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### J&K reports record...

petition admitted by it last year regarding the coronavirus pandemic.

The division bench, comprising Chief Justice Pankaj Mithal and Justice Sanjay Dhar, said: "The court is conscious of the fact that government is taking due steps for controlling the pandemic and to provide full medical support."

"The shortage of oxygen and medicines, including remdesivir, or of doctors or staff is not born out from any material on record," the court said.

It asked the health secretary of the Union territory to come out on affidavit within two weeks giving a detailed report.

The health secretary was asked to submit complete details of the number of COVID hospitals, both government and private, number of beds available, district wise/city wise, quantity of remdesivir allotted to the Union territory, the exact quantity of remdesivir received and used with the corresponding figures of the requirement.

Three oxygen generation plants of 3,166 litres per minute (LPM) and six oxygen plants of 6,590 LPM are functional in Jammu and Kashmir regions respectively. Four plants of 4,000 LPM and 17 plants of 30,000 LPM would be made functional within 15 days in the Jammu and Kashmir respectively, the affidavit said.

It said there was no shortage of beds in the hospitals as there are 1,354 and 1,708 (total 3062) COVID-dedicated beds, 1,127 and 1,597 beds with oxygen, 227 and 111 ICU beds with ventilators in Jammu and Kashmir regions respectively.

Submitting that there was no ban on use of oxygen for patients at home, the advocate general said they could have the supply of oxygen on medical prescription through nodal officers.

Welcoming the efforts of the government, the bench said: "We find that still much more is required to be done."

It directed the Health Department to appoint more nodal officers who would ensure smooth supply of oxygen to the patients at home.

The court also asked to give publicity along with the name and numbers of the nodal officers so that such patients or their relatives may approach them with proper medical prescription for the supply of oxygen.

### BSF shoots dead...

shot dead, the officials said

The body of the intruder is still lying there in the field, they said.

### Shahid, Zubair deployed...

Medical Education Department," reads an order issued by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department.

As per order, Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, IAS, Administrative Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department has been stationed at Jammu to oversee all COVID containment related work at Jammu while Zubair Ahmad, KAS, Commissioner/Secretary, Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs has been stationed at Srinagar to oversee all COVID containment related work at Kashmir.

"The aforesaid officers shall perform their normal functions, in addition to the COVID duties assigned to them, under the overall supervision of Financial Commissioner, Health and Medical Education Department, with primacy given to COVID containment related work," the order stated.

### Three Al-Badr terrorists...

misguided youth who have joined terror ranks to shun the path of violence and return to the mainstream as the society, and most importantly their parents, need them.

We will welcome and accept them with open arms, Kumar said.

The spokesman said incriminating material, including arms and ammunition, was recovered from the site of the encounter and taken into case records for further investigation to probe the complicity of the trio in other terror crimes.

The last rites of the killed terrorists shall be performed after conducting medico-legal formalities and their nearest family members shall be allowed to participate in the last rites.

In this connection police have registered a case under relevant sections of law and investigation has been initiated. People have been requested to cooperate with police till the area is completely sanitized and cleared off of all the explosive materials, if any.

### Double mutant strain...

today if there is a single case detected in a family the whole family is found to get infected with the virus and now particularly the cases of children contracting the virus too are being reported frequently. He cautioned that the double mutant strain can infect even those who have already got corona virus infection last year.

He said that with second wave going on and the number of cases increasing each passing day, we cannot predict its peak nor can we predict when shall the number of cases decrease, the only thing we know this time is that the number of cases may increase manifold in coming days which may also lead to increase in mortality rate. He said, to combat such a situation, the Government has already notified the Covid-19 related SOPs and guidelines and people need to adopt the Covid appropriate behaviour.

He said last year, people cooperated with the government vis-à-vis implementation of lockdown, adopting of Covid appropriate behaviour but this time there has been relatively less cooperation from them initially and still there are so many people who are not taking the situation seriously.

He said that the mutant strain is infecting whole families and even children are getting affected. N440K has been found in Kashmir division which spreads ten times faster.

Dr Salim said that both vaccines available in India, Covishield and Covaxin are safe and rumours about side effects like vaccine causing infertility among women are false. He said that vaccines provide protection to a large extent and people need to take both doses as per the prescribed timelines. He said that Covaxin also has good efficacy of 81% He emphasised that even after getting vaccinated, people don't have to lower the guard and should continue to take precau-

tions like wearing of masks, physical distancing and hand hygiene.

During the current scenario, the people that are reported covid positive and have mild symptoms, it has been found that many of such cases even after severity stay home and report to the hospital late for treatment and which sometimes results in death of such patients, HoD Community Medicine said.

He said in such a situation covid positive patients who are in home isolation need to check their saturation level after every 2 to 3 hours. "If they feel that their saturation level has dipped below 90 they should immediately consult a nearby health centre so that the medical staff available there can make their referral to the hospital after examination" Dr Salim said.

He added that, "this is important because in many of the Covid positive cases, patients develop no symptoms and they hardly feel a dip in saturation level and this is called happy hypoxia".

Stressing on to desist from visiting hospitals at early stage of detection of Covid, he said, since the number of cases are increasing each passing day it is not necessary that every positive patient needs to come to the hospital and only those patients need to come to the hospital whose severity has increased and their saturation level has dipped.

"The patients who have tested covid positive should avail treatment facilities by consultation through helplines publicised by the government" he said and added that they can share their health status with the doctor via phone or through video conferencing and take medication accordingly".

Meanwhile Government has set up Triage centres at National Institute of Technology Hazratbal and SKIMS-JVC Bemina for screening of covid +ve patients intending to get admitted in SKIMS Soura, SMHS or CD hospital. Covid positive cases have been advised not to report to these hospitals directly without first going to Triage facility for screening. For positive cases outside Srinagar and other districts, the concerned District hospital and new medical colleges GMC Baramulla & GMC Anantnag shall be the Triage points. The Divisional administration has also notified contact numbers of its Divisional Control Room having telephone numbers 0194-2440283, 2430581, 2452052, 2457313 and 2457312 for round the clock assistance to general public.

### Fake job racket...

FIR against Hakim Muzamil (disengaged SLTC expert) for issuing fake and frivolous office communications to senior officers, the MD JKHB's letter to CB states.

According to JKHB order number 5, dated January 14, 2012, Hakim Muzamil was engaged in SLTC in Rajiv Awas Yojana in 2015 and subsequently continued under PMAY (U) mission.

Since 2017, instead of performing duties in SLTC, he preferred to stay at Srinagar and worked unauthorisedly at Srinagar office.

On February 2020, the MD Housing Board served a show cause notice asking him to explain his position for not joining his duties in the office of MD, J&K Housing Board at Jammu.

The then MD Housing Board conducted an inquiry and found that Hakim Muzamil has grossly violated the norms of PMAY in district Srinagar. So, a detailed inquiry was recommended .

On August 27, 2020, on the basis of CID report and recommendation made by the then MD J&K Housing Board, Hakim Muzamil was disassociated from the PMAY scheme.

The order issued by MD Housing Board on January 14, 2021 stated that Hakim Muzamil (disassociated SLTC) shall deemed to be have been disengaged with effect from November 1, 2019. However, Hakim continuously kept on working and signing official letters thereby violating the service conduct rules.

On April 22, 2021, the MD Housing Board lodged an FIR against Hakim Muzamil that the officer is misusing the official seal and stamp of SLTC PMAY for issuing communications to the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, MD Housing Board and other officers.

Today, a fresh letter seeking strict action against the culprits for their involvement in fake job racket operating in the Board was issued to save the innocent and qualified job seekers.

### 9 top IPS...

of DGP, till the time it is held by Singh.

Similarly, R R Swain, the Additional Director General Police (ADGP), Criminal Investigation Department (CID) J&K, upon his promotion to the grade of DGP, is designated as special DG, CID, J&K, it said.

A K Choudhary, ADGP J&K, upon his promotion to the grade of DGP, is transferred and posted as Special DG Crime, J&K. The post of ADGP Crime, is declared to be equivalent in rank and status to that of DGP till the time it is held by the officer, it said.

S J M Gillani, ADGP Coordination, Police Headquarter, J&K, is transferred and posted as ADGP Armed, J&K, while Abdul Gani Mir, will be the new Managing Director, J&K Police Housing Corporation.

Mukesh Singh IGP Jammu, upon his promotion to the grade of ADGP, shall continue in the present position, with the post declared equivalent in the rank and status to that of ADGP till the time it is held by the officer, it said.

M K Sinha, IGP Crime, J&K, upon his promotion to the grade of ADGP, has been transferred and posted as ADGP PHQ, J&K against an available vacancy.

Danesh Rana, IGP Armed Jammu, upon his promotion to the grade of ADGP, is transferred and posted as ADGP Coordination, PHQ, J&K, order said.

### J&K Bank extends...

been operationalised on GeM enabling all departments in J&K to procure Goods and Services from the local manufacturers.

Local and MSME filters can be used together for procurements made up to Rs. 5.00 lakh from local manufacturers. For purchases above Rs. 5.00 lakh, additional terms and conditions clause can be used by the departments for restricting procurement within a geographical limit, through the process of bidding on the GeM, said the Lt Governor.

Pertinently, it was one of the important components of the economic package announced by the Lt Governor for giving boost to local entrepreneurship.

To provide further impetus to business and ensure ease of doing business, Single Window Portal has been set up and online clearances introduced. Special desks have been created to address issues of youth and women entrepreneurs in J&K Bank. An unprecedented Industrial Package was also announced, besides industry friendly policies in 14 key sectors of the economy. Not only this, about 19000 youth including women have been provided financial assistance to start their own business ventures by J&K Bank, as a follow up of the announcement made by the Lt Governor during Back to Village-3 programme.

The Lt Governor said that in coming times, the Government will continue to take further steps to boost the economy of J&K and help people to overcome the difficulties with due attention to the Business Community.

Steps taken by the Government seem to be yielding positive results. Independent reports suggest that the unemployment rate in J&K has declined significantly. Further, if GST growth is taken as indicator of state of economy, J&K witnessed a relatively healthy growth of over 2.7 % during 2020-21, a sign of resilience of economy, he added.

### Unity among politicians...

August 1994 and submitted his report on April 24, 1995, but without affecting any modification whatsoever. The State Government accepted his report in its entirety on the same day. Surprisingly, Seshan also succumbed to the pressure of New Delhi and Srinagar and dumb-founded the people of Jammu province by describing the Delimitation Commission report as "well-balanced and flawless".

Clearly, the Jammu politicians are ignoring all these hard realities and taking no cognizance of those well-known and meticulously-catalogued factors which reduced Jammu province to the status of a Kashmir's colony and people of Jammu province to the status of subjects the day J&K acceded to the Indian Dominion.

It would be only desirable and politically prudent if they sit up without losing a moment and examine if the earlier Delimitation Commissions did justice to Jammu province housing population equal to Kashmir, if not more, and having land area two-time that of Kashmir or if the Jammu-based ministers in the successive governments in the State were able or not able to protect even the basic socio-cultural and politico-economic interests and rights of the people of Jammu province.

Even a superficial examination of political history of J&K post-1947 and pre-June 2019 would be enough to conclude that Delhi, Delimitation Commissions and popularly-elected governments in the State dismissed Jammu province as irrelevant and its people as no factor in the state's political situation. They all through treated the people of Jammu province like the Imperialist UK treated the enslaved people of India.

"The people of India are perhaps not universally aware of the fact that the English were in their country as rulers. They are the ryots and the peasants, whose life was not one of political aspirations but of mute penury and toil", GN Curzon, Under Secretary of State of India said in the House of Commons in 1892 while opposing the demand in India seeking introduction of elective principle. Later on, Curzon became the Viceroy of India and one of the outrageous developments which India witnessed under him was the division of Bengal and creation of East Bengal for Muslims in 1905.

There is no difference between what London did to the people inhabiting British India between 1857 and 1947 and what New Delhi and Kashmir did to Jammu province and its people after October 1947. The Jammu politicians and the suffering people of Jammu province would commit a grave political blunder and seal their own fate if they failed to take note of the nature of the J&K polity post-1947 and the biased attitude of New Delhi towards them.

What will Jammu province gain out of the ongoing new Delimitation Commission's exercise? Nothing. Jammu Province may get about 40 seats out of 90. Will this help the people surmount the problems they faced and compensate for the huge socio-cultural and politico-economic losses they suffered during all these 73 years? Obviously not! The reasons are not far to seek.

What will be their share in the nine-member ministry, which would also include Chief Minister? The will have no representation for all practical purposes. It would be an all-Kashmir Council of Ministers. Kashmiri ruling elite may throw a crumb like they did between 1948 and June 2019 in a most brazen manner with Jammu-based ministers extending to them their unflinching and unqualified support for the sake of personal power and profit.

And what will the people of Jammu province gain if the UT of J&K elevated to the status of a full-fledged State? They will lose everything and gain nothing. The reasons are not really difficult to fathom. The conversion of UT of J&K into a full-fledged State would at once create a situation under which the people of Jammu province would suffer huge losses, humiliations, taunts and what not like it happened before June 2018. The truth is that they would lose the status of citizen and again become subjects of Kashmir and Kashmiri politicians of all hues.

Jammu politicians would do well to take a serious cognizance of the dangerous ramifications of their insistence on delimitation, election and statehood for J&K. What is needed the most is grand unity among them for the cause of their province and the suffering people it houses. Their single-point agenda, battle-ery and watchword should be and must be a dispensation that is of Jammu province, by Jammu province and for Jammu province. This is the only panacea available. Any other solution would mean another rivet in the chain of Jammu's slavery.

### Jammu Division to...

Governor said that Doctors are best trained to handle the situation and asked the senior Doctors to reach out to every patient admitted in the hospitals and effectively utilize their experience for better patient-care.

Devote yourself wholeheartedly in serving the people and providing quality medicare to Covid patients, the Lt Governor urged the Doctors.

CMOs were instructed to actively involve themselves in covid care management in their respective health institutions.

The meeting discussed the availability of Covid dedicated beds in tertiary care Covid hospitals, and District Hospitals,

status of Oxygen Generation plants that are installed in GMCs, besides increasing the number of Covid dedicated beds, and facilitating the adequate availability of oxygen supply in health institutions.

The meeting was informed that Oxygen Generation Plants at Rajouri, Reasi and Samba are already functional and additional capacity would be added to GMC Jammu that will cater to the requirement of oxygen, besides helping in enhancing the bed capacity with oxygen support.

It was further informed that Oxygen Plants at Kathua and Doda will be made functional soon.

Terming increased testing and vaccination as imperative in combating Covid-19 pandemic, the Lt Governor directed the concerned officers to ensure rigorous testing and contact tracing, besides intensifying the vaccination drive to saturate the inoculation of the targeted population with the dose of Covid vaccine.

Testing and Vaccination should be priority. Streamline the process and enable more individuals to get tested and vaccinated faster, the Lt Governor instructed DCs & CMOs.

He further directed for effective implementation of restrictions in micro-containment zones to control the spread of the deadly virus.

Emphasizing on optimal utilization of medical staff in peripheral hospitals, the Lt Governor directed the CMOs for rationalizing doctors and paramedical staff for duties in Covid care hospitals on rotation basis.

The Principals and Heads of Medical College Hospitals were directed to ensure strict compliance of Hospital referral policy, besides ensuring tracing.

The Lt Governor further directed the concerned officers to ensure availability of doctors for consultation through online mode also, in all the districts.

Laying special emphasis on continued and collaborative efforts at all levels of the administration in the fight against Covid-19, the Lt Governor asked the officers to formulate an effective rapid response mechanism so that proactive steps can be taken to deal with the emerging situation.

The Lt Governor asked the DCs to engage PRIs in Covid management and formulate small Covid management groups to facilitate the Covid containment measures.

The Lt Governor advised the Principals and CMOs to employ retired Doctors and paramedical staff in Covid management services. Hire interns and final year medical students to increase the manpower in health sector, he added.

Taking cognizance of the media reports regarding Covid-19 management in the hospitals across the UT, the Lt Governor directed the concerned functionaries to ensure that doctors are available at the hospitals and every individual seeking medicare is attended with full dedication.

The Lt Governor praised the noble services of doctors and paramedical staff especially in the trying times of Covid pandemic, and urged them to continue working wholeheartedly to serve the people and save precious lives.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; BVR Subrahmanyam, Chief Secretary; Arun Kumar Mehta, Financial Commissioner, Finance Department; Atal Dulloo, Financial Commissioner, Health and Medical Education; Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Government, Public Works (R&B) Department; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor; Ranjan Prakash Thakur, Principal Secretary to the Government, Industries & Commerce; Dr. Raghav Langer, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Choudhary Mohammad Yasin, Mission Director, NHM and HoDs of various departments, besides Health officials attended the meeting, in person and through virtual mode.

### Petrol price hiked...

Rs 81.12, according to a price notification by state-owned fuel retailers.

Rates have been increased across the country and vary from state to state depending on the local incidence of taxation (VAT).

This is the third straight day of increase in petrol and diesel prices since state-owned fuel retailers ended an 18-day hiatus in rate revision during assembly elections in states like West Bengal.

In three days, petrol price has increased by 59 paise per litre and diesel by 69 paise - neutralising most of the reduction that came between March 24 and April 15.

After raising petrol price by a record Rs 21.58 per litre and diesel by Rs 19.18 since the government raised excise duty to an all-time high in March last year, state-owned fuel retailers, IOC, BPCL and HPCL had reduced petrol price by 67 paise a litre and diesel by 74 paise per litre effected between March 24 and April 15.

Oil companies, who have in recent months resorted to unexplained freeze in rate revision, had hit a pause button after cutting prices marginally on April 15. This coincided with electioneering hitting peak to elect new governments in five states including West Bengal.

No sooner had voting ended, oil companies indicated an impending increase in retail prices in view of firming trends in international oil markets.

Despite the concerns about rising COVID-19 cases in India denting demand, crude oil prices in the international market have risen primarily on account of strong US demand recovery and a weak dollar.

Prices have been on a continuous uptrend since April 27, an industry official said adding crude oil prices are near USD 70 per barrel mark.

Central and state taxes make up for 60 per cent of the retail selling price of petrol and over 54 per cent of diesel. The union government levies Rs 32.90 per litre of excise duty on petrol and Rs 31.80 on diesel.

In Mumbai, the petrol price was hiked to Rs 97.34 a litre on Thursday from Rs 97.12, while diesel rates were increased to Rs 88.49 from Rs 88.19, the price notification showed.

### Dr Samia is...

Government Medical College, Srinagar, as Principal, Government Medical College, Srinagar, in pay level-15 (Rs 1,82,200-2,24,100) with effect from March 1, 2020," read an order issued by Atal Dulloo, Financial Commissioner, Health and Medical Education Department.

## Task force to monitor J&K employees an 'assault on their rights': Farooq

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Thursday termed the formation of a task force to monitor Jammu and Kashmir employees an "assault on their rights", saying termination of some of them in a pandemic is deplorable and callous.

Abdullah called the measure of scrutinizing the Jammu and Kashmir employees with a task force an "arbitrary and unwarranted infringement" of labour rights.

The termination of employees in a pandemic is deplorable and callous, he added.

The NC president said the measure smacks of "a colonial hangover" that gives sweeping powers to the government with minimal safeguards to protect the interests of employees, thus putting them at a disadvantage of being labelled anti-national at the drop of hat.

"Such measures might be used against anybody who wounds the vanity of the government or criticises its policies. There is a stark

distinction between being anti-national and having an opinion. Such a law was not required at the first place because there are already required service rules that deal with such employees who are involved in any wrong activity," he said.

The Member of Parliament from Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency said the task force will impede the work culture in government departments as the employees may land up being terminated even by wounding the vanity of the higher-ups.

