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Night curfew lifted across UT Physical classes in J&K schools, colleges, universities from today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir State Executive Committee (SEC) on Sunday announced the lifting of the night curfew after almost six months and opening of educational institutions in a phased manner beginning Monday amid a decline in COVID-19 cases.

The SEC also attendance at indoor gatherings to 50 per cent of the authorized capacity against the previous 25 per cent, while cinema halls, theatres, restaurants, clubs, gymnasiums and swimming pools were permitted to function at 25 per cent of the authorized capacity with due precautions.

Announcing the guidelines on Sunday after a fresh review of the COVID-19 situation, the SEC, which met under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary

A K Mehta, said all universities, colleges, polytechnics and ITIs shall commence routine offline classes teaching from February 14.

All the students between 15-17 age group coming to attend regular offline classes must carry a vaccination certificate with them. The heads of the institutions must ensure that guidelines related to social distancing and Covid-appropriate Behaviour are strictly followed, including regular screening at the entrance to the institution.

They shall also screen any symptomatic student and ensure their testing to contain any possibility of spread of the virus in their institutions, Mehta said in a five-page order issued here.

The order said all Summer Zone Schools in Jammu and Kashmir will open in a phased manner.

Classes from 9th to 12th can commence routine offline teaching from February 14. All the students of 15-17 age group coming to attend regular offline classes must carry a vaccination certificate with them, the order stated.

It said the head of the Institutions must ensure vaccination of every student above 15 years of age in their respective Institutions.

The SEC said the offline mode of teaching for remaining junior classes in Summer Zone schools shall begin from February 21, a step which will allow students to attend their schools after a gap of over two years.

In Winter Zone schools, the offline teaching for all classes will commence after February 28. These schools in Kashmir and parts of Jammu region are currently

closed owing to the winter vacation.

The schools in snow-bound areas of Kashmir and parts of Jammu fall in the category of Winter Zone, while rest of the areas in Jammu province are covered under the Summer Zone.

Coaching centres for civil services/engineering/NEET are permitted to adopt offline mode of teaching subject to condition that both faculty members as well as students are fully vaccinated and the head of the centre ensures due precautions such as CAB and adherence to SOP, the order stated.

The order made no mention of the night curfew, which was in force across Jammu and Kashmir over the past six months, indicating that it had been lifted, days after the administration ended the weekend restrictions.

Seven Forest Officers transferred

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The government on Sunday transferred seven Forest Officers.

According to the order issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department, S. Senthil Kumar, IFS presently posted as Chief Conservator of Forests/Nodal Officer (Forest Conservation Act) will hold additional charge of the post of Conservator of Forests, Vigilance, Forest Department, J&K; Dr. B. Balaji, IFS presently posted as Chief Conservator of Forests, in the office of PCCF J&K has been posted as Chief Conservator

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After losing SSG cover, no jammer, ambulance for ex J&K CMs in Srinagar

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI: The security cover of four former Jammu and Kashmir chief ministers has been scaled down further with the Union Territory administration's decision to stop deployment of jammers and ambulances during their movement within Srinagar district, according to officials.

On Saturday, veteran politician and Lok Sabha member Farooq Abdullah, was seen offering prayers at the famous Hazratbal shrine and Dasgeer Saab in downtown Srinagar but there was neither an ambulance nor jammers, which, among

other things, also blocks signals in cases where terrorists have planted an improvised explosive device that can be triggered by remote control.

The ambulance is provided to attend to medical emergencies during travel.

However, the officials, said during inter-district movement of former chief ministers Farooq Abdullah, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti jammers and ambulances will continue to be deployed.

This comes in the wake of the recent decision to downsize the Special Security Group (SSG), which had

been created under a law enacted by the assembly of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir for protection of chief ministers and former chief ministers.

Subsequently, the SSG cover for the four former chief ministers was withdrawn and their protection entrusted to the security wing of the Jammu and Kashmir Police, which will be backed by central armed paramilitary forces.

Queries to the Jammu and Kashmir Police on the subject elicited no formal response. The move comes at a time when Srinagar

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J&K reports 440 new COVID cases, Ladakh 61

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday recorded 440 new Covid cases-- 276 from Jammu division and

COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged from various hospitals including 582 from Jammu Division and 646 from Kashmir Division.



According to the daily Media Bulletin, out of 450771 positive cases, 5466 are Active Positive (2287 in Jammu Division and 3179 in Kashmir Division), 440560 have recovered and 4745 have died; 2323 in Jammu division and 2422 in Kashmir division.

The Bulletin further said that out of 22352006 test results available, 450771 samples have tested positive and 21901235 samples have been tested as negative till date. Besides,

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Radical elements trying to divide people: Farooq on Hijab

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Asserting that some radical elements were trying to divide the people of the country on communal lines amid the hijab controversy, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Sunday said everyone has the right to wear whatever they want and is free to practice his or her religious beliefs.

He also targeted the delimitation commission and said it is totally wrong.

The country is equal for all. You have a right to eat anything, to wear anything till



you do not put the integrity of the nation in danger. Everyone has his own religion, Abdullah, who is also a Member of Parliament, told reporters in Pulwama in south

Kashmir. He said the attacks on religion are being done by some

radical elements.

These radical elements are trying to divide the people of the country on communal lines so as to win polls. God willing, it will end one day, the NC leader said.

To a query about the delimitation commission, Abdullah said it is totally wrong.

We are preparing our response and will submit that to them (panel) before (Feb) 14. It will come before you as well and you will see what issues we have raised, he said. The Delimitation Commission, mandated

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Person not named in FIR cannot seek quashing of proceedings against other accused: SC

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has said that a person who has not been named as an accused in an FIR cannot seek quashing of proceedings concerning another person in a criminal case.

A bench of Justices AM Khanwilkar and CT Ravikumar made the remarks while hearing a plea seeking quashing of an FIR in the UPPCL

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