the examination). The candidates with benchmark disabilities opting for own scribe shall be required to submit details of the own scribe. In addition, the scribe has to produce a valid ID proof in original at the time of examination. A photocopy of the ID proof of the scribe signed by the candidate as well as the scribe will be submitted along. In case, subsequently it is found that the qualification of the scribe is not as declared by the candidate, then the candidate shall forfeit his/ her right to the post and claims relating thereto.

(14)DOCUMENT VERIFICATION (DV):

- i) The candidates who are shortlisted for Document Verification are required to appear for Document Verification along with the original documents as well as self-attested Photostat copy of each documents as per the Advertisement Notification. The candidate must be in possession of the prescribed academic qualification and other documents like Domicile certificate,Category certificate on or before the last date of submission of online application form.
- a. Marks sheet(s)/Diploma/Degree(s) of the qualification prescribed for the post as per Advertisement Notification.
- b.Matric Diploma (D.O.B)
- c.Order/ letter in respect of equivalent Educational Qualifications claimed, indicating the Authority (with number and date) under which it has been so treated, in respect of equivalent clause in Essential Qualifications, if a candidate is claiming a particular qualification as equivalent qualification.
- d. Caste/ Category Certificate, if belongs to reserved categories.
- e. Domicile Certificate.
- ii) Candidates have to bring two passport size recent colour photographs and one original Photo ID Proof while appearing for the Document Verification. Photo ID Proof can be:
- 1) Aadhaar Card/ Printout of E-Aadhaar,
- 2) Voter's ID Card,
- 3) Driving License,
- 4) PAN Card,
- 5) Passport,
- 6) School/College/University I Card,
- 7) Employer ID Card (Govt./ PSU/ Private), etc.
- iii) The candidates who are supposed to furnish various certificate issued by or before the prescribed cutoff date, shall be required to produce them at the time of Documents Verification or as may be sought by the Board; in case of failure, the Board shall take necessary decision which shall be final.
- iv) Wherever a specific format has been prescribed for any certificate, in accordance with the relevant rules/orders, a candidate shall be supposed to furnish the said requisite documents in the prescribed format at the time of Documents Verification, otherwise his/her candidature shall be liable for cancellation /rejection.
- v) Candidates who wish to be considered against reserved vacancies or such age relaxation wherever applicable, must submit requisite certificate/documents from the Competent Authority in the prescribed format when such certificates are sought by the Board at the time of Document Verification, otherwise their claim will not be entertained & their candidature shall be considered under Open Merit Category.
- vi) Candidates claiming to be Domicile of Jammu & Kashmir shall be asked to produce the Domicile Certificate in original issued by the competent authority, in the prescribed format at the time of Document Verification or as and when sought by the Board.
- (vii)For Ex-Servicemen (ESM):
- a. Discharge Certificate, if discharged from the Armed Forces,
- b. No Objection Certificate, in case already employed in Government/ Government undertakings.

(15) MISCONDUCT /MALPRACTICE: -

If any candidate is found indulging in any irregularity/misconduct/malpractice at any stage of selection process, such candidate shall be debarred from the examinations conducted by the Services Selection Board for such period as may be deemed appropriate, apart from cancellation of candidature for the instant examination and any other action as would be necessary & expedient.

(16) Steps Taken for Fairness & Transparency in Examination Process: -

The Board, for the purposes of ensuring integrity, fairness and transparency in the Examination process shall be well within its rights & duties, to take steps as necessary or issue instructions as deemed appropriate, at any stage of selection process, and all such steps/instructions shall be deemed to have been taken/given in furtherance of its mandate, as enshrined in the relevant laws/rules/regulations.

(17)BOARD'S DECISION FINAL: The decision of the Board in all matters relating to eligibility, acceptance or rejection of the applications, penalty for false information, mode of selection, conduct of examination(s), allotment of examination centres and preparation of merit list & Cadre/Department allocation, debarment for indulging in malpractices will be final and binding on the candidates and no enquiry/ correspondence will be entertained in this regard.

(18) IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

A	BEFORE APPLYING, CANDIDATES ARE ADVISED TO GO THROUGH THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN IN THE NOTICE OF EXAMINATION VERY CAREFULLY.
B	THE CANDIDATE MUST WRITE HIS NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH STRICTLY AS RECORDED IN THE MATRICULATIONCERTIFICATE.
C	CANDIDATES ARE ADVISED IN THEIR OWN INTEREST TO SUBMIT ONLINE APPLICATIONS MUCH BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE AND NOT TO WAIT TILL THE LAST DATE TO AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF DISCONNECTION/ INABILITY OR FAILURE TO LOGIN TO THE ONLINE APPLICATION PORTAL ON ACCOUNT OF HEAVY LOAD ON THE WEBSITE DURING THE CLOSING DAYS.
D	The Board will not undertake detailed scrutiny of applications for the eligibility and other aspects at the time of written examination and, therefore, candidature will be accepted only provisionally. The candidates are advised to go through the requirements of educational qualification, age, etc. and satisfy themselves that they are eligible for the post(s). Copies of supporting documents will be sought at the time of Document Verification. When scrutiny is undertaken, if any claim made in the application is not found substantiated, the candidature will be cancelled and the Board's decision shall be final and binding.
E	Candidates seeking reservation benefits available for RBA/SC/ ST/ OSC/ EWS/PSP/ALC/IB must ensure that they are entitled to such reservation as per eligibility condition prescribed in thisnotice. They should also be in possession of the certificates in the prescribed format in support of their claim.
F	Candidates with benchmark physical disability only would be considered as Persons with Disabilities (PwD) and entitled to reservation for Persons with Disabilities.
G	When application is successfully submitted, it will be accepted 'Provisionally'. Candidate should take printout of the application form and submit the same at the time of Documents Verification. The candidates are further advised NOT to submit the hard copies of the Online application form in the office of the Services Selection Board either in person or by post/email.
H	Only one online application for the post of same item No. is allowed to be submitted by the candidate. Therefore, the candidates are advised to exercise due diligence at the time of filling their online Application Forms. In case, more than one application of a candidate is detected for the same item No., the Board will consider latest application. If a candidate submits multiple application forms for the same post and appears in the examination (at any stage) more than once for the post of the same item No., his/ her candidature will be cancelled and he/ she will be debarred from the examinations of the Board as per rules.
I	Request for modification or change in the preferences once filled relating to Cadre and Departments, if applicable, shall not be entertained under any circumstances.
J	The candidates must write their father's name and mother's name strictly as given in the Matriculation Certificate otherwise their candidature may be cancelled at the time of Document Verification or as and when it comes into the notice of the Board.
K	Applications with blurred/ illegible Photograph/ Signature will be rejected summarily.
L	Request for change/ correction in any particulars in the Application Form, once submitted, will not be entertained under any circumstances.
M	The candidates must carry two passport size recent colour photographs and a latest photo bearing identification proof such as Aadhaar Card/ printout of E-Aadhaar, Driving License, Voter Card, PAN Card, Identity Card issued by School/College/University/ Employer (Government or any other office,where the candidate may be working, etc) in original to the Examination Venue, failing which they will not be allowed to appear for the same. PwD candidates using the facility of scribe shall also be required to carry required Medical Certificate/ Undertaking/ Photocopy of the Scribe's Photo ID Proof, as specified therein.
N	In case of fake/ fabricated application/ registration by misusing any dignitaries name/ photo, such candidate(s)/ shall be held responsible for the same and liable for suitable legal action under cyber/ IT Act.
O	Fee payable: Rs350/- (Rs.Three Hundred Fifty only).



## MP Cabinet's Nod For Bill Against 'Love Jihad'



Agencies

The Shivraj Singh Chouhan cabinet on Saturday approved the "Madhya Pradesh Religious Freedom Bill-2020 to check the rising cases of 'love jihad' in the state.

The Bill will be introduced in the upcoming Assembly session, and once passed will become a law.

Under this law, there is a provision of awarding a maximum of 10 years imprisonment and a penalty of Rs 1 lakh for forceful conversion of any person under the pretext of marriage.

According to official information, in the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister, the "MP Religious Freedom Bill-2020" was passed by a voice vote. Strict provisions have been made in this law to prevent forceful religious conversions. According to this law, it is considered unlawful for any person to lure, threaten and indulge in forceful religious conversions.

State Home Minister Narottam Mishra said no person shall directly or otherwise attempt to convert or convert to another religion in the name of inducement, threat, force, influence, under the pretext of marriage or in any other fraudulent man-

ner. No person would be able to indulge in abetment or conspire to carry forceful religious conversions.

As per this Anti-Conversion law, a provision has been made that in violation of the prescribed provisions, a person would be punished with rigorous imprisonment of one to five years and pay a fine of Rs 25,000. At the same time, for the forceful religious conversion of a woman, minor, Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), a rigorous punishment ranging from two years up to 10 years and a fine of Rs 50,000 would be imposed on the accused. Along with this, there would be a fine of Rs 50,000 and a jail sentence of three to 10 years would be imposed for indulging in religious conversions secretly.

As per the Bill passed in the state cabinet, indulging in collective religious conversion of two or more people it would amount to punishment with rigorous imprisonment of five to 10 years and a fine of Rs 1 lakh. On the other hand, the offence related to forceful religious conversions would be cognizable and non-bailable, the cases of such religious conversions would be heard in the Sessions Court only.

## 2020 For Teachers: A Painful Year Of Struggle And Innovation Too

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

From turning walls of mud houses into blackboards to taking classes through loudspeakers on moving carts, from 'mohalla' classes to using public announcement system of panchayat bhawans, 2020 was full of struggle and innovation for teachers to ensure learning was not disrupted as schools remained closed due to COVID-19.

The over 10-month-long shutdown inspired creative ways to teach thousands of students who could not log on to online classes because they did not have access to smartphones and computers in several villages across the country.

Government school teachers in Dumka's Dumarthar village in Jharkhand found a new way to impart education to students who do not have access to smartphones.

They created blackboards on the walls of students' houses to teach them while maintaining social distancing. "We started with an initiative called 'shiksha aapke dwaar' (education at your doorstep) to provide education to children who did not have access to smartphones and internet. More than 100 blackboards have been created on walls to teach students at their houses," said Tapan



Kumar, a teacher in Dumarthar.

Every day, Indra Mukhi Chhetri, a maths and science teacher in Sikim's Ravangala, visited homes of several students she identified and reached out to around 40 students in a week from class 1 to 5.

"Even if I take online classes, these students either do not have devices or Internet connectivity. Some of them may have access but then how do I maintain equality, others might feel left out. So I used to spend about 20 minutes with each student in a week.

"I collected their notebooks and write lessons for them, which they have to finish over the course of the week. I also brief the parents on what needs to be done," she said.

Ghanshyambhai, a teacher in Gujarat's Janan village, used the public announcement system of the village panchayat to share stories, songs, guidelines for parents on how to deal with children during the lockdown period, importance of exercising and much more.



## Security Beefed-Up As Over 2000 Farmers Reach At Haryana-Rajasthan Border

Agencies

In support of the ongoing farmers' agitation against the three agricultural laws in Delhi, more than 2,000 farmers have assembled at the Haryana-Rajasthan border till Saturday, the police said.

As the number of farmers increases every day, the Haryana police have also deployed a huge force to stop farmers from entering the state.

According to the information, the farmers at the Haryana-Rajasthan border are awaiting other farmer associations to intensify their protest and head towards the national capital.

"Heavy police force has been deployed at the Delhi-Gurugram border and adjoining areas like Bilaspur, Panchgaon, Kherki Daula toll, Dundahera-Delhi border and Haryana-Rajasthan border on the National Highway-48," a senior police official said.

"We have deployed a large number of police personnel across the national highway in view of the farmers' decision to move towards the national capital to join the ongoing stir in Delhi. So far, we don't have any information that any farmer group or outfit has entered Gurugram via Rewari or Rajasthan," said the official.

Meanwhile, At the Delhi-Gurugram border, the Delhi Police are checking suspicious vehicles entering the national capital. They have installed barricades at multiple check points. Apart from this, the Gurugram police has claimed they have deployed more than 1,500 police personnel at various points along National Highway 48 to ensure law and order situation across the district.

Moreover, police sources said farmer groups from south Haryana and Rajasthan may head towards the national capital on December 27 to support the ongoing agitation against the three farm laws.

"No untoward incident or road blocking was reported across the district so far. Senior police officers along with forces have been stationed in their areas. We have issued an advisory to all officials concerned to take precautionary measures in view of plans to block the expressway and toll plaza," K.K. Rao, Gurugram police commissioner said.

Police officers have been asked to keep patrolling all border areas and Kherki Daula toll plaza to prevent any untoward incident, he said.

These apart, the farmer unions' threats to block the toll plazas scheduled from December 25 to 27 did not register any response in Gurugram on Friday.

National Highway-48 and the Kherki Daula toll plaza on the expressway remain open and no protesters were seen on the stretch.

## Rajasthan Ally Quits NDA Over Farm Laws

JAIPUR: Rashtriya Loktantik Party (RLP) convenor and Nagaur MP Hanuman Beniwal on Saturday announced a split from the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) over the Centre's new farm laws.

"I am not stuck with Fevicol

with the NDA. Today, I separate myself from the NDA," Beniwal said while addressing a farmers' rally in Shahjahanpur in Alwar district.

On Friday, Beniwal had announced a march to Delhi in support of farmers organisation

holding a protest against the contentious laws.

Farmers from Rajasthan have been protesting in Shahjahanpur near the Rajasthan-Haryana border on the Jaipur-Delhi highway for 14 days. PTI AG MIN MIN

## Shooter Vartika Singh Goes To Court Against Smriti Irani, 2 Others

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sultanpur: International shooter Vartika Singh has moved a court accusing Union minister Smriti Irani and two others for demanding money to make her a member of the central women's commission, days after she was herself named in a police complaint.

The MP-MLA court has fixed January 2 for a hearing after which it will decide if the case falls under its jurisdiction, according to her lawyer.

The shooter alleged that people close to the minister issued her a fake letter, appointing her as a



member of the central women's commission, a possible reference to the National Commission for Women.

She alleged that Vijay Gupta and Rajnesh Singh, the two "aides" of the Union minister, initially demanded 1 crore from her and then brought

the amount down to 25 lakh.

She also alleged that one of the men talked to her in an obscene manner.

On November 23, however, Vijay Gupta had lodged a complaint against the shooter and another person at Musafirkhana police station in Amethi district, accusing them of levelling unfounded charges against him and trying to spoil his image.

Based on the complaint, police had lodged an FIR against her.

Vartika Singh, however, claimed that the complaint was lodged after she threatened to expose "corruption".

## Court Seeks Footage On Search At Office Of Advocate For Delhi Riots Accused

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: A court on Friday sought a status report from Delhi police in relation to the search conducted by it at the office premises of advocate Mehmood Pracha, a lawyer representing some of the accused in the north-east Delhi riots cases.

The court was hearing an application by the advocate in which he said the investigating officer (IO) threatened him about filing a false case against him.

Besides seeking the status report by January 5, the court also directed the IO of the case -- pertaining to which the search was conducted on Thursday -- to remain present before it on December 27, the next date of hearing, along with the entire video footage of any search conducted by him of Pracha's office premises.

The court passed the directions after Advocate Pracha submitted that a search was conducted at his office from 12 noon on December 24 and till 03:00 AM on December 25 approximately and according to the law, the IO should have intimated forthwith about the search and the seized articles to the Magistrate concerned.

He submitted that, however, the same was not done and therefore, he filed an application in that regard.

Mr Pracha further submitted that the entire search was videographed as per a court order



and that he was entitled to a copy of the video footage.

"The applicant has further stated that one Rajiv and the IO have threatened him that they will make a false case against him.

"Accordingly, the applicant has filed for continuous monitoring of the case," the court noted.

The court directed the IO to file a reply to Pracha's application.

"Heard. Record perused. IO is directed to file reply to application... by December 27. IO is further directed to remain present in court along with entire video footage of any search conducted by him of office premises of the applicant," Duty Magistrate Anshul Singhal said.

The judge further directed the IO to "file a status report" in the case and place it before the court concerned on January 5".

## Delhi Records Below 5 Degree Temperature For Fifth Day



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: Cold conditions persisted in the national capital as the minimum temperature remained below five degrees Celsius for the fourth consecutive day on Saturday, the India Meteorological Department said.

The Safdarjung Observatory, which provides representative data for the city, recorded a minimum of 4.4 degrees Celsius, three notches below normal.

"Shallow" fog reduced visibility to 1000 meters at Safdarjung and 800 meters in the Palam area, Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the IMD's regional forecasting centre, said.

According to the weather department, "very dense" fog is when visibility is between 0 and 50 meters, 51 and 200 is "dense", 201 and 500 "moderate", and 501 and 1,000 "shallow".

The mercury is likely to increase slightly on Sunday and Monday under the influence of a fresh Western Disturbance affecting the upper reaches of

the Himalayas. Moderate fog is likely during this period, Mr Srivastava said.

Cold wave conditions will return December 29 onwards, he said.

For the plains, the IMD declares a cold wave when the minimum temperature is 10 degrees Celsius or below and is 4.5 notches less than normal.

Delhi's air quality improved slightly but it was still "very poor".

The city's air quality index (AQI) was 324 at 9 am. The 24-hour average AQI was 357 on Friday, 423 on Thursday, 433 on Wednesday and 418 on Tuesday.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered "good", 51 and 100 "satisfactory", 101 and 200 "moderate", 201 and 300 "poor", 301 and 400 "very poor", and 401 and 500 "severe".

A marginal improvement is predicted by Sunday as wind speed picks up under the influence of the WD, Mr Srivastava said.

However, he said, the air quality will dip again, starting Monday, due to predicted high humidity, low wind speed and temperatures.

### NEWS MAKERS

## "Gol Gappa Langar" Organised At Singhu Border By Firemen From Haryana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI: The child they saw wanted 'gol gappas', the vendor had barely made any money with people preferring to eat at 'langars' so fireman Surender Kamboj and his friends decided on a Christmas win-win for all -- they bought up the entire stock and distributed it free to those protesting at the Singhu border.

The pop-up 'gol gappa langar' was a delectable festive treat for the young boy who didn't have money and also the 'chaat seller' who had earned only 500 in three days, barely enough for survival.

Sure enough, the good deed of the group of seven firemen from the Rania fire station in Sirsa was a hit and the cartload of 'gol gappas' was over in half-an-hour.

What prompted Mr Kamboj and his friends to start the novel 'langar' was seeing a child loitering near a stall selling 'gol gappas'. Mr Kamboj said he could not help but ask the child what he wanted.

" 'Gol gappa', said the boy who did not have any money," recounted the 33-year-old. The spontaneous actions of the firemen amazed the child and the farmers nearby.

"The 'gol gappa' seller had not earned anything as people have been eating at 'langars' (community kitchen). He could sell his stock and we got a chance to do 'sewa' (service). It was a win-win situation for everybody," said Ravindra Kumar, Mr Kamboj's colleague.

It was a Christmas miracle for Mohammad Salim, the 'gol gappa' seller, who said Mr Kam-



boj gave him 1,000 which was more than what he expected.

He had earned just 500 in the last three days.

"Everything is available for free at the 'langar'. Anything you can think of. Initially, I did not set up the stall thinking the protest would end in a few days. But it continued and I had to come out with my cart of 'gol gappas'.

I could not have stayed home forever," said the 26-year-old resident of Kundli village.

The firemen said they had come to Singhu, where thousands of farmers have been sitting for a month to demand a rollback of the three farm laws, to support the protest.

"We are a team of 21 personnel at the Rania fire station. We have

decided to come to the Singhu border in three batches," Kumar said.

"People have been donating lots of money and ration. What we have done is nothing compared to that," he added.

Kumar said they asked Salim what would be right price for his entire stock. "He said 800 will be fine. We gave him 1,000."

The fire service personnel said they had permission from the head of the station to participate in the protest. A new batch will come every three days, they said.

"All of us own agricultural land in our villages. All of us are farmers," said Davinder Singh, another fireman. "Fire service is a responsible profession. But fighting for the rights of farmer community is a responsibility, too," Mr Kamboj added.

## Indian Expats Stuck In UAE Get Free Accommodation

DUBAI: Around 300 expats, mostly Indians, stranded in UAE after Saudi Arabia and Kuwait closed their borders to prevent the spread of the new strain of Covid have been provided free accommodation, according to a media report on Friday.

The expats have taken an indirect route of flying via the United Arab Emirates to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait since there were no direct flights from their home countries, the Gulf News reported.

They were caught off guard with the news about flight suspensions in their

countries of residence, after finishing a 14-day mandatory quarantine in hotels and other paid accommodation in the UAE, it said.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have closed their land and sea borders and suspended commercial flights over fears about the new coronavirus strain, which is spreading fast in the UK. Dubai Markaz Centre's volunteers' wing Indian Cultural Foundation (ICF) tied up with construction firm Aasa Group to arrange the free accommodation and food to the stranded passengers, the report said. — PTI



# Global Britain

Global Britain is the new strategy, through which the UK aspires to re-emerge as a key player at the global stage

ASAD MIRZA

The recent bonhomie between India and the UK, during the continuing Covid pandemic indeed comes as a real surprise. The Indo-UK bilateral ties during the recent times can't be labelled as one very strong or warm. One reason for this might be due to the wrong decisions or priorities set by the continuing British governments. During the last 25 years or so, at the cost of India, the British have preferred to pamper and strengthen its ties with China. Or as seen by the Indian establishment they have not been offered an equal seat at the table.

However, with Boris Johnson in office, who has ties with India stretching back to 25 years through his ex-wife Mariana Wheeler, the tide seems to be turning.

It was evident by the sudden visit of the British foreign secretary to India, during which an invitation by the Indian government inviting Boris Johnson to be the chief guest at country's annual Republic Day parade, and a counter offer by the British government inviting PM Modi to the G-7 meeting next summer, all came as pleasurable surprises.

The various causes and frictions for the ebb in the Indo-UK ties are varied, but now it seems that the UK under its Global Britain campaign/strategy is trying to give India its due place in the relationship.

According to sources, the recent foreign minister-level talks focused on five broad themes - connecting people, trade and prosperity, defence & security, climate change and health, besides the future role which India can play in the Indo-Pacific. Out of these, Indo-Pacific is one of the key areas to be watched.

Furthermore, Johnson's India trip is being billed as focussing on strengthening bilateral trade ties and investment, and cooperation in various areas including defence, security, health and climate change.

Accepting the Indian invitation Boris Johnson said, "I am absolutely delighted to be visiting India next year at the start of an exciting year for Global Britain, and look forward to delivering the quantum leap in our bilateral relationship that Prime Minister Modi and I have pledged to achieve.

"As a key player in the Indo-Pacific region, India is an increasingly indispensable partner for the United Kingdom as we work to boost jobs and growth, confront shared threats to our security and protect our planet."

## Global Britain

The UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), describes 'Global Britain', as re-investing in its relationships, championing the rules-based international order and demonstrating that the UK is open, outward looking and confident on the world stage. Besides taking a leading role in responding to global challenges and in making the most of opportunities for Britain.

Under this strategy the UK, looking ahead, is trying to deal with post-Brexit uncertainty and trying to

project itself as a re-emerging force at the global stage and particularly Asia. Thus, it is casting its gaze eastward, eyeing bilateral deals.

Last week, the UK announced new trade pacts with Singapore and Vietnam, which International Trade Secretary Liz Truss said would be "vital for the UK's future as an independent trading nation," and help make Britain a "global hub for services and technology trade."

Touted as extending the UK's footprint in Asia, this could also pave the way for similar pacts with other Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries, as Britain initiates to take a more



active role in regional affairs in the Indo-Pacific.

Most international players see the Indo-Pacific as the region of the future. US is already taking undue interest in regional affairs, with the UK and other players following closely. During his interactions in New Delhi, British foreign secretary Raab had commented, "And certainly if you look at India and the Indo-Pacific region and take a long-term view, that is where the growth opportunities will be." Besides growth, it is also seen as challenging the Chinese influence in the region.

Strengthening the UK's bilateral relationship with India is a vital part of the 'Global Britain' campaign. In recent years, there have been constant appeals within the UK to shift its trade focus. After Brexit, the UK urgently needs to boost commodity trade with Asian countries and regain its reputation as "a great, global trading nation".

## Growth opportunities

The two countries' burgeoning trade and investment relationship, is worth £24 billion (\$32 billion, 26 billion euros) annually and supports more than half a million jobs. Raab highlighted increased bilat-

eral cooperation during the coronavirus pandemic, with India's large pharmaceutical sector supplying more than half of the world's vaccines. At least a billion doses of Britain's Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine are being manufactured at the Serum Institute in the western Indian city of Pune. Meanwhile, the UK has received 11 million facemasks and 3 million packets of Paracetamol from India during the pandemic, according to Downing Street.

Gao Jian of Shanghai International Studies University opines that the bilateral ties between the two nations have long struggled to realise their full potential. While India's partnerships with many Western countries, including the US and France, though historically far less connected to India than Britain, have surged, the ties between Delhi and London continued to stagnate. Despite the intensive people to people contacts, impressive advances of the Indian diaspora in the British politics and businesses and substantive commercial relations, Delhi and London could not find that political trick which could rewrite their bilateral relations.

India is a rare potential partner in Indo-Pacific for the UK, given its economic growth potential and cultural ties. The UK covets India's vast markets and large population. However, ties between the two have fundamentally changed during the last 30 years. India shows no special affection for its former colonial master. In recent years, India has resisted UK's pressure to take over the mentorship of the Commonwealth. The Indians don't want to be saddled with an organisation with colonial roots and be burdened with the financial costs of running an international organisation.

Moreover, the UK drawing India in also suggests a strong strategic intention to confront China. UK-China bilateral relations have fallen to the lowest point in recent times, after the UK promoting Chinese students and tourists at the cost of Indians. This has always remained a bone of contention between India and the UK. Even the invitation to India to the forthcoming G7 summit is seen as a move widely interpreted as snubbing China.

Dr Chaand Nagpaul, the Chair of the Council of the British Medical Association, has casted doubts over Johnson's trip to India, saying it may not be possible if the current level of infection and spread continued in the UK. Let's hope for the best for 'Global Britain'.

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*The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the editorial stance of Kashmir Observer*

*Asad Mirza is a political commentator based in New Delhi. He was also associated with BBC Urdu Service and Khaleej Times of Dubai. He writes on Muslims, educational, international affairs, interfaith and current affairs. Email: asad.mirza.nd@gmail.com*

## Message from J&K

Kashmir DDC elections, DDC elections Kashmir results, Kashmir DDC election results, Gupkar PAGD alliance, BJP Kashmir, indian express editorial Seeking consolation in defeat, the BJP has been talking up its emergence as the single-largest party, and its win in three seats in the Valley. But what counts in these elections is winning the districts.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir have spoken unambiguously in favour of the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) in the District Development Council elections, the first democratic political exercise in the former state since the Centre stripped it of its special status and downgraded it into two union territories. Even though this was a local bodies election, both the BJP and the PAGD, whose constituents include the National Conference, the People's Democratic Party, the J&K People's Conference, plus the CPI(M), among others, turned it into a referendum on those decisions. When the BJP's apparent expectation of a boycott by the regional parties did not come true, and instead its prospects of winning diminished further with their decision to fight the elections together as the PAGD, none other than Union Home Minister Amit Shah lashed out at them as the "Gupkar Gang" who marched to a "foreign" tune, the allusion being to Pakistan. Naturally, the PAGD has projected its victory as a resounding rejection of all that the Centre has done in J&K over the last year-and-a-half, and as support for its own demand that special status and statehood be restored.

Seeking consolation in defeat, the BJP has been talking up its emergence as the single-largest party, and its win in three seats in the Valley. But what counts in these elections is winning the districts. The PAGD is set to control the councils of at least nine out of 10 districts in Kashmir and perhaps a few of the 10 in Jammu, Congress willing. The PAGD's victory is sweeter for all the obstacles that were thrown in its path, and the efforts made to discredit it in the eyes of the voters. The manner in which the administration waved names of senior PAGD leaders as Roshni Act beneficiaries ahead of the elections, the ED's actions against NC leader Farooq Abdullah, the arrest of PDP's star mobiliser Waheed Para, detaining candidates "for their own security" thus effectively ensuring they could not campaign, were all too apparent, orchestrated attempts by the Centre to control the election outcome. To their credit, the Gupkar alliance held firm against the strong-arm tactics.

The results should serve as a wake up call for the government. This is a new turning point in J&K, and calls for much political accommodation. As the party in office at the Centre, the BJP must take the lead. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha should be praised for holding an election whose results are seen as a fair reflection of the popular will. Now, his real work begins. To ensure that the mandate is respected in letter and spirit. So the BJP should refrain from trying to engineer cross-overs in its favour, especially as it has loudly declared that "democracy is the real winner" of these elections. For its part, the PAGD should use this seat at the local high table to do justice to the aspirations of the people. Spring is still far away but there is a thaw in J&K's frozen politics, it needs a cautious welcome.

Indian Express

# Defeat Obamaism Before Trumpism

HAMID DABASHI

Why should the world care about US elections - particularly the whole song and dance of its presidential vote every four years? The reason is not that the US is an "important" or "powerful" country. The reason is that it is a deadly, dangerous country. The world is at the mercy of its gargantuan military force and evangelical fanaticism.

The election of an egotistical tyrant such as Donald Trump, and the vicious cruelty of his friends, family and Republican Party, clearly indicates that US "democracy" is an existential threat to the world. That is why the world cares about US elections - or more accurately, fears what Americans call their "democracy".

It makes no difference to the world whether the US is a democracy, monarchy or obscene oligarchy. What matters is what a dangerously delusional and dysfunctional empire it is.

## Cruel consequences

The 2016 presidential election that brought Trump to Americans wreaked environmental havoc around the world. His criminally negligent mishandling of the Covid-19 pandemic killed hundreds of thousands of Americans.

While the world was suffering the cruel consequences of Trump's presidency, the fossil fuel industry, custodians of predatory capitalism, and the prison-industrial complex joined the Israelis, Saudis, Emiratis, Bahrainis in singing his praises, dancing to his glory, buying billions of dollars of weapons from him, and minting coins in his name.

Obama smiles while he sends bombs to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to drop on Palestinian children, and he smiles as he sells them to Saudis and Emiratis to drop on Yemeni children

If we care about US politics at all or chase after the obscenities of someone like Trump - or members of his inner circle, such as adviser Jared Kushner or Secretary of State Mike Pompeo - it is to figure out how to save the world from their most dangerous consequences.

Today, the world is catching its breath and letting out an audible sigh of relief that Trump and his rich and wicked billionaire club are packing up and heading out of the White House door come 20 January - if indeed that is what he is going to do, for in his dangerously delusional fantasies, he does not believe he lost the election, and much of the Republican Party and millions of Americans support him in that psychotic nightmare.

With every new announcement of a top cabinet position, President-elect Joe Biden has reassured the world, and especially Americans, that a sense of "normalcy and sanity" is again dawning. Instead of the thuggish demeanour of Pompeo, a top evangelical Zionist Islamophobe, we will now just have a regular, staunch liberal Zionist with a nice hairdo as the US secretary of state.

## Crushing progressives

But the whole world knows who Biden is: a washed-up Democratic Party apparatchik and Obama-esque centrist who will seek to lull and crush the more progressive wing of the party, sustaining Clinton-Obama liberal imperialism all over again.

Be that as it may, the real danger is somewhere else. The real danger is in Trump 2.0, which has already started fundraising and gathering momentum.

In the US presidential election, Trump was fortunately defeated, but Trumpism is alive and well. Trump himself is plotting a comeback, but even that is a best-case scenario, for his stupidity and charlatanism are threadbare.

The real danger is in a smarter, younger, even more dangerous demagogue who will outsmart him and mobilise his igno-

Obama smiles while he sends bombs to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to drop on Palestinian children, and he smiles as he sells them to Saudis and Emiratis to drop on Yemeni children

ramus, racist base for an even more dangerous, vindictive comeback. Think of a young, blonde, female Trump (eg Ivanka Trump); a young, Black, female Trump (eg Candace Owens); or a Christian Zionist Trump (eg Tom Cotton). Next time around, American fascism will come back with a vengeance, using the DNA of its own identity politics.

Who will prevent that nightmare? The Democrats are positing themselves as the better, gentler, more civilised, more open-minded alternative. This is the real danger that will pave the way for a Trumpian comeback. The current dominant faction of the Democratic Party, solidly beholden to former president Barack Obama, will not prevent the return of Trump and Trumpism with a vengeance. It will actually facilitate and grease its machinery.

This is not because the Republican base is irredeemably racist and reactionary. This is because the Democratic Party is irredeemably corrupt and hypocritical. Look at Obama: he is the Democratic Party. He smiles while he sends bombs to

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to drop on Palestinian children, and he smiles as he sells them to the Saudis and Emiratis to drop on Yemeni children. This man must never be let off the hook for his murderous hypocrisy.

## Rhetorical drones

The liberal mantra of Americans is that Obama thrived on unity, while Trump thrives on division. This is a truism. But what does Obama's unity unite? The domination of the rich and powerful over the poor and powerless in the US, and the cruel hegemony of the selfsame fragment of US ideology over the world.

This is what "unity" means for Obama and his liberal coterie. The slightest progressive idea dismantling this unity will be killed off instantly by Obama, with the nearest rhetorical drone available on his laptop.

Obamaism is careerist centrism, criminal prevarication, a pathological panache to examine every issue from 10 different angles before choosing the most indecisive, the most dubious, the most immoral. On top of that, Obama's recent comments about the "defund the police" aspect of Black Lives Matter is a crucial barometer of how much of a reactionary fear-monger he is.

He recently dismissed "defund the police" as a "snappy" slogan, warning that it would alienate "a big audience the minute you say it, which makes it a lot less likely that you're actually going to get the changes you want done".

This position is emblematic of the hold of Obamaism on the Democratic Party, whose liberal policies domestically and abroad have the dual function of consolidating every nasty position of the Republicans, while cementing the racist faction of American polity, and more crucially alienating the most progressive forces across blue and red states - a statistically significant component of the American population that is crying for liberation from this seesaw of the two-party system.

## Dismantling the reactionary legacy

The question is not a third, or a fourth, or a fifth party. The question is an emancipation from the calamity of the Democratic Party parroting the Republican Party, and being yanked increasingly to the right precisely by the fearful and reactionary politics of Obama.

Obama has successfully killed the prospect of any semblance of progressive, emancipatory politics in the US. He has joined Trump and Trumpism in degenerating American politics into sectarian factionalism worse than the presumed rift between Sunnis and Shia in the Muslim world.

Obama's pride in having killed Osama bin Laden only appeased his reactionary critics and meant nothing for the world; it was, in fact, the choral crescendo of liberal warmongering.

Cruel on deportation; hypocritical on environmentalism; shedding tears for victims of gun violence at home while sending arms to Israelis, Saudis and Emiratis to murder Palestinian and Yemeni children at will; having his own personal presidential "kill list"; turning drone warfare into a full-scale, militarised industry. Obama's signature pride, Obamacare, was so fragile that a charlatan like Trump could easily dismantle it.

Obama's pride in having killed Osama bin Laden only appeased his reactionary critics and meant nothing for the world; it was, in fact, the choral crescendo of liberal warmongering, of extrajudicial murder.

To prevent the rise of a smarter, more dangerous Trump from the fertile ground of Trumpism, we must begin with exposing and dismantling the reactionary legacy of Obama and Obamaism. That would be the inaugural moment of a more progressive American politics.

Middle East Eye.



# Sindbad Machama

A tribute to Pushkar Bhan

Farheen Qureshi

THE PLAY STARTS with the journey of three friends towards the island where they are encountered with different characters on the way. Some elements prove to be a stumbling block in reaching their destination while some help them reach the same

“If we look into ourselves keenly, there is a Machaam in every one of us. An example of a person who by virtue of its greedy and thankless nature fails himself, his companions and socio-political sphere – He is in you and in me. He is Machaam. He is alive!”

Radio Kashmir’s famous Kashmiri drama “Sindbad Machama” that came up in the late 1960s has been immensely popular among masses. After “Zoon Dab”, “Sindbad Machama”, a story from a famous series called “Machama” was one of its kinds to entertain the Kashmiri populace back then. This initiative helped broadcast entertainment programs via the medium of radio in pure Kashmiri language. The program was later published into a book adding to the shelves of Kashmiri literature.

Pushkar Bhan was born in August 1926 in Srinagar’s Habba Kadal area and died in 2008 but Machaam is still alive. It will live till Kashmiri language lives. The series “Machama” made him win Padma Shree and Sahitya Academy awards. Pushkar Bhan is one of the honoured names in Kashmiri literature. He has contributed in almost every genre; poetry, drama and short stories are few.

‘Machama’ meaning all round best or a mixture of sourness and sweetness is played by its very own scriptwriter Pushkar Bhan who comes out to be the protagonist of the drama.

All the characters in the play are not introduced to listeners in the very beginning but with just a few major ones. Bhan’s two friends Sulla Gota and Rahman Dadda have been equally important in the construction of the plot. We are later introduced to some supernatural elements playing their part in the form of ‘Tua’ – a jinn bacha or Tua’s father, the main jinn played by Shariefudin and Bhansi Raina respectively. We are further introduced to two love-sick jinn hoorie sisters ‘Zingari and Singari’ who keep the play alive. These comic elements have been strong enough to steal the attention of the listeners widely. The interesting thing is how these two female jinn characters are being played by two male voices as Zingari’s voice is actually given by Makhn Lal Saraf and Singari’s voice given by P.L.Handoo shows how radio comes up with talented performers who can perform in a single confined room called ‘studio’ making it feel realistic to the audiences.

The sound effects created in a room, the way a helicopter is hovering, the storm, the waves and a ship in the sea, earthquake in the island is totally spell-binding.

Machama goes to sleep after he is being served a hearty meal by his wife



Khatij. The story which starts with Machama’s dream of becoming rich as he falls asleep while reading a book ‘Sindbad-The Sailor’ at bedtime makes him long for a journey with his friends is how Bhan has created the highest form of imagination. The play starts with the journey of three friends towards the island where they are encountered with different characters on the way. Some elements prove to be a stumbling block in reaching their destination while some help them reach the same. Pushkar Bhan has shown how human nature evolves when it comes to materialism. It would be wrong if we compare this feature of human nature to Kashmiri’s only. Greediness is definitely a curse and develops in a human being without asking for caste, creed and community. Bhan has been successful in portraying how humans deteriorate the innocence of the people in other worlds where different creatures have shown their love for them although in an unusual manner. Zingari having fallen in love with Rahmana alias ‘Shogaa’ and Singari in love with Sulla called by her as ‘Bul-Bulla’ is something that humans are unable to realize when obsessed with worldly pleasures. This is where humans misuse their power by virtue of being humans in the land where only love and affection is seen while it’s the King himself who has provided them with all the

facilities they require in this journey. Be it a ship, helicopter, ration for one month, servicemen or a signal box, everything is being provided to them. The way the trio is being given a guard of honor while they leave for the island is where we could relate it to the present scenario. The way Machama lectures in the island assigning portfolios to its very own people. His father ‘kaak’ becomes the head of the island while his wife ‘Khatji’ is given the charge of women welfare. It’s where humans try to start their law and order in the place to benefit their own selves and pockets.

Bhan has actually tried his way of showing how hierarchy was in place even in the old times where a layman is corrupted in the process of political machinery as these unusual creatures in the land are being made to act like humans losing their identities behind. Perhaps, it is Bhan’s far sighted vision where he believed in the birth of the elite class that could be seen somewhere in near future exploiting people of their innocence when jinns inform them about the presence of jewels and diamonds in another island creating their strong urge for wealth.

Soon Machama holds the legs of ‘Raakh’ a giant bird into the island of jewels which is introduced to us in the middle part of the drama while Sulla and

Rahmana are waiting for him eagerly. The way this obsession for wealth creates a rift between the trios gives us an impression about how greediness could even degrade relationships. Machama leaving the island thinks of grabbing all the wealth by himself while his two friends kill ‘Raakh’ as they think Machama was eaten by the same and reach the island after him who was actually saved by Zingari and Singari from that giant creature.

The story reaches its climax when Machama becomes wealthier than the king and the trio takes to fight as to who would marry King’s daughter although they have their families back home. It’s where the King gets to know about the greedy nature of the three friends and decides to hang all of them. Machama is about to be hung when he opens his eyes and wakes up frightened, desperately shouting to be saved and it’s when he realizes the value of peace and contentment. Bhan has successfully portrayed how obsession takes us to the world where it is full of illusions and makes us forget about the past lovely relationships.

The program has successfully touched all the chords and has created an imprint in the minds of the people all over. The element of satire and sarcasm is totally hypnotic making its audience glued to the radio sets to know the future course of action. The minor characters in the play have given a perfect meaning to what is today called as farce comedy. There are some elements that could have been eliminated which do not help in bringing the action in the plot in any case but adds to the duration of the program which makes it difficult for the listeners as they lose the plot sometimes. Ignoring that part and appreciating the rest of the work is what has made this program worth remembering even after almost 50 years.

The only tribute to Pushkar Bhan is to listen to his prophetic Dramas which reflect today’s socio-political scenario and an individual’s selfishness. Machaam was a character who had many dreams but had limited opportunities to fulfill them. Once he achieves them, he loses everything because of his discontentment and ungrateful nature. If we look into ourselves keenly, there is a Machaam in every one of us. An example of a person who by virtue of its greedy and thankless nature, fails himself, his companions and socio-political sphere – He is in you and in me. He is Machaam. He is alive!

The article is an updated version of a previously published piece by the same author.

The author is a freelance Journalist

## To-Be-Read To Help Cope With Adversity And Alienation

Kate Douglas

2020 has been a particularly tough year for those approaching the latter years of high school.

Young people have witnessed large-scale economic insecurity and unstable education systems. Teenagers have reported high levels of stress and anxiety. But they have also demonstrated outstanding resilience and resolve in adapting to the “new normal”.

During COVID-19, cultural texts have become more important than ever – a place to turn to for knowledge, reflection, support and escape.

Reading can be therapeutic for young readers during difficult times. It offers something other media doesn’t – greater social and emotional benefits. It also does more to stimulate the imagination and creates a sense of moral achievement in readers.

With this in mind, here are some summer reading ideas for older teenagers. The texts I have chosen demonstrate how young characters have coped with trauma and uncertainty.

Research suggests young people are more likely to listen to their peers than their teachers when it comes to reading recommendations.

So, I spoke to my 18-year-old son and asked him to name five types of books he would like to read over the summer.

He suggested: a classic book he’s always wanted to read but hasn’t a book penned by a young author a “throwback” young adult novel he has already read an autobiography of someone who has overcome adversity something provocative that was published this year. Inevitably some of my selections meet more than one of his criteria.

### 1. The classic: The Outsiders (1967) by S.E. Hinton

The Outsiders is thought to be one of the first novels written specifically for young adults. The coming of age novel explores the class divide between the rival Greasers and Socs gangs in the American South in the mid-1960s.

The book’s challenging and emotive representations of inequality, violence, crises of conscience, and the powerful love of family and friends, make it an enduring standout for young readers. The first-person narration constructs intimacy between the reader and our protagonist, Ponyboy Curtis, as he approaches an increasingly



READING CAN BE THERAPEUTIC FOR YOUNG readers during difficult times. It offers something other media doesn’t – greater social and emotional benefits. It also does more to stimulate the imagination and creates a sense of moral achievement in readers

uncertain future.

Hinton started the book at 15, finished it at 16, and it was published when she was 18. It is said she wrote the book because it was the sort of book she herself wanted to read.

In a year when many young people have experienced isolation and separation, Ponyboy’s wisdoms should resonate powerfully:

### 2. Autobiography (memoir): Crazy Brave (2012) by Joy Harjo

Cherokee, Creek painter, musician and US Poet Laureate, Harjo wrote her memoir when she was 61.

Crazy Brave recalls her early life from birth to her early 20s. The story is abstract and non-linear in structure, making the memoir unpredictable, which destabilises the reader’s experience.

Harjo’s memoir is confronting and, at times, graph-

ic. But her spiritual connections, and trust of her own “knowing” (instinct, or inner vision) will inspire readers keen to escape problematic right or wrong, or black and white perceptions of experience. As Harjo astutely observes:

### 3. Young author: A Lonely Girl is a Dangerous Thing (2020) by Jessie Tu

28-year-old Tu’s debut novel presents 22-year-old violinist child prodigy Jena Chung. We follow Jena’s sense of alienation and detachment as she attempts to find meaning in the world.

Lonely Girl is not a fun read, but it is a timely one. We need to see more Asian-Australia women’s voices in literature because of the important provocations they make about race and misogyny in Australia. Tu wanted

this novel to be a conversation starter and it certainly is.

Tu’s is a powerful intervention young readers will appreciate. It is a book about making bad choices while feeling so much pressure to be “good”:

This novel contains graphic representations of sex. It is recommended for readers 17 and over.

### 4. Written in 2020: The Morbids (2020) by Ewa Ramsey

This is a wonderfully compassionate book about living with anxiety caused by our 20-something protagonist Caitlin’s fear of death. The Morbids explores the value of friendship and romance amid youthful fears and phobias.

Ramsey’s debut novel is a difficult read. The style of the novel (fragmented, sometimes repetitive language) attempts to bring the reader closer to the experience of mental illness. But the characterisations are warm and the moral is ultimately hopeful.

It’s a book about therapy and letting people in when it is the last thing you feel like you can do, because “Sometimes you need to give up on death ... to have the time of your life”.

### 5. Throwback: Love, Creekwood (2020) by Becky Albertalli

Not exactly a throwback, but if you enjoyed Simon vs the Homosapiens Agenda as much as my teens and I did, here is the latest instalment of the Simonverse.

Love, Creekwood is a short epistolary romance novella (the story is narrated via the characters’ emails to each other). It is “part 3.5” in the series and functions as an epilogue.

Love, Creekwood follows the characters to college and we follow the progression of two same-sex relationships. The book explores the challenges of being too close and too far away from a partner. It explores the mental health struggles often triggered by loneliness and fear.

Love, Creekwood is a light-hearted but genuine representation of what the first year of university can feel like.

As Simon explains:

Albertalli is donating all proceeds from the sale of this novella to The Trevor Project, an organisation committed to crisis and suicide prevention for LGBTQIA youth.

By arrangement with The Conversation





## Covering faces around kids would not help mask emotions: Study

According to a new study, the proliferation of face coverings in order to keep a check on Covid-19, isn't keeping children from understanding facial expressions.

According to a study conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, it is quite easy to understand the emotions of people around. Just by taking in all the hints, they're dropping, whether on purpose or not. Yet when people cover some of their facial expressions, they take some of those cues away.

"We now have this situation where adults and kids have to interact all the time with

people whose faces are partly covered, and a lot of adults are wondering if that's going to be a problem for children's emotional development," says Ashley Ruba, a postdoctoral researcher in UW-Madison's Child Emotion Lab. The researchers showed more than 80 children, ages 7 to 13, photos of faces displaying sadness, anger, or fear that were unobstructed, covered by a surgical mask, or wearing sunglasses. The kids were asked

to assign an emotion to each face from a list of six labels. The faces were revealed slowly, with scrambled pixels of the original image falling into their proper place over 14 stages to better simulate the way real-world interactions may require piecing things together from odd angles or fleeting glimpses. The kids were correct about the uncovered faces as often as 66 percent of the time, well above the odds (about 17 percent) of

guessing one correct emotion from the six options. With a mask in the way, they correctly identified sadness about 28 percent of the time, anger 27 percent of the time, and fear 18 percent of the time. "Not surprisingly, it was tougher with parts of the faces covered. But even with a mask covering the nose and mouth, the kids were able to identify these emotions at a rate better than chance," says Ruba, who published results today

in the journal PLOS ONE with co-author Seth Pollak, a UW-Madison psychology professor. Variations in the results reflect differences in the way emotional information is conveyed by the face. Sunglasses made anger and fear difficult to identify, suggesting the eyes and eyebrows are important to those facial expressions. Fear, often confused with surprise, was also the trickiest for children to spot behind a mask -- which may have

complicated matters by covering clues like surprise's signature mouth shape. "If children can do better than guessing at emotions even with a mask in place, they're likely to do even better in real-life situations. "Emotions aren't conveyed solely through your face," Ruba says. "Vocal inflections, the way that someone positions their body, and what's going on around them, all that other information helps us make better predictions

about what someone is feeling." It all adds up to kids growing in their emotional capabilities, even if some of their interactions with others are happening through face coverings. "I hope this settles some nerves," Ruba says. "Kids are really resilient. They're able to adjust to the information they're given, and it doesn't look like wearing masks will slow down their development in this case." -Agencies

### SCHOLARSHIPS THIS WEEK

#### Piaggio "Shiksha Se Samridhi" Scholarship for Class 10th/12th Passed Students 2020-21

**DESCRIPTION:** Piaggio Vehicles Pvt. Ltd. invites applications from children/wards of Drivers/ Owners of three-wheeler community who have passed Class 10/12. The scholarship supports the study of students studying in Class 11/12/ITI/ Polytechnic/Diploma/Undergraduate courses. **ELIGIBILITY:** The scholarship is open for children/wards of Drivers/Owners of three-wheeler community. The applicants must have passed Class 10/12 with at least 55% marks (60% marks for studies in Class 11/12). They must be studying in Class 11/12/ITI/Polytechnic/ Diploma/Undergraduate courses at recognized institutions in India. The annual family income must be less than or equal to INR 3 lakh (3,00,000). **PRIZES & REWARDS:** 80% of total fee reimbursement or maximum up to INR 20,000 per year. **LAST DATE TO APPLY:** 31-01-2021 **APPLICATION MODE:** Online applications only **SHORT URL:** [www.b4s.in/observer/PSDI](http://www.b4s.in/observer/PSDI)

#### NIT Warangal Department of Electrical Engineering Junior Research Fellowship 2020

**DESCRIPTION:** The National Institute of Technology (NIT), Warangal invites applications for NIT Warangal Department of Electrical Engineering Junior Research Fellowship 2020 from BE/BTech/ME/MTech degree holders. The fellowship is applicable for a sponsored research project titled, "Investigation and Implementation of Model Predictive Control Strategies to a Multi-Phase Permanent Magnet Synchronous Motor for PhotoVoltaic based Hybrid Electric Vehicle Applications with Reduced Torque Ripple". **ELIGIBILITY:** The fellowship is open for candidates who hold a BE/BTech/or equivalent degree in Electrical Engineering / Electrical and Electronics Engineering. They must hold an ME/MTech degree in Electrical Drives and Control/ Power Electronics / Industrial Drive and Control/ Electrical Engineering. They must be GATE qualified. **PRIZES & REWARDS:** Up to INR 35,000 per month. **LAST DATE TO APPLY:** 08-01-2021 **APPLICATION MODE:** Via email only **SHORT URL:** [www.b4s.in/observer/NTW2](http://www.b4s.in/observer/NTW2)

#### VRDE-DRDO Discipline of Computer Science Junior Research Fellowship 2020

**DESCRIPTION:** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) invites applications for VRDE-DRDO Discipline of Computer Science Junior Research Fellowship 2020 from ME/MTech/BE/BTech degree holders. **ELIGIBILITY:** The fellowship is open for candidates below 28 years of age who hold a graduate degree in professional course (BE/ BTech) with first division. They must also hold a Postgraduate degree in (ME/MTech) with first division. They must be NET/GATE qualified. **PRIZES & REWARDS:** INR 31,000 per month and other benefits. **LAST DATE TO APPLY:** 11-01-2021 **APPLICATION MODE:** Online applications only **SHORT URL:** [www.b4s.in/observer/RDF4](http://www.b4s.in/observer/RDF4)



## TAKE CARE YOUR HANDS THIS WINTER



### Who does not want beautiful, soft and smooth hands?

Yet if your hands are rough, scaly, dull-looking, tanned and the skin around the nail is peeling off, then you are not alone. Winter is hard on your hands. Smooth, supple, and soft in September, hands can turn red, chapped, and rough by January.

### SPONSORED FEATURE



## Why is It Crucial to Assess Your Health Before Buying Cancer Insurance?

Critical diseases like cancer are the harsh realities of life that can bring severe financial difficulties due to the high treatment costs involved. These days, the demands of a hectic lifestyle have engulfed us so much that we have no time to spare for our health, thus posing new health risks. Cancer is one illness that can have unknown causes besides risk factors like lifestyle and family medical history. If you are worried about the expensive medical treatment, then you should realise the importance of buying a cancer insurance policy. Several health insurance companies offer cancer-specific plans, which one can easily get online. However, before you decide on your option, it is necessary to keep a few things in mind. That includes comparing premiums, reviewing the policy benefits, understanding the policy terms and conditions, and so on. There is another crucial point to remember – that is, to assess your health before choosing a cancer cover policy. We explain how it helps you

when you consider your health condition before getting the health cover. **Prevents any Delays in Getting Health Cover** Many environmental or lifestyle-related risk factors have increasingly contributed to the rising cases of cancer. Hence, it is crucial to follow a healthy lifestyle and take vital cancer prevention measures. Regular monitoring of health is a successful way to detect any ailment and nip it in the bud before it gets worse. Cancer treatments effectively work when the illness is diagnosed early. More importantly, assessing your health helps you know if you are at risk. So, you can go for the best cancer cover policy. The earlier you get it, the better it is for your financial security since a person cannot get a cancer policy after being diagnosed with the disease. **Enables You to Choose the Right Coverage** If you have analysed your health risks, you will be able to

decide the right plan that best suits your medical needs and get an affordable plan. Firstly, when buying a cancer cover, you need to understand the type of covers available. Many health insurance plans come with critical illness cover as an add-on benefit that an individual can get for an additional premium. So, you can either get health insurance with cancer cover as a rider or opt to buy a standalone cancer plan. Some cancer plans offer a lump sum amount when the insured files a claim under the cancer cover. There are also some indemnity-based cancer insurance policies offered by insurers like Care Health Insurance. When selecting a cancer insurance policy, make sure you pick a high sum insured option. The reason is that healthcare costs are going up, and the cost of cancer treatment is likely to be high in the future. Those who know they are at high risk after assessing their health must pick the best cancer insurance plan covering all cancer stages. Helps you Compare the Benefits

Once you understand your health, it will help you select the best cover after careful comparison of various policies. When you are reviewing a cancer insurance policy, make sure it covers expenses, such as in-patient care, room rent, ICU charges, out-patient costs, day care treatment, ambulance cover, and pre and post-hospitalization. Additionally, a cancer plan provides adequate coverage for treatments in advanced stages, including organ donor, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy. **Conclusion** Cancer plans come with a waiting period clause for the specified treatments. Assessing your health will help you pick a cover with a minimum waiting period so that there is no delay in accessing medical care when you need it the most. When life throws challenges in the form of critical illnesses, having a financial back-up offered by cancer insurance will help you brave the storm without facing any financial and mental stress.

Most of us face a similar problem during the harsh winter when our hands react terribly to the cold air and harsh winds during peak winters leading to lizard skin. You may also find that dead skin tends to accumulate quicker in the winter and rough patches of skin seem to be all over. This is because in the winter the cell turnover rate is decreased. If you're washing your hands frequently to avoid coronavirus, you could sap whatever natural oils are left in your skin. Actually, the skin on the back of the hands is thin and lacks oil glands. That is why the hands are prone to wrinkles and lines. The nails also become dry and brittle, breaking or chipping easily during peak winters. Exposures of hands during winters can lead to skin issues like pain, redness, flaking and itching. Ironically, by washing our hands with chemical-laden soap, we can develop dry cracks in the skin giving bacteria an entry point into our bodies which lead to conditions such as eczema. The outermost layer of our hands is composed of oils and wax, and it acts as both a shield from the outside and a guard that maintains natural moisture in the skin. The skin barrier is a mix of proteins, lipids, and oils. It protects your skin, and how good a job it does is mostly about your genes. Here are a few easy tips to take care of hands: Protect your hands by wearing rubber gloves/ mittens for your washing chores./ vegetable choppings/cleansing etc to retain the moisture you already have. Always wash your hands with tepid water. Make sure the water is not too hot or cold. Limit exposure to high heat. Surgical gloves are easily available at a

chemist store. Apply freshly extracted Aloe vera gel on hands and let it dry in the natural environment on your skin. You can apply it twice a week. The best prevention is to begin using aloe vera gel before your hands show signs of dryness. Apply raw milk cream if you have dark knuckles, it will help lighten the colour. Bath time is appropriate for pampering the hands and supplying them with the oil and moisturizing they need. Before your bath, apply warmed oil on the hands and massage it into the skin. This helps to soften the skin. You can use coconut oil, which is very nourishing. Coconut oil is recognized for its anti-inflammatory, moisturizing, and anti-microbial properties. Applying coconut oil over damp hands helps in sealing the moisture. Or, use pure almond oil immediately, after your bath, apply a moisturizing lotion or cream, while the skin is still damp. This helps to seal in moisture. Twice a week, have a pre-bath treatment by mixing ground almonds with curd and a pinch of turmeric. Apply on hands. After 15 minutes, rub the paste gently on the skin and wash it off with water. At night, massage cream on your hands,

working it into the skin. You can also try some home remedies to keep the skin soft and smooth: Among the many kinds of moisturizers, hand creams are better than body lotion because they are more nourishing. Lotions, which are primarily water-based, can further dry out the skin because the water evaporates. Creams, which are often oil-based, are more effective after washing hands. Once your hands are dry, immediately use hand cream to seal in the moisture. A luxury treatment for hands: Take four teaspoon almond oil and mix one tablespoon rose water. Add half-teaspoon tincture benzoin, drop by drop. Mix together. Apply this on the hands. Wear loose cotton socks on the hands and leave on the preparation all night. Rinse off with plain water the next morning. Use hand ointment or cream instead of a lotion as these are more effective. Vaseline is still the most effective moisturizer out there. Lemon juice and sugar rubbed together with the hands help to soften the skin. Take 2 tablespoons sunflower oil, 2 tablespoons lemon juice and 3 tablespoons coarse sugar. Mix together till it becomes a paste. Apply and rub into hands. Wash off after 15 minutes. Do this three times a week. Take fresh orange peels, pierce them with a fork. Rub the peels on the hands to brighten them. Choker (wheat bran) and besan (gram flour) can be mixed with turmeric and milk into a paste and applied on the hands. Wash off after 20 minutes. This softens, cleanses and tightens the skin. Mix almond oil and honey in equal parts and massage into the nails and cuticles. (The author is an international fame beauty expert and is called herbal queen of India)



## Netanyahu Speaks With Morocco's King, Invites Him To Israel



### Agencies

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Morocco's King Mohammed VI have held a telephone conversation during which the Israeli premier invited the king for a visit, Netanyahu's office said.

The two leaders spoke on Friday about moving forward with a United States-brokered agreement announced earlier this month to normalise bilateral ties, according to the Israeli statement.

"The leaders congratulated each other over the renewal of ties between the countries, the signing of the joint statement with the US, and the agreements between the two countries," said the statement.

"In addition, the processes and mechanisms to implement

the agreements were determined," it added.

Four bilateral deals were signed on Tuesday between Israel and Morocco, centering on direct air links, water management, connecting financial systems and a visa waiver arrangement for diplomats.

Israel and Morocco are also due to reopen diplomatic offices.

Netanyahu also thanked King Mohammed VI for hosting an Israeli delegation this week.

King Mohammed VI underscored the close ties between the Moroccan Jewish community and the monarchy, the Royal Court said in a statement.

Morocco has North Africa's largest Jewish community of about 3,000 people, and Israel is home to 700,000 Jews of Moroccan origin.

## Israeli Strikes On Syria Kill 6 Iran-Backed Fighters, Says Watchdog



### Agencies

**BEIRUT:** Israeli missile strikes on Syria killed at least six Iran-backed fighters on Friday, a war monitor said.

The dead were all foreign paramilitaries fighting alongside Bashar Assad's forces, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The missiles, which were fired from Lebanese airspace, hit positions held by Iran-backed militias in the Masyaf district of Hama province, Observatory chief Rami Abdul Rahman said.

One also targeted a government-run research center, where surface-to-surface missiles are developed and stored, the Britain-based watchdog said.

Iranian experts are believed to work in the research center.

The Israeli military said it would not comment on reports in foreign media.

The research center in Masyaf has been hit several times by Israeli strikes in recent years, the Observatory said.

According to the US, sarin gas was being developed at the center, a claim denied by Syrian authorities, who say the coun-

try has possessed no chemical weapons since it dismantled its arsenal under a 2013 agreement.

Syrian state news agency SANA said air defenses intercepted missiles fired by Israel on Masyaf.

"Our air defenses intercepted an Israeli attack on the Masyaf area," SANA reported.

It said air defenses hit "most" missiles before they reached their target.

State television aired footage purporting to show air defenses responding to the Israeli attack.

The Israeli activity in the skies was heard over parts of neighboring Lebanon, where many took to social media to denounce the Christmas Day attack.

Israel has launched hundreds of strikes in Syria since the start of the civil war in 2011.

It has targeted government troops, allied Iranian forces and fighters from Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.

It rarely confirms details of its operations in Syria, but says Iran's presence in support of President Bashar Assad is a threat to which it will continue to respond.



**A BABY IS TAKEN AWAY** by ambulance after gunmen attacked a maternity hospital, in Kabul, Afghanistan [Rahmat Gul/AP Photo]

## China To Overtake US As World's Biggest Economy By 2028

### Agencies

China looked set for average economic growth of 5.7% a year from 2021-25 before slowing to 4.5% a year from 2026-30

China will overtake the United States to become the world's biggest economy in 2028, five years earlier than previously estimated due to the contrasting recoveries of the two countries from the Covid-19 pandemic, a think tank said.

"For some time, an overarching theme of global economics has been the economic and soft power struggle between the United States and China," the Centre for Economics and Business Research said in an annual report published on Saturday.

"The Covid-19 pandemic and corresponding economic fall-out have certainly tipped this rivalry in China's favour."

The CEBR said China's "skilful

management of the pandemic", with its strict early lockdown, and hits to long-term growth in the West meant China's relative economic performance had improved.

China looked set for average economic growth of 5.7% a year from 2021-25 before slowing to 4.5% a year from 2026-30.

While the United States was likely to have a strong post-pandemic rebound in 2021, its growth would slow to 1.9% a year between 2022 and 2024, and then to 1.6% after that.

Japan would remain the world's third-biggest economy, in dollar terms, until the early 2030s when it would be overtaken by India, pushing Germany down from fourth to fifth.

The United Kingdom, currently the fifth-biggest economy by the CEBR's measure, would slip to sixth place from 2024.

However, despite a hit in 2021 from its exit from the European Union's single mar-

ket, British GDP in dollars was forecast to be 23% higher than France's by 2035, helped by Britain's lead in the increasingly important digital economy.

Europe accounted for 19% of output in the top 10 global economies in 2020 but that will fall to 12% by 2035, or lower if there is an acrimonious split between the EU and Britain, the CEBR said.

It also said the pandemic's impact on the global economy was likely to show up in higher inflation, not slower growth.

"We see an economic cycle with rising interest rates in the mid-2020s," it said, posing a challenge for governments which have borrowed massively to fund their response to the Covid-19 crisis.

"But the underlying trends that have been accelerated by this point to a greener and more tech-based world as we move into the 2030s."

## US Govt Nears Shutdown, Covid-19 Aid Uncertain

### Agencies

Trump could also choose to take advantage of a situation known as a "pocket veto," rather than outright vetoing the coronavirus aid package

US President Donald Trump spent Christmas Day golfing at his West Palm Beach club while millions of Americans faced the risk of losing jobless benefits on Saturday, and the threat of a partial government shutdown next week if he refuses to sign a \$2.3 trillion coronavirus aid and spending package.

Trump stunned members of both parties when he unexpectedly announced this week his dislike of the spending bill, which had taken members of Congress months to negotiate.

The bill provides \$892 billion in coronavirus relief, and \$1.4 trillion in regular government appropriations.

A source familiar with the situation said many White House officials were caught by surprise. While Trump's strategy going forward on the bill is unclear, he could still sign the package given he has not made an explicit veto threat.

Trump, who had not objected to the terms prior to the votes in the House of Representatives and the Senate, complained that the package was too full of money for special interests and foreign aid, and said the \$600 in direct payments to most Americans was too small, demanding that the amount be increased to \$2,000.

On Christmas Day, Trump



spent most of the day golfing, with close ally and Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, according to a source familiar with his activities.

In a tweet, he said he has had many telephone calls and meetings at his golf club and urged lawmakers to give people more money.

"Why would politicians not want to give people \$2000, rather than only \$600? It wasn't their fault, it was China. Give our people the money!" he said, referring to the coronavirus, which originated last year in China.

The bill is now at Mar-a-Lago, Trump's Florida resort, where he is spending the holidays, awaiting his decision. Without Trump's signature on the coronavirus aid bill, about 14 million people will lose unemployment benefits on Saturday, and a partial government shutdown will begin on Tuesday.

On Christmas Eve, Trump tweeted a series of grievances,

repeating baseless claims about the election result, including one aimed at Senate Republicans, whom he accuses of abandoning him because many now publicly recognize Biden as the winner.

On Christmas Day, Trump followed his tweet about aid payments to Americans with a flurry of posts, lashing out at the media in two with cries of "Fake News" as he said that he was going to hold a video conference with members of the military.

Separately, the White House said Trump was briefed on a Nashville vehicle explosion Saturday morning that injured three people in what police described as an "intentional act."

Democratic President-elect Joe Biden, whose victory Trump still refuses to acknowledge nearly two months after the November 3 election, spent the day at his Delaware home and had no public events, according to his staff. Biden takes office on January 20.

## India, UAE Witness Soaring Relations In 2020



### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The traditionally harmonious relationship between the UAE and India was further cemented in the year 2020 with their top leadership holding regular parleys to enhance cooperation on bilateral, regional and multilateral fronts in the post-COVID era, including the welfare of the vast Indian community in the Gulf kingdom.

The growing strategic relations between the two countries were reflected in two high-level visits from India External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in November and Chief of Army Staff Gen. M M Naravane in December.

Jaishankar met the UAE's top leadership, focussing on enhancing cooperation on various facets of their comprehensive strategic partnership including trade, investment, infrastructure, energy, food security and defence.

He held high-level meetings with Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Ruler of Dubai who is also the Prime Minister and Vice President of UAE Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

The two sides also discussed prospects for economic cooperation between India and the UAE in the post-COVID-19 era and the situation in the neighbourhood of both countries.

India's concern for the welfare of 3.3 million Indians living in the UAE, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, was one of the main points during the deliberations.

Jaishankar thanked Sheikh Mohammed for taking care of the Indian community, underlining that India had been a reliable partner to the UAE in all respects during this difficult period.

He also assured the diaspora of the Indian government's responsiveness on issues pertaining to post-COVID normalcy.

Naravane's visit to the UAE was historic as it was the first-ever by the head of the Indian Army to the country.

He met Commander of the UAE's Land Forces and Staff Major General Saleh Mohammed Saleh Al Ameri and discussed key issues of mutual interest and defence cooperation. The visit is expected to further open up new avenues for cooperation in the defence and security sphere.

Indians constitute roughly 30 per cent of the country's population.

Earlier in March, the Crown Prince assured Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the health and safety of the Indian community during the pandemic as the two leaders exchanged information and views on the COVID-19 pandemic, the situation in their respective countries, as well as the steps being taken by their governments to deal with the situation.

Jaishankar, who has taken a special interest in the India-UAE bilateral relationship, said: "It is a relationship where the highest leadership of both countries have invested goodwill and energy. As a result, you can see the transformation during the last five years."

The ties between India and the UAE are on an upswing in the last few years and the leaders of the two countries have been holding regular parleys this year to strengthen them further in the post-COVID era, especially on the economic front.

With robust flow of bilateral investments and an annual bilateral trade of about USD 60 billion, the UAE is India's third-largest trade partner. The influential Gulf nation is also a major exporter of crude oil to India.

India has also invited further investments from the UAE in key sectors of the Indian economy such as infrastructure including logistics, food parks, highways, ports, airports, renewable energy and defence.

## Fire At Egyptian Hospital Kills 7 Coronavirus Patients

**CAIRO:** An intensive care unit at an Egyptian hospital caught fire on Saturday, killing seven coronavirus patients, officials said.

Local police said the blaze erupted at a private hospital in Obour, an outlying district of the greater Cairo area.

The fire injured at least five others. The injured and other patients were evacuated to nearby hospitals, the police said.

Firefighters were able to put out the blaze, the cause of which police and prosecutors are investigating.

The state-run Al-Ahram daily reported that an initial investigation blamed an electric short-circuit for the fire.

A similar blaze erupted at the coronavirus ward of a private hospital in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria in June, leaving seven patients dead and one injured. There was another fire in May in a coronavirus isolation center in Cairo that didn't cause any casualties.

Egypt has seen a surge in the confirmed cases of the virus,



forcing the government to reopen most of its hospitals designated to treat and isolate COVID-19 patients after the first wave of the pandemic subsided.

The Health Ministry reported its highest daily number of confirmed cases on Friday at 1,113, along with 49 deaths.

The new numbers have brought the country's official tally to more than 130,126 cases, including at least 7,309 deaths.

However, the actual numbers of cases in Egypt, the Arab world's most populous country with over 100 million people, are thought to be far higher, in part due to limited testing.

## Artists Lead Efforts To Restore, Preserve Gaza's Old Houses

### Agencies

**GAZA CITY:** The grand, 500-year-old brick walls of the Al-Kamalalia School slowly emerged from years of accumulated garbage as grassroots preservers began the long process of restoring it to its former glory.

Located in the heart of the old quarter of Gaza City, the Mamluk era building is one of an ever-widening number of historic structures at risk of demolition.

"It was in a very difficult, pitiful state. It was a dump," said Abdullah Al-Ruzzi, an artist and leading volunteer.

Al-Ruzzi and other artists



launched the Mobaderoon, or Initiators, program, seeking to save abandoned houses and buildings from two periods of Gaza's history: The Mamluk Sultanate and the subsequent Ottoman Empire.

In the old section of the Palestinian enclave, fewer than 200 houses from these eras are partially or entirely standing, according to tourist

officials. They are threatened by neglect, decay or even demolition by new urban development.

"Lack of public awareness and the economic considerations by owners are the greatest threats to these buildings," said Ahmed Al-Astal, director of Iwan, the history and heritage institute of Gaza's Islamic University. "These houses are our identity, but ignorance leads to their destruction."

Because the Gaza Strip is small, with 2 million people living in just 300 sq. km, the experts and volunteers fear that structures of past centuries will disappear, like those from far more ancient civilizations.

### NEWS MAKERS

## Researchers Identify Over 109,000 Impact Craters On Moon

### Agencies

An international team of researchers has identified over 109,000 previously unrecognised impact craters on the moon using machine learning methods.

The study, led by researchers from Jilin University, was published in the journal Nature Communications. Impact craters are the most prominent lunar surface feature and occupy most of the moon's surface.

With traditional automatic identification methods, it is generally difficult to find irregular and seriously degraded impact craters that may have formed in the early periods.

In order to effectively identify craters and estimate their age, researchers applied a transfer learning method and trained a deep neural network with the data of previously identified craters, reports Xinhua news agency.

## In Christmas Day Message, Queen Elizabeth Hails 'Kindness Of Strangers'

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

One of the traditional fixtures of any Christmas Day is to see Queen Elizabeth II and her family go to church. Not this year. The coronavirus pandemic has made sure of that.

However, the Queen, 94, did fulfil what is considered her most cherished Christmas Day duty: Addressing the nation as well as the Commonwealth on television Friday.

The Queen, who has spent much of the year isolating at Windsor Castle with her 99-year-old husband Prince



Philip, delivered a heartfelt message of hope in her Christmas address, praising the indomitable spirit of those who have risen magnificently to the challenges of the pandemic.

Seated behind a desk where the only family photo on show was a private portrait of Philip, the queen expressed sympathy for the ordeal of the past few

months while also laying out hope of a return to normality.

"We continue to be inspired by the kindness of strangers and draw comfort that even on the darkest nights there is hope in the new dawn," she said.

The Queen wrote her address, as she does every year, and her words are likely to have added poignancy given the upheaval many families have experienced during the pandemic, particularly in the U.K., which has an official coronavirus-related death toll of just over 70,000, Europe's second-highest behind Italy.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE- 4

**(19) (PROCEDURE FOR FILLING ONLINE APPLICATION)**  
The necessary instructions regarding filling up of online applications are given herein below: -

i. Candidates are required to apply online through JKSSB's online Application Portal-<https://ssbjk.org.in> No other means/ mode of application will be accepted.

ii. The Candidates who have not registered earlier on the portal are first required to go to the said Portal and register themselves by clicking on "Candidate Registration" link.

iii. Candidates are required to have a valid Email ID and Mobile Number for registering and creating login credentials. The same shall be validated using OTP (One Time Password) based verification.

iv. After creating login credential, candidates need to login with these credentials by clicking on "Candidate Login". Candidate can update their information like mobile number, email id and password from time to time, but cannot change their First Name, Last Name and Gender.

v. Once successful Login, the candidate can check under "Latest Openings" for all available advertisements and click on "Apply Now" against "Application Form for Appointment to the Post applied."

vi. Candidate should carefully fill in all the information in various sections and click on "SAVE & CONTINUE".

vii. The candidate is required to upload the images of recent photograph and signature.

- Size of the photograph (passport size) (Max size-1 MB) (Ht. X Wd. = 4.5 X 3.5 Cms.).
- Size of the signature (Max size-1 MB) (Ht. X Wd. = 4.5 X 3.5 Cms.).

viii. The candidate need to ensure that all the required fields are filled up with correct information. The system shall check that all required fields are filled up, before final submission of the application.

ix. Candidate shall be personally responsible for filling the details in the online application form and the information/details furnished by the candidate shall be treated as final for the purpose of determining the eligibility/claims of the candidates. No claim on account of non-filling of information shall be entertained subsequently.

x. Candidates cannot edit their Application form after submission. However, candidate can cancel his/her application if wrongly filled, but the fee of such cancelled application will not be remitted. Candidate can then apply afresh and he/she will have to pay the fee again.

xi. Candidate's Application will not be considered if fee is not paid for that application.

xii. Fees decided by JKSSB can be paid only by Net banking/Debit Card/Credit Card Options.

- After successful completion of the form, the candidate shall be shown "Pay Now" link for making the online application fee payment. Once fees is successfully submitted, Application ID shall be generated.
- The options will be available after clicking on Pay Now link. Candidate can pay using Net banking, Debit Card, Credit Card, as Online Payment options.

xiii. Payment will not be accepted and will not be considered valid after cut-off date mentioned in Advertisement Notification, i.e20.01.2021(last date).

xiv. Candidates should not submit a printout of the application / fee payment receipt to JKSSB till it is actually sought for some verification/clarification purpose.

xv. Please note that above procedure is the only valid procedure for applying. No other mode of application or incomplete steps would be accepted and such applications would be rejected.

xvi. The application printout along with the fee payment receipt and required copies of documents should be kept ready for submission if shortlisted for subsequent stage of Selection as per the notified Criteria. Candidate can take printout of application submitted and fee payment receipt from "My Applications" link available in the Portal. Application printout can be taken by selecting Application ID/No and clicking on Download Application. Similarly, receipt printout can be taken by selecting Application ID/No and clicking on Download Receipt button available.

xvii. Any person who finds difficulty in submission of application form due to technical issue or for any other reasons, shall be required to send a self-explanatory mail at [ssbjkgrievance@gmail.com](mailto:ssbjkgrievance@gmail.com) for seeking guidance, clarification, etc. No other mode of grievance submission in this context would be valid. Moreover, only the grievance pertaining to the active application will be replied through the mail.

(20) In-service candidates shall submit print out of filled online application form along with duly filled, signed and stamped certificate given at last paragraph of the application form through proper channel viz., the concerned Head of Department (as defined in the JK Book of Financial Powers). In the event of failure of the candidate to route the application through proper channel, his / her eligibility shall be assessed as if he / she is not an in-service candidate. The Head of Department concerned shall forward the application form of the In-service candidates to the office of the Secretary, Services Selection Board by or before the date of scrutiny of documents/documents verification after short listing.

(21) The candidate must produce the original Domicile Certificate/Qualification/ Category Certificates/Bonafide Certificates before the Committee constituted for such purpose by the Board. Any candidate at the time of documents verifications who fails to produce the relevant original documents/ testimonials on the scheduled date shall not be allowed to either participate in the Selection process or final selection, as the case may be.

(22) No TA/DA will be paid for participation in the written test/ document verification.

(23) Reservation for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes(ST), Economically Weaker Section(EWS), Persons with Disabilities (PwD), Pahari Speaking People(PSP), etc. for all the above posts, wherever applicable and admissible, would be as determined & communicated by the respective Indenting Department, as per extant Rules/Orders.

(24) The vacancies have been advertised by the J&K Service Selection Board as per the Indent(s) received from the concerned Departments. The Board will not be responsible for withdrawal/alteration of vacancies by the Indenting Department(s), at any point of time.

(SachinJamwal) KAS,  
SECRETARY,  
J&K Services Selection Board.

DIPK-10948/20

No. SSB/Secy/Advt.No./05/2020/5119-40    Dated: 24/12/2020

ANNEXURE “A”																
NAME OF THE POSTS, CADRE , PAY LEVEL, CATEGORY WISE BREAK UP OF POSTS, QUALIFICATION AND CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF THE DISTRICT/DIVISIONAL/UT CADRE POSTS																
Item No.	Department	Sub Deptt/Appointing Authority.	Pay Scale of the Post	Name of the post	Cadre of the post	OM	SC	ST	OSC	ALC/ JB	RBA	PSP	EWS	Total	Qualification prescribed	Criteria for selection.
126	Science & Technology	J&K Energy Dev.Agency (JKEDA)	Level-2 (19900-63200)	Driver-II	UT	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	Matriculation with holder of Driving License of HGV/PSV	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in the written examination only. The candidate shall have to qualify Driving Test to be eligible to appear for written examination.
127	Science & Technology	J&K Energy Dev.Agency (JKEDA)	Level-7 (44900-142400)	Technical Officer	UT	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Degree in Civil/Mechanical/Electrical/ Electronics & Communication /Renewable Energy/Computer Engineering Stream.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
128	Science & Technology	JK Science Technology &Innovation Council	Level-6G (42300-134300)	Research Assistant	UT	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	5	i) First Class Masters Degree in any Branch of Science/Mathematics /Statistics or First Class Masters Degree in Engineering from any recognized Institution/University.  ii) One year of experience in the field of Research in Design and Innovation from any recognized Institution.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
129	Science & Technology	JK Science Technology &Innovation Council	Level-2 (19900-63200)	Driver Grade-II	UT	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Minimum Matric and Maximum 10+2, having valid HGV/PSV Driving License	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in the written examination only. The candidate shall have to qualify Driving Test to be eligible to appear for written examination
130	Public Works(R&B) Department	Public Works(R&B) Department	Level-6 (35400-112400)	Junior Engineer(Civil)	UT	71	12	14	6	6	15	6	14	144	Three years Diploma in Civil Engineering from Govt. recognized Institute/Indian University Degree in Civil Engineering or AMIE section (A&B) India.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
131	Public Works(R&B) Department	Public Works(R&B) Department	Level-6 (35400-112400)	Junior Engineer (Mechanical)	UT	15	3	3	1	1	3	1	3	30	Three years Diploma in Mechanical Engineering from Govt. recognized Institute/Indian University Degree in Mechanical Engineering or AMIE section (A&B) India.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
132	Public Works(R&B) Department	Public Works(R&B) Department	Level-4 (25500-81100)	Draftsman(Civil)	UT	18	3	3	1	1	4	1	3	34	Two years Draftsman Training Course Certificate/Diploma in Civil Engineering from Govt. Recognized Institute.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
133	Public Works(R&B) Department	Public Works(R&B) Department	Level-4 (25500-81100)	Draftsman (Mechanical)	UT	9	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	20	Two years Draftsman Training Course Certificate/Diploma in Mechanical Engineering from Govt. recognized Institute.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
134	Public Works(R&B) Department	Public Works(R&B) Department	Level-2 (19900-63200)	Works Supervisor	Div. Kashmir	38	8	7	2	3	8	3	7	76	Matric pass or its equivalent from any recognized Board or University and ITI Certificate in Building Construction or Carpentry Trade.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
135	Public Works(R&B) Department	Public Works(R&B) Department	Level-6B (35600-112800)	Jr. Stenographer	Div. Kashmir	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	1) Graduation from any recognized University having minimum speed of 65 and 35 words per minute in shorthand and type writing respectively. 2)Six months diploma/certificate course in Computer Application from a recognized Institute.	Skill Test = 40 points Written Examination/CBT =60 points (The marks obtained in the Skill Test shall be proportionately allotted against the 40 points earmarked for the Skill Test)
136	Public Works(R&B) Department	Public Works(R&B) Department	Level-6B (35600-112800)	Jr. Stenographer	Div. Jammu	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	1) Graduation from any recognized University having minimum speed of 65 and 35 words per minute in shorthand and type writing respectively.  2)Six months diploma/certificate course in Computer Application from a recognized Institute.	Skill Test = 40 points  Written Examination/CBT =60 points  (The marks obtained in the Skill Test shall be proportionately allotted against the 40 points earmarked for the Skill Test)
137	Public Works(R&B) Department	Public Works(R&B) Department	Level-4 (25500-81100)	Junior Assistant	UT	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	i) Graduation from any recognized University with knowledge of type writing having not less than 35 words speed per minute. ii) Six month's diploma/Certificate Course in Computer Applications from an Institute recognized by the Government.	Skill Test = 20 points Written Examination/CBT =80 points (The marks obtained in the Type Test shall be proportionately allotted against 20 points earmarked for the Type Test)
138	Public Works(R&B) Department	Public Works(R&B) Department	Level-4 (25500-81100)	Junior Assistant	Div. Kashmir	45	8	9	3	3	9	4	8	89	i) Graduation from any recognized University with knowledge of type writing having not less than 35 words speed per minute. ii) Six month's diploma/Certificate Course in Computer Applications from an Institute recognized by the Government.	Skill Test = 20 points Written Examination/CBT =80 points (The marks obtained in the Type Test shall be proportionately allotted against 20 points earmarked for the Type Test)
139	Public Works(R&B) Department	Public Works(R&B) Department	Level-4 (25500-81100)	Junior Assistant	Div. Jammu	32	6	6	2	2	6	3	6	63	i) Graduation from any recognized University with knowledge of type writing having not less than 35 words speed per minute. ii) Six month's diploma/Certificate Course in Computer Applications from an Institute recognized by the Government.	Skill Test = 20 points Written Examination/CBT =80 points (The marks obtained in the Type Test shall be proportionately allotted against 20 points earmarked for the Type Test)
140	Public Works(R&B) Department	Public Works(R&B) Department	Level-4 (25500-81100)	Cadrex Clerk	Div. Jammu	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	i) Graduation or its equivalent from any Govt. recognized University with knowledge of type writing having not less than 35 words speed per minute. ii) Six months certificate course in Computer applications from recognized Institute.	Skill Test = 20 points Written Examination/CBT =80 points (The marks obtained in the Type Test shall be proportionately allotted against 20 points earmarked for the Type Test)
141	Public Works(R&B) Department	Public Works(R&B) Department	Level-4 (25500-81100)	Cadrex Clerk	Div. Kashmir	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	i) Graduation or its equivalent from any Govt. recognized University with knowledge of type writing having not less than 35 words speed per minute. ii) Six months certificate course in Computer applications from recognized Institute.	Skill Test = 20 points Written Examination/CBT =80 points (The marks obtained in the Type Test shall be proportionately allotted against 20 points earmarked for the Type Test)
142	Public Works(R&B) Department	Public Works(R&B) Department	Level-6D (35800-113200)	Foreman Grade I (Mechanical)	Div. Jammu	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	Three year Diploma in Mechanical Engineering from any recognized Institute.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
143	Public Works(R&B) Department	Public Works(R&B) Department	Level-4 (25500-81100)	Junior Mechanic	Div. Jammu	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	10th pass/equivalent with ITI trained in Mechanical Trade from the Govt. recognized Institute.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
144	Public Works(R&B) Department	Public Works(R&B) Department	Level-4 (25500-81100)	Servicing Operator	Div. Jammu	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10th pass/equivalent with ITI trained in mechanical trade from the Govt. recognized Institute.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
145	Public Works(R&B) Department	Public Works(R&B) Department	Level-SL-I (14800-47100)	Work Shop Attendant	Div. Jammu	4	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	7	10th pass/equivalent	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
146	Public Works(R&B) Department	Public Works(R&B) Department	Level-2 (19900-63200)	Assistant Mechanic	Div. Jammu	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10th pass/equivalent with ITI trained in mechanical trade from the Govt. recognized Institute.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
147	Public Works(R&B) Department	Public Works(R&B) Department	Level-2 (19900-63200)	Fitter	Div. Jammu	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	10th pass /equivalent with ITI trained in Fitter/Mechanical Trade from the Govt. recognized Institute.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
148	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Level-6E (35900-113500)	Legal Assistant	Anantnag	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Bachelors Degree in Law with two years actual practice at bar.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
149	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Level-6A (35500-112600)	Junior Legal Assistant	Doda	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Bachelors Degree in Law of a University in India.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.

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## CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

150	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Level-6E (35900-113500)	Legal Assistant	UT	7	2	1	0	1	2	1	1	15	A Bachelors Degree in Law of a University established by law in India having two years actual practice at bar.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
151	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Level-6E (35900-113500)	Librarian	UT	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Bachelors of Library Sciences from a recognized University.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
152	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Level-6E (35900-113500)	Reader	UT	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	A Bachelors Degree in Law of a University established by law in India having two years actual practice at Bar.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
153	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Level-6B (35500-112600)	Junior Lagal Assistant	UT	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	6	A Bachelors Degree in Law of University established by law in India.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
154	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Level-6B (35600-112800)	Personal Assistant	UT	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	i) Graduate from any recognized University having minimum speed of 65 and 35 words per minute in shorthand and type writing respectively. ii) Six months certificate course in Computer Application from a recognized Institute.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
155	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Level-6B (35600-112800)	Junior Research Assistant	UT	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	A Bachelor Degree in Law of a University established by law in India.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
156	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Level-6B (35600-112800)	Sub-Editor	UT	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	Graduate from any recognized University with Urdu as one of the subject in graduation and experience in calligraphy with Diploma in Urdu Software.(In Page)	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
157	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Level-6B (35600-112800)	Urdu Stenographer	UT	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Graduate from any recognized University with speed of 60 words per minute in Urdu shorthand and 30 words per minute speed in typing on computer key board of Urdu Software.	Skill Test = 40 points Written Examination/CBT =60 points (The marks obtained in the Skill Test shall be proportionately allotted against the 40 points earmarked for the Skill Test)
158	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Level-5 (29200-92300)	Urdu Typist	UT	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Graduate from any recognized University with minimum speed of 30 words per minute in Urdu typing and diploma in Urdu Software.	Skill Test = 20 points Written Examination/CBT =80 points (The marks obtained in the Type Test shall be proportionately allotted against 20 points earmarked for the Type Test)
159	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Level-4 (25500-81100)	Junior Assistant	UT	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	i) Graduate from any recognized University with knowledge type writing having not less than 35 words speed per minute. ii) Six months Certificate Course in Computer Application from a recognized Institute.	Skill Test = 20 points Written Examination/CBT =80 points (The marks obtained in the Type Test shall be proportionately allotted against 20 points earmarked for the Type Test)
160	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Level-4 (25500-81100)	Computer-cum-Junior Assistant	UT	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	6	i) Graduate from any recognized University with knowledge type writing having not less than 35 words speed per minute. ii) Six months Certificate Course in Computer Application from a recognized Institute.	Skill Test = 20 points Written Examination/CBT =80 points (The marks obtained in the Type Test shall be proportionately allotted against 20 points earmarked for the Type Test)
161	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs	Level-4 (25500-81100)	Data Entry Operator	UT	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Graduation from any recognized University with Diploma in Computer Application from an Institute recognized by All India Board of Technical Education/State Board of Technical Education. Or Bachelors degree in Computer Applications from a recognized University.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
162	ARI and Training	(Directorate of Stationary and office supplies J&K)	Level-6E (35900-113500)	Deputy Superintendent	UT	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	Graduate from a recognized university with 6 months Certificate Course in Computer Applications from any recognized Institute.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
163	ARI and Training	(Directorate of Stationary and office supplies J&K)	Level-4 (25500-81100)	Junior Assistant	UT	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	i) Graduate from any recognized University with knowledge of type writing having not less than 35 words speed per minute in type writing on key board. ii) Six months certificate course in computer application from recognized institute.	Skill Test = 20 points Written Examination/CBT =80 points (The marks obtained in the Type Test shall be proportionately allotted against 20 points earmarked for the Type Test)
164	ARI and Training	(Directorate of Stationary and office Supplies J&K)	Level-2 (19900-63200)	Driver	Div.Kashmir	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Minimum Matric &Maximum 10+2, having valid HGV/PSV Driving License.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in the written examination only. The candidate shall have to qualify Driving Test to be eligible to appear for written examination.
165	ARI and Training	Government Press Jammu	Level-6 (35400-112400)	Machineman	Div.Jammu	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Matric with Diploma in Printing Technology from a recognized Institute	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
166	ARI and Training	Government Press Jammu	Level-2 (19900-63200)	Lathe Runner	Div.Jammu	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Matric with ITI in the respective Trade.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
167	ARI and Training	Government Press Jammu	Level-2 (19900-63200)	Junior Electrician	Div.Jammu	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Matric with ITI in the Electric Trade.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
168	ARI and Training	Government Press Jammu	Level-2 (19900-63200)	Assistant Mechanic	Div.Jammu	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Matric with ITI in the Mechanic Trade.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
169	ARI and Training	Government Press Jammu	Level-2 (19900-63200)	Copy Holder(English)	Div.Jammu	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	Graduate from any recognized University.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
170	ARI and Training	Government Press Jammu	Level-2 (19900-63200)	Copy Holder(Urdu)	Div. Jammu	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	Graduate from any recognized University.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
171	ARI and Training	Govt. Press Jammu	Level-4 (25500-81100)	Junior Assistant	Div.Jammu	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	6	i) Graduate from any recognized University with knowledge of type having not less than 35 words speed per minute in type writing on key board. ii) Six months certificate course in computer application from recognized Institute.	Skill Test = 20 points Written Examination/CBT =80 points (The marks obtained in the Type Test shall be proportionately allotted against 20 points earmarked for the Type Test)
172	ARI and Training	Govt. Press Srinagar	Level-6 (35400-112400)	Machineman	Div.Kashmir	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	Matric with Diploma in Printing Technology from a recognized Institute.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
173	ARI and Training	Govt. Press Srinagar	Level-6D (35800-113200)	Etcher Artist	Div. Kashmir	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Matric with Diploma in Printing Technology from recognized Institute.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
174	ARI and Training	Govt. Press Srinagar	Level-6D (35800-113200)	Printing Down Operator	Div. Kashmir	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Diploma in Printing Technology from recognized Institute.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
175	ARI and Training	Govt. Press Srinagar	Level-2 (19900-63200)	Copy Holder	Div. Kashmir	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	Graduate from a recognized university.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
176	ARI and Training	Govt. Press Srinagar	Level-2 (19900-63200)	Proof Reader	Div. Kashmir	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Graduate from a recognized university.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
177	ARI and Training	Govt. Press Srinagar	Level-2 (19900-63200)	V-Copy Holder	Div. Kashmir	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Graduate from a recognized university.	The selection for the post shall be made on the basis of merit obtained in written examination only.
178	ARI and Training	Govt. Press Srinagar	Level-4 (25500-81100)	Junior Assistant	Div. Kashmir	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	i) Graduate from any recognized University with knowledge of type having not less than 35 words speed per minute in type writing on key board. ii) Six months certificate course in computer application from recognized Institute.	Skill Test = 20 points Written Examination/CBT =80 points (The marks obtained in the Type Test shall be proportionately allotted against 20 points earmarked for the Type Test)
			Total			300	60	50	16	18	72	20	44	580		

## Note –

- Candidates applying against the post of Junior Scale Stenographer/Junior Stenographer must have minimum speed of 65 and 35 words per minute in shorthand and type writing respectively, while as the candidates applying against the post of Junior Assistant must have knowledge of type writing with not less than 35 words speed per minute. Only those candidates who achieve an accuracy of 90% or above and a typing speed of minimum 35 words per minute shall be considered qualified for next stage(s).
- It is further clarified that candidate having degrees like BCA, BCS, BCM, BE/B.Tech(Computer/IT), MCA, MCS, MCM, BSc(IT), MSc(IT), ME/M.Tech(Computer /IT ) or B.Sc ( with computer as a subject) are not required to possess the six month certificate course in Computer from a recognized Institute.
- The above posts are subject to minor changes on account of reconciliation with the concerned department.
- The above Pay Scale is subject to minor changes, if any, at the time of appointment by the Indenting department.

## “ANNEXURE – B”

## Certificate regarding Physical Limitation of an Examinee to Write

This is to certify that, I have examined Mr/Ms/Mrs\_\_\_\_\_ (name of the candidate with disability), a person with \_\_\_\_\_ (nature and percentage of disability as mentioned in the certificate of disability), S/o D/o \_\_\_\_\_, a resident of \_\_\_\_\_ (Village /District/UT and to state that he/she has physical limitation which hampers his /her writing capabilities owing to his / her disability.

**Signature of Specialist Doctor,  
Government Health Care Institution/Hospital**

**Name & Designation:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Government Hospital/ Health Care Institution with Seal

**Counter Signature of Medical Superintendent  
Government Health Care Institution/Hospital with Seal**

Place:  
Date:  
**Note:** Certificate should be given by a specialist of the relevant stream/ disability (e.g Visual impairment-Ophthalmologist, Locomotor disability –Orthopaedic specialist/PMR).

## ANNEXURE – C

## Letter of Undertaking for Using Own Scribe

I \_\_\_\_\_, a candidate with \_\_\_\_\_ (name of the disability) appearing for the \_\_\_\_\_ (name of the examination) bearing Roll No. \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ (name of the centre) in the District \_\_\_\_\_, J&K. My qualification is \_\_\_\_\_.

I do hereby state that \_\_\_\_\_ (name of the scribe) will provide the service of scribe / reader/ lab assistant for the undersigned for taking the aforesaid examination.

I do hereby undertake that his/her qualification is \_\_\_\_\_. In case, subsequently it is found that his/ her qualification is not as declared by the undersigned and is equal / higher than my qualification, I shall forfeit my right to the post and claims relating thereto.

(Signature of the candidate with Disability)

Place:  
Date:

## JAMMU &amp; KASHMIR PROJECTS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER  
JKPCC LTD UNIT 1ST SRINAGAR

## SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

**NIT No:- 38/e-Tendering/DGM/1<sup>ST</sup>/SGR/JKPCC OF 2020-21 DATED: 24.12.2020**

For and on behalf of the Managing Director, JKPC Ltd, e-tenders (In Double cover system) are invited on item rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K union territory Govt. CPWD, Railways and other States/ U.T. and Central Governments for the following works.

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Amount In Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (in Rupees)	Earnest Money (in Rupees)	Time of completion	Class of Contract
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Construction of Government Boys Higher Secondary School Jawahar Nagar by way of steel shutters, aluminium work, tile work, steel work in railing, wooden flooring, and other balance works.	8.68	800/=	17360/=	20 Days	C & D –Class Civil

## Position of AAA/TS :- Approved

## Position of funds:-

## Available

The Bidding documents consisting of specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q) Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/ downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per schedule of dates given below:-

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	24.12.2020
2.	Date of publishing of NIT Online	24.12.2020 at 4:00 PM
3.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 24.12.2020 4:00 PM to 31.12.2020 upto 4:00 PM
4.	Bid submission Start Date (Online)	24.12.2020 from 4:00 PM
5.	Bid Submission End Date	31.12.2020 upto 4:00 PM
6.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	01.01.2021, after 11:00 AM in the Office of the General Manager(K), JKPC Ltd. Srinagar
7.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

No:- e-Tendering/DGM/1<sup>ST</sup>/SGR/JKPCC/\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

**DIPK-NB-4831/20**

Deputy General Manager  
JKPCC Ltd. Unit 1<sup>st</sup> Srinagar.



## About 45K entities to come under mandatory 1% cash payment of GST liability ambit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** The mandatory requirement of 1 per cent cash payment of GST liability with effect from January 1 would be applicable to about 45,000 taxpayers, which is only 0.37 per cent of the total businesses registered in the Goods and Services Tax system, Revenue Department sources said on Saturday.

To curb tax evasion by way of fake invoicing, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) had earlier this week amended GST rules making it mandatory for businesses with monthly turnover of over Rs 50 lakh to mandatorily pay at least 1 per cent of their GST liability in cash. The new rule restricts use of input tax credit (ITC) for discharging GST liability to 99 per cent effective January 1, 2021.

However, this restriction will not apply in cases where the managing director or any partner have paid more than Rs 1 lakh as income tax or the registered person has received a refund amount of more than Rs 1 lakh in the preceding

financial year on account of unutilised input tax credit.

Sources said data analysis indicates that out of the total GST taxpayer base of 1.2 crore taxpayers, only around 4 lakh taxpayers have monthly supply value greater than Rs 50 lakh. Of these 4 lakh, only about 1.5 lakh taxpayers pay less than 1 per cent of their GST liability in cash.

"Now, when the exclusions in the rule are applied, then around 1.05 lakh taxpayers get further excluded from these 1.5 lakh taxpayers. Thus, the rule would apply only to approx 40,000 to 45,000 taxpayers. This would be around 0.37 per cent of the total GST tax base of 1.2 crore taxpayers," sources said.

Sources said the rules have been amended to curb the menace of GST fake invoice frauds and fake firms/devious fly-by-night operators who avail and pass on input tax credit (ITC) wrongfully. The CBIC has booked about 12,000 cases of ITC fraud and arrested 365 persons in such cases so far. During the last six weeks alone, more than 165 fraudsters have been arrested.



KO Lensman Abid Bhat captures the mood of vendors at Dal Lake's floating vegetable market on a chilly Saturday morning.

## 10 tourists from Delhi arrested 3 vehicles seized for obstructing traffic inside Atal Tunnel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**SHIMLA:** The Himachal Pradesh Police has arrested 10 tourists and seized three vehicles for obstructing traffic inside Atal Tunnel in Rohtang, a police officer said.

The tourists stopped their vehicles inside the tunnel, played music and started dancing which led to a traffic jam on Thursday, Kullu Superintendent of Police

Gaurav Singh said. The 10 tourists from Delhi, most of them in their twenties and thirties, were arrested and their three cars seized, he said.

They have been booked under sections 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) and 270 (malignant act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in view of

the coronavirus pandemic.

The world's longest tunnel at an altitude of 10,040 feet, Atal Tunnel has become a tourist destination since it was thrown open to the public by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in October.

The 9.02-km underpass beneath 13,058-feet-high Rohtang Pass connects Lahaul of Lahaul-Spiti district and Manali of Kullu district in Himachal Pradesh.

## Woman Gives Life To Four People; Heart Sent Through Green Corridor For Transplant

The woman's liver and two kidneys were also used in separate transplant procedures.



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**NEW DELHI:** A heart harvested from a 41-year-old woman, who died after suffering bleeding in the brain, was transported from Ghaziabad to Delhi in just 18 minutes through an over 23-km green corridor and immediately transplanted to a chronic cardiac patient, hospital authorities said on Friday.

The woman's liver and two kidneys were also used in separate transplant procedures. The woman, a resident of Indrapuram in Ghaziabad, was rushed to Max Super Speciality Hospital, Vaishali with complaint of headache and giddiness on December 19, the hospital said in a statement.

She was suffering from immediate Aneurysmal bleed (bleeding from dilated blood vessels of the brain). Despite sustained efforts by the multidisciplinary team of doctors, her condition continued to deteriorate and she was declared brain dead on Thursday, it said.

After counselling, the family agreed for organ donation. Her heart, kidneys, and liver were harvested. With clockwork precision, a green corridor was created by the police of Ghaziabad and Delhi between Max Hospital, Vaishali and Max Hospital, Saket

for seamless transfer of the heart, the statement said.

"The distance of 23.8 km was covered in just 18 mins at around 2 AM on December 25," a hospital spokesperson said, adding, various teams worked through the night to harvest and transplant the retrieved organs.

The kidney was transplanted in a 37-year-old female patient from Ghaziabad, suffering from chronic kidney disease. The liver was transplanted in a 59-year-old woman from Delhi who was suffering from chronic liver disease with hepatocellular carcinoma.

Both were transplanted at the Max Super Speciality Hospital, Vaishali, the hospital authorities said. The second kidney was sent to Artemis Hospital, Gurgaon in just 45 mins in an ambulance, they said.

Kewal Krishan, Director Heart Transplant & LVAD Program, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket said, "The heart has been transplanted in a 56-year-old patient from Uttarakhand who suffered end-stage heart failure. The recipient is under observation and doing well for now."

(Except for the headline, this story has not been edited by NDTV staff and is published from a syndicated feed.)

## 150 troops in Delhi for Republic Day test positive

AGENCIES

**NEW DELHI:** More than 150 Army troops, who are in New Delhi for the forthcoming Republic Day Parade, have tested positive for Covid-19, even as the country prepares to hold the first dry run to test readiness for the vaccine rollout.

The troops who tested positive have been isolated and are being medically managed. They are part of the contingents slated to march down the Rajpath on January 26. The parade is on for now and there is no proposal to not have the marching contingents.

The troops have come from various locations across the country. They travelled to New Delhi in the last week of November. All of them

underwent Covid test and 150 of them have tested positive.

The vaccine dry run is scheduled to be held on December 28 and 29 in four states—Punjab (north), Gujarat (west), Andhra Pradesh (south) and Assam (northeast). Each state will plan the trial in two districts and five sessions across district hospitals, community and primary health centres, urban sites, private health facilities and rural sites.

The idea is to prepare for parallel administration of the vaccine at multiple locations, once a vaccine is licensed. The trial will test the efficacy of India's digital vaccine delivery platform Co-WIN and of the cold storage and transportation arrangements. — TNS

Dry run in Punjab, Gujarat, Andhra, Assam next week



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gulberg@gulberg.net  
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