Kashmir Observer Saturday | 08-02-2020 <u>News</u> **Measures In Place To Deal With Coronavirus Threat In J-K: Official**

posed by coronavirus in Jammu sioner, Health and Medical Edu-

JAMMU:- Preemptive measures screened and were found to be suspected cases. "The suspected measures taken by the Health and hand sanitizers, while the sample asking them to keep a close watch at the Medical Colleges of Anantare in place to deal with the threat asymptomatic. Financial Commis- cases so far in Jammu and Kashmir have tested negative and have and Kashmir, a senior govern- cation Department, Atal Dulloo been advised home quarantine," ment official said on Friday, as- also advised the officers to be Dulloo said at a meeting of senior ment of isolation wards, stocking taken to avoid intermingling of (SOP). He also issued directions sent for testing as soon as they are serting that people, who have extra vigilant and follow the es- functionaries and health officials of Personal Protection Equipment, suspected cases, if any," he direct- to the officers for collection of collected to prevent any unneces-

deal with coronavirus threat. The arrived from China, have been tablished protocol in handling all here. He reviewed the preemptive N95 masks, triple-layer masks, ed the officers concerned, while samples from the suspected cases sary delay," he said.

Medical Education Department to of suspected cases would be sent on the patients with matching nag, Baramulla, Doda, Rajouri and outside the Union Territory for symptoms and strictly follow the measures taken include establish- testing. "Proper care needs to be standard operating procedure facilities. "The samples should be

Kathua, besides other established

From Front page...

'On What Basis': **Oppn Hits Out Against**

attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for criticising Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti in Parliament on Thursday and added, "You cannot govern Kashmir like this.'

"Prime Minister spoke against Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti in Parliament yesterday and they were charged with Public Safety Act (PSA) at night. Physically Kashmir is with us but not emotionally,' Newsgathering agency ANI quoted him as saying.

On Thursday, Omar Abdullah and Meh-booba Mufti, both former Chief Ministers of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state were booked under the controversial law that allows detention of any individual for up to two years without a trial or charge.

Omar's father Farooq Abdullah became the first Chief Minister of the state to be booked under the PSA on September 17, Abdullah, 81, was charged with disturbing public order.

Ironically, PSA was introduced by Omar's grandfather and the then Chief Minister Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah in 1978 to book timber smugglers but later on it was rampantly used against political opponents and activists seeking Kashmir settlement. Amnesty International has termed it a "lawless law".

Meanwhile, the National Conference and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) also hit out at the government over the decision.

"The measure debunks the claim of the BJP-led central government on restoration of normalcy in J and K. The present situation in J and K is far from normal." NC leaders Muhammad Akbar lone, Hasnain Masoodi and Imran Nabi Dar said in a joint statement.

The invocation of the PSA on NC leaders and others is yet another atrocious move of blatant illustration of the Centre's highhandedness, it said.

Reacting to the development, A PDP spokesperson described the slapping of the PSA on the leaders as "most condemnable" and said the Union government is "testing the patience of the people of Jammu and Kashmir by such undemocratic steps".

"If everything is normal in Jammu and Kashmir, why the mainstream leaders are treated like criminals?" he asked.

'The BJP is misleading the country about Jammu and Kashmir," the spokesperson added.

Jammu and Kashmir unit of the CPI(M) also condemned the slapping of the PSA on the prominent Kashmiri leaders.

Senior CPI(M) leader and former legislator M Y Tarigami said the decision puts a question mark on the Centre's claim that the situation is normal in J and K post the abrogation of special status and bifurcation of the erstwhile state into UTs on August 5 last year.

"On one hand, the BIP within and outside

J and K. The only reason why the NC leaders are under arrest is because they do not agree with Narendra Modi and Amit Shah," the party added.

Referring to the detention of NC president Farooq Abdullah under the PSA for past six months, the leaders said former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee during the Agra Summit had referred to the ex-CM as the "third party" to the issue of J and K.

"He undoubtedly qualified the claim owing to his representative character. But now the same person is under detention for the past six months. The same person who held high the torch of democracy in a state torn by conflict, at the risk to his life. But today we see how he along with his party colleagues is being treated. All the democratic voices of J and K have been thrown under the bus purely for their conscience," the statement said.

Farooq Abdullah was booked under the PSA in September last year which was reviewed again in December for a period of three months.

Abolition Of J&K **Civil Services**

away with the five year age relaxation are capricious and have come as a shocker for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, especially its aspirants for civil services careers, Bukhari said here.

The former finance minister said the decisions are confusing and do not make sense as the Centre had assured that there will be no fiddling with the cadre when statehood was revoked in August last year.

These decisions seem to have been taken without proper application of mind. Not only the sanctity of caderisation of civil services has been put to a question mark but the decision to abolish the J&K cadre will be a strong factor for demotivation of J&K youth who aspire to join the prestigious civil services in the country, he added.

Bukhari said the five year age relaxation was granted by the Central government to J&K civil service aspirants because of the region's topography, inclement climatic conditions and the hostile security scenario in Kashmir valley.

The merger of the cadre into the AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh Goa and Mizoram Union Territories) cadre is a provision contained in the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019

After 'Threat To Life' Plea Dsp

Singh was on Friday sent to the Heeranagar jail while the other four, including Hizbual Mujahideen commander Naveed Babu have been put up in the Kotbalwal jail in Iammu.

According to sources, the NIA is carrying out investigations after raids at multiple locations, including Singh's residences in Kashmir.

was shifted to a jail in Agra where his health condition deteriorated. He was shifted to Delhi's Tihar Jail last week.

60 Police Officers Reshuffled In J-K

Jammu, against an available vacancy.

SSP Shridhar Patil will be the new district chief of Jammu, replacing Tejinder Singh who was transferred and posted as AIG (Training and policy) police headquarters vice Sameer Rekhi.

Imtiaz Ismail Parray, awaiting orders of posting, was posted as SSP Crime, Kashmir vice Javid Ahmad Koul who was transferred and posted as SSP, Traffic city, Srinagar, the order said.

Rayees Mohammad Bhat, AIG, Tech, police headquarters, is transferred and posted as AIG (P&T), police headquarters vice Mubassir Latifi Ameer. He shall, however, continue to hold the charge of the post of AIG (Building), police headquarters, in addition to his own duties, till further orders.

Ajeet Singh, SSP zonal police headquarters Kashmir, was transferred and posted as SSP, CID cell, New Delhi, against an available post, the order said.

Swarn Singh Kotwal was posted as SSP security Jammu vice Ashok Kumar Sharma.

The district police chiefs of Shopian, Anantnag and Pulwama in South Kashmir and Rajouri, Ramban and Kathua in the Jammu region were replaced, while Handwara town in north Kashmir's Kupwara district will also get a new face after the transfer of the incumbent officer, the order said.

Fresh Snow Spell From Next Week:

would dip due to open skies.

Meanwhile, there was considerable improvement in the weather condition during the day as bright sunshine greeted people in the afternoon though ice cold winds continued in Kashmir valley.

Barring world famous ski resort of Gulmarg and health resort of Pahalgam, the night temperature improved across the vallev and settled above normal.

There was no respite from chilly weather conditions in Ladakh, where all water-bodies -- including lakes and streams -- remained frozen due to several degrees' below freezing point temperature. The people in the newly created Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh are mostly dependent on hot water springs during winter. The border town of Drass was the coldest place in the region at minus 26.4 degree, followed by Kargil, where the mercury settled at minus 19.4 degree.

After witnessing some improvement in the night temperature, people woke up to a chilly Friday morning in the summer capital, Srinagar. However, as the day progressed clouds resun came out from behind the sulting in major improvement in the day temperature though ice cold winds continued. Against minus 3.2 degree recorded on Thursday, the mercury in Srinagar improved and settled at minus 2.7 degree, which is considered normal during this time of the year. The spokesperson said the maximum temperature in the city was normal at 9.3 degree on Thursday while the mercury will remain around the same mark on Friday due to sunshine. The night temperature at Pahalgam, which received fresh snowfall during the last 24 hours, dipped about 3 degree from Thursday and settled at minus 10.5 degree. Gulmarg, about 55 km from here in north Kashmir, also witnessed a dipped in the night temperature, which settled at minus 10.2 degree, against minus 9 degree recorded on Thursday. The mercury during the night at Qazigund. Kupwara in north Kashmir and tourist resort of Kokernag improved and settled at minus 2.2 degree, minus 4 degree and minus 2.1 degree, respectively.

complaint with the police.

"Maslook, the kingpin of the gang threatened me and my friends to withdraw the case. We want police to arrest them immediately," he added.

Rafig said that Khan earned a meagre amount of Rs 400 after every event which he used to send across to his family to make both the ends meet.

"Now his family paid Rs 30,000 to get his body to Kashmir. He had taken this parttime job to support his family. His family must be shattered with his death. Their lone bread earner is no more," he said.

Meanwhile, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kupwara Ambarkar Shriram Dinakar was quoted by a news agency as saying that the murder of the boy was because of the rivalry between two catering agencies.

"The victim had recently left his catering agency in Jaipur and joined a new one," Dinakar said.

Police have arrested Aditya, a resident of Delhi on murder charges and Khan's body has been handed over to his family members after conducting a post mortem on Friday, Jaipur Police Commissioner Anand Shrivastav said.

He said Aditya had asked Khan not to tap the glass of a car following which a fight broke out between the two.

He said a complaint was lodged by Sufiyan, Khan's another friend and a resident of Kashmir, on Thursday in Harmada police station.

The complaint mentioned that a scuffle was reported on February 4 during a wedding ceremony between Khan and Aditya, both engaged in catering work.

Aditya had allegedly punched Khan in the head following which he started vomiting and was admitted to SMS Hospital.

Meanwhile, the news of Khan's death spread like wildfire in his native village on Friday morning. Amidst a spontaneous shutdown, scores of people, including woman and children hit the streets and staged demonstrations against what they called a 'cold-blooded murder'.

The family and friends of the slain teen assembled outside SP office demanding intervention of local police and help to bring the body from Jaipur.

LG Chairs Review Meet On Dal Conservation

measures for conservation, beautification and rehabilitation. He called for comprehensive proposal for safeguarding livelihood of Dal dwellers and their active involvement in conservation process.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to Lieutenant Governor, Farooq Khan; Chief Secretary, BVR Subrahmanyam; Principal Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Dheeraj Gupta; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Baseer Ahmed Khan; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Dr Shahid Jubal Choudhary: Vice Chairman LAWDA, Tufail Matto; CE PWD Sami Arif and other officers. The LG directed the authorities for protection of boundaries of lake, completion of Sewerage Treatment Plant works by August 2020, enhancing efforts for deweeding. beautification of available land patches, resurfacing of road on periphery of lake, improving street lighting network, providing Smart Cards to Dal Dwellers, finalization of rehabilitation plan based on the survey conducted and scientific measures for conservation of lake. He also directed for periodic reviews of progress achieved and planning required interventions accordingly. While reviewing the proposal for western foreshore road, Murmu directed the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar for initiating the process for acquisition of land for road corridor and Chief Engineer PWD for simultaneous process for finalization of DPR and initiating the tendering process with aim for completion of road within stipulated time. He further directed for measures aimed at aesthetic improvement of area, green spaces, walkways, heritage markets and other amenities on the banks of lake involving local residents. A presentation on rehabilitation plan was also made, on which the Lt Governor directed for providing best amenities including schools, medical facilities, community halls, drainage, roads and other requirements. The VC LAWDA was directed for ensuring completion of Dol-dem project latest by November 2020. He also directed for planning STPs for cluster of houseboats as a part of the project. Advisor to LG, Farooq Khan discussed about a host of measures being taken and made suggestions on the improvement of cleaning process in lake. Chief Secretary, BVR Subrahmanyam asked the Housing and Urban Development Department for sustained efforts for strengthening administrative, infrastructural and legislative framework of the lakes development authority for efficient delivery of plans finalized.

her. Iltija said the dilemma of dispatching a reply arose after she got the note from her mother. She said her grandmother found an ingenious solution.

"The letter I wrote was folded into a tiny square and carefully sealed, rolled and locked inside the middle of a chappati" she said.

Iltija said she doesn't regret a word of what she said or did in these past six months. "But certainly owe a debt of gratitude to people who gave me strength and guidance during this turbulent period. As a child, I have memories of my mother going from pillar to post to free boys wrongfully detained by security forces. Today I fight for her freedom... life has come a full circle. We live to fight another day."

Iltija Mufti has been very critical of the government after the arrest of her mother. She has given many interviews questioning New Delhi's decisions about revocation of Article 370.

Hc Dismisses Pil **Seeking Stay**

union territory of Jammu and Kashmir that the release of the movie will not cause any law and order problem.

The petition was filed in the court earlier this week, seeking a stay on the release of Hindi movie 'Shikara'.

The petition, filed by three social activists, had sought a stay on the release of the movie on the grounds that besides not being based on facts it was communal in nature.

It also sought a review and editing of the objectionable scenes and narrations of the movie which, the petitioners claim, blames the entire Kashmiri population for the migration of the Kashmiri Pandits from the valley in 1990.

The petitioners had claimed that the trailers of the movie that are being shown on television indicate that the movie has the potential of communal polarisation.

....The above said narration and depiction of events is not only concocted and far away from truth but is also communal in nature, the plea said.

Majid Hyderi, one of the three petitioners said that they have not decided yet whether to appeal the high court decision.

2G Mobile Data Service Extended Till Feb 15

on mobile data services with regard to its impact on the overall security situation and after due consideration of reports of law enforcement agencies, which have, among other things, brought out the usage of the internet for carrying out militant activities at various places as well as use of Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) for this purpose despite measures taken by the telecom service providers (TSP)

Parliament is claiming that the situation in Jammu and Kashmir is normal, on the other it is resorting to the use of draconian laws against prominent leaders.

"What is the meaning of slapping the PSA on the leaders after six months? They (government) are claiming that the situation is normal and improving and are releasing the detained political leaders," he said.

Will Go To Speaker **Over PM's**

of J and K as anti-nationals, on the other hand we have the PM saying that they have been fanning terrorism. Who is to be believed then?" NC leaders Muhammad Akbar lone. Hasnain Masoodi and Imran Nabi Dar said in a joint statement today.

The NC said the allegations against Omar Abdullah were baseless.

"On the contrary it is the NC that has been at the receiving end, and here we have the PSA invoked on a person who has all along been advocating peace and non-violence. The incumbent central government has chosen to belittle his contribution. We condemn the measure in strongest terms," the party statement said.

"Omar Abdullah made no such statement. Every statement of Omar Abdullah is in the public domain," National Conference spokesperson Imran Dar told New Delhi based NDTV.

His party colleague Hasnain Masoodi told the news channel that if record is not corrected, this will be recorded as parliament proceedings.

"We will urge the Speaker to request the Prime Minister to clarify on source of information. And, if found to be incorrect, the remarks must be removed from proceedings," Masoodi said.

The NC said the world community is worked up to see how the BJP-led central government is treating the former CMs of J and K.

The same representatives, New Delhi once maintained, were the genuine and real representative voices of J and K, it said.

"For past many decades New Delhi has been flaunting political and diplomatic messages about the Kashmiris making their choices by using ballot boxes. However, the same party, and the same leaders on which people had reposed their faith are now been targeted, revealing all-encompassing crackdown of the BJP-led central government in

Sources indicate that questioning of Singh will be done in Jammu and there was no plan to shift him to Delhi for now.

They also said that Singh's phone is being examined for extracting deleted WhatsApp chat.

On January 11, police arrested Davinder Singh from the Jammu-Srinagar national highway while he was transporting militants Naveed, Rafi and Irfan to Jammu.

After initial investigations by the Jammu and Kashmir Police, the case was handed to the National Investigation Agency.

Police sources had said that the two militants and lawyer Irfan had planned a travel to Pakistan.

Singh was earlier shifted from Srinagar to Jammu on a transit remand where an NIA team questioned him. After his arrest by the police, multiple raids were conducted at his residences in Srinagar.

Singh was posted with the anti-hijacking wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police in Srinagar, and was part of the security staff that had received a group of foreign diplomats who visited Kashmir last month.

HC dismisses plea challenging

preventive detention is not punitive but preventive and is resorted to with a view to prevent a person from committing activities prejudicial to certain objects that the law of preventive detention seeks to prescribe.

The court said the subjective satisfaction of a detaining authority to detain a person or not is not open to objective assessment by a court.

"A court is not a proper forum to scrutinise the merits of administrative decision to detain a person. The court cannot substitute its own satisfaction for that of the authority concerned and decide whether its satisfaction was reasonable or proper, or whether in the circumstances of the matter, the person concerned should have been detained or not. It is often said and held that the courts do not even go into the question whether the facts mentioned in grounds of detention are correct or false," the judge observed.

Qayoom was detained in August 5 last year after the Centre announced abrogation of Article 370.

The Kashmir Bar Association president

Kashmiri Boy Beaten to Death

in the city. He belonged to a poor family and was the lone bread winner of the family, including three sisters. His father had died a year ago.

Narrating the sequence of events, Rafiq said that on the night of February 5, a group of boys from the other catering team thrashed Khan when he was while returning from work in a van.

"Khan wanted to sit in the car as he was tired. This enraged a boy from Mumbai and he held on to Basit's collar. His friends also stepped in and started beating Khan. One of the boys, Aditya, was repeatedly hitting Khan on the head," Rafiq said.

Rafig said that when Khan reached his flat, he complained of severe headache and vomited after which he was taken to hospi-

"At the hospital, he went into coma. He also underwent a surgery on his head but his condition remained serious," Rafig said, adding "The doctors said his chances of survival were meagre. That's what happened. He died a day later,"

Rafiq said that the youth who beat his friend to death, were also threatening him with the same fate if he didn't withdraw the

'Sent Letters Inside Chapatti': Iltija Mufti

social media to communicate. In case someone else does it, he'll be booked on charges of impersonation. Love you and miss you a lot." Mehbooba Mufti wrote to

The order referred to the recent encounter at Ban Toll Plaza in the Nagrota area of Jammu; grenade attack in Pratap Park, Srinagar and a gunfight near Shalteng on Srinagar-Baramulla National Highway.

...The directions or restrictions contained in dated January 31 shall continue to remain operative till February 15, unless modified earlier," Kabra said in the order.

The 2G internet facility on mobile phones was restored for a week in Jammu and Kashmir on January 25 after remaining suspended since August 5 last year when the Centre announced nullification of Article 370 of the Constitution applicable to the erstwhile state and also bifurcated it into union territories -- Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir.

It was reviewed on January 31 and was extended for another week, which was ending on Friday.

Bhatnagar Chairs Security Review Meet

Baramulla district enunciating the security measures initiated for ensuring peace and stability in the district.

He also briefed Advisor Bhatnagar about the various other security initiatives that have been taken up in order to strengthen the security grid in the district.

SSP Baramulla Abdul Qayoom briefed Bhatnagar about various drives launched by Police to tackle anti social elements in the district.

Advisor Bhatnagar reiterated the crucial importance of maintaining a close watch on the inimical elements. He stressed the need to maintain real-time coordination between the different Security Force agencies. He appreciated Jammu and Kashmir Police and other forces in maintaining peace and stability in the district.

Later, Advisor Bhatnagar held a separate meeting with District Officers of line departments of District Baramulla and reviewed the progress of several developmental projects.

3 Injured In Gas Cylinder Blast

undergoing treatment at the hospital, sources added. Sofi's house also suffered damage due to the gas cylinder blast.