JK Clubs Internet To Militancy

of data services by anti-national elements has the potential to cause large-scale violence and disturb public order "which has till now been maintained due to various pre-emptive measures, including restrictions on access to internet with relaxations in a calibrated and gradual manner, after due consideration of the ground situation".

Kabra said the police authorities have brought to notice material relating to the militant modules operating in the union territory, including handlers from across the border, and activities of separatists and anti-national elements within, who are attempting to aid and incite people by transmission of fake news and targeted messages through use of internet to propagate militancy, indulge in rumour-mongering, support fallacious proxy wars, spread propaganda and cause disaffection and discontent.

"Based on intelligence inputs and assessment of law and order situation obtained on the ground, law enforcement agencies, while dealing with the present situation, have inter-alia reported about sustained efforts being made by militants to infiltrate from across the border, re-activate their cadres and scale up anti-national activities in Kashmir division as well as militancy-affected areas of Jammu division, by communicating effectively with their operatives within the UT of J-K through VOIP and encrypted mobile communication through various social media applications to coordinate and plan militant acts," the order said.

'... it is absolutely necessary to do so (restrict access to internet) in the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the Security of the State and for maintaining public order," it said.

Internet services in Jammu and Kashmir have been suspended since August 5, when abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution was announced. The authorities have continued to describe the restrictions as a pre-emptive measure to prevent misuse of data services by anti-national elements which has the potential to cause large-scale violence and disturb public order.

Tuesday's order directed the internet service providers (ISPs) in the Kashmir Valley to provide limited broadband facility to essential services, such as hospitals, banks and government offices, and hotels and tour and travel establishments. There is no mention of the services being restored to media organisations or to the general public in the Valley.

"ISPs to provide broadband facility, with Macbinding, to all the institutions dealing with essential services, hospitals, banks, etc as also government offices, and in order to facilitate tourism, to hotels and tour and travel establishments," Kabra said in the order.

He asked the ISPs to install necessary firewalls and carry out 'white-listing' of sites that would enable access to government websites and websites dealing with essential services, e-banking,

However, access to all social-media sites has been banned in both Jammu and Kashmir divi-

"...there shall be complete restriction on social media applications allowing peer to peer communication and virtual private networking applications for the time being," the order read.

The Principal Secretary, Home Department, also directed the government offices and the institutions being provided internet access to take nec-

essary precautions to prevent its misuse. "They shall be responsible to prevent any misuse, for which they shall take all the necessary precautions, including appointment of nodal officers, keeping a record of persons/ devices, managing and monitoring day to day usage, changing accessibility credentials on a daily basis and ensure internet availability to only authorised users,

The order also directed the divisional administration of Kashmir to establish 400 more internet kiosks to facilitate the general public, students, traders for filing GST returns, and tourists a sign that internet services were unlikely to be restored in the Valley anytime soon.

Internet Partially Restored To Hotels,

Jammu and Kashmir administration to review within a week all restrictive orders imposed in the Union Territory. The Court had observed internet was a fundamental right of the people.

Govt order said the institutions and government offices being provided internet would need take measures to prevent its misuse. These institutions will have to appoint nodal officers, keep a record of persons using internet, manage and monitor daily usage, and ensure that only authorised persons can access it.

Jammu, where broadband is already functional, has been given further relief with restoration of 2G facility on mobile phones but only in select districts.

"2G mobile connectivity on postpaid mobiles for accessing white-listed sites, including for ebanking, shall be allowed, to begin with, in the districts of Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur and Reasi,"said Principal Secretary. "However, in the other districts of the UT of J&K, mobile internet connectivity shall remain suspended till further directions...

The principal secretary also said the Kashmir division would set up 400 additional kiosks, apart from the 844 already in place, to extend the facility of fixed line broadband connectivity.

Earlier broadband was restored in hospitals. However doctors said it has been restricted to administrative purposes only.

The doctors claimed they still have no access to internet for medical research and academics.

On August 5, the Centre had revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special constitutional status, imposed a curfew, detained political leaders, and banned all communication services.

The lockdown is still in place but some curbs have been lifted. On the midnight of January 1, SMS services were restored. The Ladakh administration had restored 4G mobile internet connectivity in Kargil on December 27, after a gap of 145 days. Postpaid mobile phone services had been restored across all networks in the Kashmir Valley on October 14.

Heavy Snowfall Cripples Life

and treetops besides roads and open field were



under a carpet of snow which occurred despite prediction for dry weather today by Met office.

A fresh Western Disturbance (WD) is likely to hit the region by Thursday and there could be more snow and rain due to this system till Friday.

Snow on streets remained frozen due to which roads have become slippery in the city. Very less number of vehicles were seen plying on city roads. People alleged that snow clearance machines are leaving two to three inches of snow on the roads which later gets frozen, leading to slippery conditions. Drivers were driving their vehicles very slowly to avoid accidents due to slippery road conditions.

Srinagar received 6 inches of fresh snowfall, without a let up resulting in water logging of many important city roads. Many commuters were forced to abandon their vehicle and walk the distance on foot, as the roads became quite slippery despite continuous removal of snow from roads by the administration.

Even as men and machinery were seen on their toes to deal with the situation, but despite the hard by the administration, many areas in the city submerged under the water. Meanwhile people preferred to stay back home, while those who came out had to wade through water. Residency road and Maulana Azad roads remained partially submerged under water.

Meanwhile, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic, Srinagar, has again appealed to people to drive very slowly and not to apply sudden breaks as roads are very slippery due to sub zero temperature during the night.

The SSP said due to slippery conditions, people should drive carefully on Rambagh-Stadium crossing-Jehangir Chowk fly over. He advised drivers to keep distance between two vehicles to avoid accident. People driving two wheelers should wear helmet and take extra precautions.

People are resuming their normal business and other activities only after 1000 hrs due to cold as the mercury witnessed further drop. Meanwhile, students, including girls, could be seen covering the snow bound slippery roads on foot to reach their tuition and coaching centres.

The minimum temperature in Srinagar was minus 1.2 degree, a Met department spokesman said.

The upper reaches of South Kashmir received the maximum Snowfall. Pulwama recorded 6 inches, Tral one and a half feet, Kulgam 8 inches, Pahlgam 4 inches, while Anantnag received 6 to 10 inches of fresh snowfall. In Mandgiri Kulgam, a house belonging to Kahzir Mohammad collapsed under the snow, while the roof of Jamia Msjid in Waral suffered heavy damage.

Oazi Gund received about 2 feet of fresh snow fall. Jawahar Tunnel connecting Srinagar with Jammu, received about two and a half feet of fresh snowfall, while on the other side of tunnel, in Bnihal area also 2 feet of fresh snowfall was recorded, resulting in the closure of Srinagar Jammu high-

Meanwhile in North district of Kupwara, Sadhna Top in Karnah Tehsil recorded about three feet of one and half feet of fresh snowfall, while as low lying areas in the region received 10 inches. Due to the unprecedented snowfall in the region, Karnah and Tangdhar area remained cut off from the district head quarter Kupwara, since the road remained closed for a third consecutive day on

Upper reaches of valley including Gulmarg and whole Peerpanchal region witnessed medium to heavy snowfall during the period, while authorities did not withdraw avalanche warning issued on Monday, given to the heavy snowfall in these

In Budgam district all the link roads remained blocked with snow till Wenesday evening, as there was no effort visible from the administration towards removing of snow from these link roads. In Tangmarg area several houses are reported to have suffered damage to the heavy snowfall. In Sokhnag area of Khansahab and on Srinagar Bugam road via Aarath small JCBs were used in failed attempt to clear the snow from roads.

In Kangan area of Ganderbal district people said that no snow clearance operation was conducted by the administration, resulting in difficulty to vehicular movement on Kangan Sonmarg highway. Officials from beacon said that their men and machinery is occupied with snow clearance in the upper reaches, where situation is more critical, while the officials from Roads and Buildings (R&B) department said that they have only one JCB and they are doing whatever they can with that one JCB. (With inputs from CNS)

5000 Vehicles Stranded

on the highway remained closed for the third day today", a police officer said.

On Monday, heavy rains triggered shooting of stones in Moumpassi, Digdole and Panthiyal areas, forcing suspension of the traffic, the official

Snowfall in Kashmir side of the highway, including Jawahar Tunnel, since Sunday has resulted in blockade of the highway.

"No fresh traffic was allowed from Nagrota in Jammu for Kashmir", he said.

As a result of blockade of the highway, over 5000 vehicles remained stranded at various places en route from Lakhanpur in Kathua district to Banihal belt of Ramban district and also on the

Air Traffic Again Suspended

Despite prediction for almost dry weather today, fresh snowfall was recorded in Srinagar and its adjoining areas since early this morning.
"No flight has so far landed or taken off at Sri-

nagar airport today," an official of airport told UNI. He said air traffic will resume only after snow stops and there is improvement in the visibility. Last month air traffic at Srinagar airport was suspended due to fog and poor visibility for about 12

Ku Postpone All Examinations

snowfall early this morning, all university examinations which were scheduled to be held today have been postponed.

He said fresh dates for these examinations will be announced later.

The Cluster University (CU) had on Monday postponed all examinations due to heavy snowfall in the valley.

However, educational institutions in Kashmir valley are closed in view of winter vacation.

Students who could not submit their forms for appearing in entrance examination for B.Ed course due to snowfall, have appealed to KU to extend the date for submitting the forms.

Meanwhile, Service Recruitment Board (SRB) has postponed interviews for the post of drivers which were to be held on January 16 and 17 due to bad weather and forest for another spell of snowfall from tomorrow. These interviews will be held in the first week of February.

However, thousands of students, including girls, were not so lucky they were seen covering snow bound distance from their houses to tuition and coaching centres in Srinagar and other parts of the valley since early this morning.

Advisor Bhatnagar Gets Sweeping

appropriate measures for effective policing at the police station level which includes "reshuffling of SHO and other cutting-edge levels in consultation" with Kumar.

All these things were earlier handled by Director General of JK Police who heads the 80,000-strong force. The practice was that the police chief could transfer anyone below the rank of Superintendent of Police, while postings of SPs and above ranks were done by cabinet or the state advisory board in consultations with him by keeping in mind requirements for anti-militancy operations.

Among other duties assigned to Bhatnagar would be enhancing synergy amongst the security forces for operational effectiveness, coordinating effort to counter crisis, border propaganda and interventions for awareness and information dissemination.

He will monitor and coordinate the Terror Monitoring Group (TMG) for results in a time-bound manner and address various aspects pertaining to intelligence activities, the order said

He has to coordinate with Kumar for follow up

He would also be assessing the border grid to prevent infiltration in coordination with the special advisor, the order said.

"To further rule of law, oversee measures to improve criminal investigation, forensic and prosecution" is also part of his charter of duties.

He is also supposed to enhance faith in the criminal justice system and devise a mechanism for timely disposal of public grievances and crime

He will ensure clean and responsive administration with weeding out of corrupt elements besides review performance of police on narcotics control and suggest measures for better controls

He will also monitor particular cases of offences against women and under POSCO to ensure timely disposal as per law, the order said.

Situation Normal; All Communication

snapped in August last year following abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two Union Territories, he said "this is the beginning and we are reviewing the situation continuously.

"We are hopeful of restoring the normal communication channels in the coming days. We will see how it is going to be utilized and accordingly relax everything," Murmu said.

About reports claiming involvement of arrested Deputy Superintendent of police Davinder Singh in Pulwama militant attack on a CRPF convoy last year, the LG said "It is a matter of investigation and if he is involved it will come out. I will not make any further comment on that.

Earlier, addressing the gathering, Murmu said "We have assessed the situation and we have tried to relax many things (over the past six months).

"Now we are freeing the internet also, particularly broadband. We started from January 1 and we would like to see that everything goes normal...I know the children are also affected and they require such kind of facilities for their academic purpose and to see the development all

He said Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing rapid development in all spheres over the past one-anda-half year, contrary to the earlier when hardly any money was spent and the vital projects were left languishing.

"We are moving rapidly with the cooperation and participation of the citizens. The Jammu and Kashmir is marching ahead. The administration is taking necessary action for overall development and is focusing on industries and channelizing the energy of youth in nation building," the Lt Gov-"We will not leave any stone unturned for the

development of I&K," he said adding "we would like to encourage the people's participation from the grass-root level for overall development of village, localities and regions.'

He requested all concerned to pay attention to the development and development only. "That is what we have been lacking behind for a long time. Now this is the time to do more with vigour and enthusiasm." he stressed.

Abrogation Of Art 370 A Historic Step:

the Centre abrogated provisions of Article 370 that gave special powers to Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated the state into two union territories.

The Army chief said, "Abrogation of Article 370 is a historic step. It will prove to be important in integrating Jammu and Kashmir in the national mainstream. This decision has disrupted the plans of our western neighbour and its proxies".

Gen Naravane said the country had to face some security challenges last year.

"Not only it countered proxy war but other situations. Whether it is LoC (Line of Control) or LAC (Line of Actual Control), we have ensured security with activeness and strength," he said, adding the situation at northern borders (China border) is relatively peaceful.

The Army chief said the situation along the LoC is linked with situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Today, we remember those who have made ultimate sacrifice for the country. It will keep inspiring the coming generations," he said.

Mentioning his visit to Siachen last week, he said he was extremely happy to see all the ranks brimming with confidence at the post.

"In last few days, some of our soldiers achieved martyrdom due to avalanche. We will always remember their sacrifice," he noted.

Associate Of Hizb Militants Nabbed:

arrested person has been identified as Jahangir Ahmad Parray of Gulsahanpora in Tral area of the

"As per police records, he has been assisting the active militants of proscribed outfit Hizbul Mujahideen operating in the areas of Gulsahanpora, Seer, Pasoona, Wagad, Larow, Lurgam, Mongahama and other areas of Tral," the spokesman said. Parray was involved in providing logistic sup-

port and assistance to militants operating in the

areas of Tral, he added. **CBI Starts Probe Into Patnitop**

carry out the enquiry, he added.

The officers were presently camping at Patnitop, Udhampur and Jammu in connection with the enquiry, the CBI official said.

In its order, a division bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Rajesh Bindal had directed the central probe agency to look into all aspects of the matter, including issuance of licenses and permissions granted within the jurisdiction of the Patnitop Development Authority, and submit a report within eight weeks.

The bench was hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition filed by Harcharan Singh, owner of Krystal Hotel and Restaurant at Patnitop, seeking demolition of the illegal or unauthorised buildings raised in the green buffer areas of the hill resort. In the PIL, the details of 59 hotels and resorts, which had allegedly encroached on agricultural and forest land, were given, an official

The CBI had had so far collected documents of 50 of those hotels and resorts from various government officers, he added.

The bench had directed the CBI to examine the aspect of encroachment of forest land and other public land, illegal change of use and misuse of land in violation of the permitted user, raising of illegal constructions, failure of the authorities to take action, and fix the responsibility of the persons who were at the helm of affairs.

"We, therefore, direct that this order be placed before the Director, CBI, who shall appoint a senior officer not below the rank of Superintendent of Police to conduct an in-depth enquiry into the misuse of power and authority for any reason and violations of law.

"On conclusion of the enquiry, the CBI shall register case(s) in accordance with law against person(s) found culpable, proceed with the investigation as well as prosecution," the order had

Kashmir Police Organise Debate

the laws and see to it that they are never violated.

Participants including officers from all districts of Kashmir participated in this event. Speakers at the event expressed their thoughts about human rights and concomitant role of police in address-

Later at the concluding ceremony, prizes were distributed among the participants.

LG Inaugurates Maulana Azad

other sports like football, Hockey, Volleyball, and Athletics etc required attention and various projects were going on to develop facilities for the sports earlier played in the said stadium, he

Terming this as an historic occasion, the LG said that the need for an International Standard cricket

stadium was fulfilled today for further grooming the talent of our youth and expose them to international requirements.

He observed that the people of J&K have immense love for sports and the present Government is making headways in developing sports in the UT with various sports development projects underway and many more being in the pipeline. He said that several Outdoor and Indoor sports are being played in, around M.A. Stadium and this facility has become a sporting hub for the youth, and sports loving people of Jammu with all modern sports equipment available there.

Government is resolute to develop sports and allied infrastructure and promotion of sports at grass root level and for this, land is being identified at Panchayat level, Murmu said.

The LG observed that sports is vital for the holistic development of youth, fostering their physical, social, and emotional health and imbibing qualities like leadership, teamwork, fair play and discipline which one needs to achieve higher goals. It is an encouraging sign for J&K that our youth have brought laurels to the UT at various national and international events, he added.

The LG emphasized on the high importance of cooperation and participation of the people to lead the Union Territory of J&K marching ahead rapidly on the path of the development.

The Government is committed to fulfilling the developmental aspirations of the people and Youth in particular to channelize the young energies in Nation Building, he added.

Murmu expressed hope that the youth, sports persons and sports lovers gathered on this historic occasion would carry forward the spirit of universal harmony and brotherhood, and that the facility would contribute immensely to the physical and social well being of the younger generation.

Meanwhile, the LG also spoke on the prevailing situation in the UT and while addressing the media persons, he informed that the Government is taking a regular assessment of the current situation and the internet restrictions would be lifted in a phased manner after assessing the situation

on regular basis. While speaking on the occasion, Farooq Khan, Advisor to the LG said that the new international level stadium would give a great push to the development of sports in J&K. He said that the Government is making dedicated efforts to create new sports facilities at various levels and hoped that with the coming of facilities of international standards, the sports in J&K would emerge as a power house in the national and international arena.

UNSC To Discuss Kashmir

the rising tension between the South Asia's two nuclear powers India and Pakistan over the Kashmir issue. It was in December 1971 when the UN held its first meaningful meeting over the Kashmir issue.

Now China has made a fresh pitch to raise the Kashmir issue in a closed door meeting at UNSC on Wednesday. However, PTI quoting French diplomatic sources that, France has noted that request of a UNSC member to raise the Kashmir issue once again in the powerful body and it is going to oppose it like it did on the previous occasion.

Another meeting of UN five permanent members was called on China's request in December 2019 but was postponed after France opposed the proposal. Any of the 5 permanent members China, Russia, Britain, France and US moved down the UNSC meeting by agreeing with the proposal.

China had made a request to deliberate on the Kashmir issue on the agenda of 'Any other business point', the report said. China which claims that Ladakh region has opposed the re-organisation of Jammy and Kashmir into two union territories after New Delhi last year abrogated the special status of the erstwhile state; India maintains that change in the Jammu and Kashmir is an internal matter that don't affect the external boundaries. Last year French president discussed the Kashmir issue with Prime Minister Modi and said Paris continues to track development closely.

Selected Hajj Aspirants

through online mode on official website of Haj Committee of India i.e., www.hajcommiittee.gov. in or manually into the Hai Committee of India accounts with State Bank of India or Union Bank of India.

For such payments, the pay-in-slip is available in the office of J&K Haj Committee, Bemina, Srinagar or can be downloaded from the official website.

"In respect of Jammu and Ladakh Divisions, the Provisionally Selected Pilgrims can deposit the requisite documents / Original Passports in the offices of respective Deputy Commissioners by or before 15th February, 2020," the committee said.

"After depositing the advance amount, the provisionally selected pilgrims shall submit a copy of pay-in-slips/Hard copy of online Payment Receipt, Original International Passport with one Photograph of white background, Medical Screening & Fitness Certificates as per format available in the office of J&K Haj Committee, Bemina, Srinagar during office hours. The format can also be downloaded from the website of Haj Committee of In-

The dates for last and final instalment will be notified separately.

572 Posts Created For 52 Degree Colleges

students particularly living in difficult, rural and un-served pockets, Government during the year 2019 approved opening up of 52 Colleges across Iammu and Kashmir.

The work for construction of 33 colleges has been allotted to R&B Department and the remain-

The creation of these posts will help to make the colleges fully functional.

Water Conservation Works Reviewed

provide photographic evidence of the works under 14th FC, IWMP and other works to the DC office," he added.

The DDC asked the officers to adopt appropriate technology and methodology for the water conservation and asked for prioritising upper areas of Pahalgam, Kokernag and Verinag.