CURFEW, PROTESTS, CLASHES GO ON, TAJ'S CAVALCADE STONED

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Relaxation for 3 evening hours in some Civil Lines areas

SRINAGAR, Feb 12: Despite the curfew for the fourth consecutive day today, people took to streets at several places and held demonstrations against the hanging of Mohammad Afzal Guru. Cops fired rubber bullets and had to resort to pellet firing, firing in air, tear gassing and lathi charge to disperse the protestors. A number of persons were injured in the clashes. The cavalcade of minister for medical education Taj Mohi-u-Din came under intense stone pelting at Sheeri-Baramulla.

The authorities relaxed curfew for three hours in the evening in some areas of Civil Lines here, Budgam and Handwara. Clashes were witnessed between protestors and cops at Batamaloo, Bemina, Hawal, Habbakadal, Khanyar, in parts of Down Town this evening.

Reports said cavalcade of Taj was coming from Uri to Baramulla. As it reached near Sheeri, protestors moving from Tatehgarh also reached there. The protestors pelted stones on the cavalcade. The security men accompanying the minister fired several rounds in air and burst smoke shells. The protestors dispersed for some time but regrouped and again resorted to stone pelting. Forces fired rubber bullets and pellets.

Three persons, Tariq Yousuf, Abid Rashid and Muzamil Qayoom were injured. They were removed to SMHS hospital. Muzamil's eye has been extensively damaged. Doctors attending on him feared that he may lose his eyesight.

Later police arrested three persons, Mohammad Maqbool Bhat, Showkat Ahmad Dar and Naseer Ahmad Wani at Sheeri Bridge.

Police burst smoke shells and resorted to lathi charge to disperse protestors at Palhalan-Pattan. The protestors were raising pro-freedom and pro-Islamic slogans.
Cops burst smoke shells to disperse protestors at Kakapora, Samboora and Pulwama. The demonstrators pelted stones on men in uniform. Window panes of the vehicle of deputy commissioner were also damaged in stone pelting.
Protest demonstrators were also held at Nowhatta, Khanyar and Rainwari here. The protestors pelted stones on cops, who burst smoke shells and resorted to lathi charge. Reports of clashes were also received from Batamaloo, Bemina, Habbakadal, and other areas of down town this evening. The local people alleged that cops were using pepper gas and pellets while dispersing them and also ransacked their houses.
Reports of clashes between protestors and cops were also received from Cement Bridge, Azad Gunj and Chattipadshahi in Baramulla. Protests also continued at at Achbal, Mazbug and other areas of Sopore.
Curfew was relaxed from 4 PM to 7 PM in some areas of Civil Lines here. People in some areas said no formal announcement was made by the police about the relaxation and that they came to know about it very late. During the relaxation hours, some people were seen buying vegetables and other essentials.
Because of the curfew and the general strike called by separatists, normal life remained paralysed across the Valley. Shops, other business establishments and government offices remained closed. Transport was off the roads. Police and security forces were out in large number to enforce curfew. They continued to seal all important roads and bridges with barbed wire and armoured vehicles.
A police spokesman said situation across the valley remained largely peaceful so far. “A couple of incidents of stone pelting were reported in which two persons were injured. Curfew was relaxed in the areas of police station Raj Bagh, R.M Bagh and some areas of police station Kothi Bagh, Saddar, and Sheergari from 4 PM to 7 PM in Srinagar city. Curfew was also relaxed in areas of police station Handwara from 2 PM to 4 PM and Budgam from 4 PM to 6PM,” he added.

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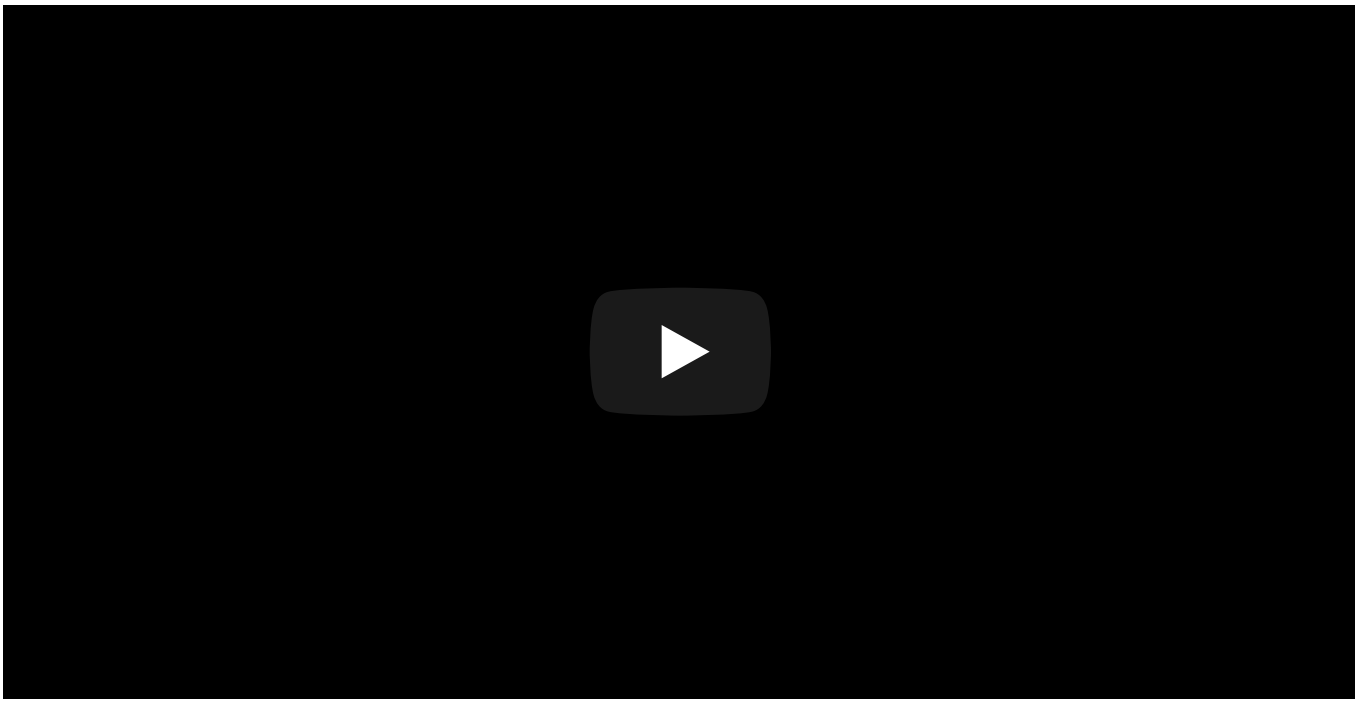

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- Jammu Kashmir Tourism (http://www.jktourism.org/)

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- Mata Vaishnodevi Shrine Board (http://www.maavaishnodevi.org/)
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UTILITY

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