

Srinagar-Jammu Highway Remains Closed

Heavy snowfall results in the closure of several other highways in J&K

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Road connectivity between Srinagar and Jammu suffered yet another day of closure on Tuesday, even after having been opened for one way traffic from Srinagar towards Jammu on Monday morning for a brief period, before being closed again shortly owing to heavy snowfall in Banihal area and fresh landslides at several places in Ramban district.

According to CNS, despite putting heavy amount of men and machinery into service to remove the impediments from the highway, authorities were unable to make it motor-able till reports last came in.

Thousands of trucks with essentials and different kinds of commodities and passenger vehicles are believed to be stranded at many places on the highway, waiting for the high-



K.O. FILE PIC: ABID BHAT

way to be thrown open.

Hundreds of people are presently stranded on the highway over last few days, amid hostile weather conditions, with no facility of food or shelter in the

chilling cold.

Kupwara Tangdhar road, Bandipora Gurez Road, Mughal road and Srinagar Leh Highway also remained completely out of bounds for any kind of vehi-

cular traffic on Monday.

Meanwhile valley is suffering from acute shortage of essentials at the movement, because of the continued closure of Jammu Srinagar highway due to the continuous bad weather and downpour, while the scarcity of fuel and cooking gas has reached to an all time high level. Petrol pumps are short of supply, due to which usage of vehicles has registered a decline, resulting in drop in the movement of traffic on city roads.

Authorities on Saturday said that to deal with the supply shortage in valley, owing to a large scale scarcity of essentials in the valley, trucks carrying different kinds of essentials will be given first preference to move on the highway, once the highway gets open for traffic.

Besides power shortage, people living in far flung areas are facing tremendous amount of difficulties, for want of essentials triggered by frequent closure of roads connecting these areas with rest of the valley.

Some of the areas where the DC visited were Pantha Chowk, Lasjan, Dhara, Theed, Harwan and Faqir Gujri in the outskirts, Khanyar, Hazratbal, Soura and Eidgah in the old city and Shalteng, Bemina, HMT, Nati-pora and Chanpora in the south of the district and elsewhere. He assessed the availability of essential services including power and water supplies, healthcare, ration and fuel and also took stock of restoration of roads, power supply and dewatering of roads and lanes in the affected areas.

At Lasjan, the concerned department was directed to strengthen the health infrastructure. Concerned officers were asked to convene a meeting with locals of Lasjan and district, and come up with a plan for efficient drainage system in the area for which it was informed the district administration would provide funds.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary visited various urban and rural areas across the district including peripheral and low-lying areas to assess the post-snowfall situation and personally inspect the efforts to restore the affected services.

Snow-clearance of roads and dewatering of inundated areas besides restoration of power, all of which were set into motion Monday in the midst of snowfall and rains lashing the district, remained administration's areas of focus today with efforts being reinforced aimed at earliest possible restorations across these sectors.

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DIAL-EMMA

- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092, 2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
- FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES : 2479488, 2452222, 2452155
- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081

AIRPORTS

SHIEK UL ALAM AIRPORT: 01942303311

RAILWAYS

- SRINAGAR: 0194-2103259
- ANANTNAG: 01932-228243
- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

- Sgr-Jammu highway - (Closed)
- Mughal Road - (Closed)
- Srinagar-Leh - (Closed)

This Day in History

- 588 BC - Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon lays siege to Jerusalem under Zedekiah's reign. The siege lasts until July 23, 586 BC.
- 69 - Otho seizes power in Rome, proclaiming himself Emperor, only rules for three months before committing suicide
- 946 - Caliph al-Musta'fi blinded and ousted
- 1535 - Henry VIII declares himself head of the Church in England
- 1552 - France signs secret treaty with German Protestants
- 1559 - Elizabeth I crowned Queen of England in Westminster Abbey
- 1582 - Russia cedes Livonia & Estonia to Poland, loses access to Baltic
- 1586 - Battle at Boxum: Spanish troops under Tassis beat state army
- 1815 - War of 1812: the USS President, an American frigate, is captured by four British frigates
- 1822 - Greek War of Independence: Demetrios Ypsilanti is elected president of the legislative assembly.
- 1846 - Russian writer Fyodor Dostoyevsky's first novel "Poor Folk" is published in the St.Petersburg Collection almanac
- 1902 - Abdulaziz Ibn Saud leads 40 men over the walls of Riyadh and takes the city, marking the beginning of the Third Saudi State
- 1915 - Japan claims economic control of China
- 1922 - Arthur Griffith is elected president of the Irish Free State after Eamon de Valera resigns in opposition to the Anglo-Irish Treaty (De Valera will lead a military opposition seeking a unified and independent Ireland)
- 1934 - 8.4 earthquake in India/Nepal, 10,700 die
- 1937 - Spanish Civil War: Second Battle of the Coruna Road ends after both forces withdraw
- 1943 - World's largest office building, the Pentagon is completed to house the US military
- 1943 - World's largest office building, the Pentagon is completed
- 1943 - 1,000 workers complete air conditioning system for Pentagon
- 1943 - World War II: The Soviets begin a counter-offensive at Voronezh
- 1944 - European Advisory Commission decides to divide Germany
- 1955 - USSR ends state of war with German Federal Republic
- 1962 - Dutch & Indonesian navy encounter in Etna Bay New Guinea
- 1965 - Soviet underground nuclear test creates the atomic lake Chagan, Kazakhstan
- 1969 - Nuclear test at Pacific Ocean
- 1969 - Soyuz 5 launched by Soviet Union
- 1970 - Nigerian civil war officially ends after 2 1/2 years of fighting when the Republic of Biafra disbands and joins Nigeria
- 1970 - Muammar Gaddafi is proclaimed premier of Libya
- 1973 - US President Richard Nixon suspends all US offensive action in N Vietnam
- 1974 - Expert panel reports 18 1/2 minute gap in Watergate tape, 5 separate erasures
- 1975 - Portugal signs accord for Angola's independence
- 1975 - Space Mountain opens at Disneyland
- 1976 - US-German Helios B solar probe launched into solar orbit
- 1976 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/Semipalinsk USSR
- 1983 - Javed Miandad & Mudassar Nazar make 451 stand v India
- 1991 - Australia beat NZ 2-0 to win cricket's World Series Cup
- 1991 - UN's deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait (they don't)



PRAYERS

- FAJR 6:08
- ZUHR 12:38
- ASR 4:07
- MAGRIB 5:48
- ISHA 7:12

3 more bodies recovered from avalanche site in Kulan

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: After retrieving dead bodies of a son father duo, caught under an avalanche, which hit Kulan area of Ganderbal district on Monday, rescue workers recovered three more bodies from the avalanche site on Tuesday. With the recovery of three more bodies, the death toll so far in the incident has reached to five.

Several other people were injured in the incident, while six persons were rescued alive from under the snow, which are all undergoing treatment presently.

According to CNS the bodies of those recovered on Tuesday, include the body of Ishtiyak Tikri, another son of the person Sadiq Tikri R/O Gagangeer, whose dead body was recovered on Monday, along with the dead body of his son Showkat Tikri.

Another two persons, who

DC G'bal urges people not to venture in avalanche prone areas

GANDERBAL : District Administration Ganderbal informed that five people have died after coming under an avalanche at Gund Kulan in district Ganderbal on Monday.

Giving the details, DDC Ganderbal, Hashmat Ali Khan said soon after receiving the information about the incident, a search and rescue operation began in the area, following which the operation team rescued the four persons and retrieved the two dead bodies.

He said the rescue operations were carried jointly by District Administration and Police throughout the night amid heavy snowfall. He said the rescue operations were halted for some time due to heavy snowfall and later on three more bodies were recovered. After completing legal medico formalities, the DDC, who supervised the rescue operations during the whole night, said bodies were handed over to families.

were killed in the avalanche incident and whose bodies were recovered along with the dead body of Showkat Tikri on Tuesday have been identified as Dawood Khushi and Mohammad Akbar Bhat, both residents of Gangan-

geer. With five people dead and several having suffered serious injuries, due to the avalanches, triggered by heavy snowfall, people in the Kulan and Gagangeer area said to be in a great state of shock.

POST-SNOWFALL

DC Sgr inspects services restoration efforts in district-wide tour Takes stock of essential services availability

SRINAGAR: The response mechanism activated yesterday to deal with the situation arising out of heavy snowfall and rains in the district was today further intensified aimed at soonest possible restoration of affected services.

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PIB Srinagar conducts VARTALAP at Sopore

SRINAGAR: As part of its media outreach to sensitize local journalists about different developmental schemes of the Central Government and the role of media to generate awareness among common people, Press Information Bureau Srinagar today conducted a day-long rural media workshop 'Vartalap' at Dak Banglow Sopore.

More than 30 journalists from adjoining areas, working with different media outlets participated in the workshop.

The workshop was conducted under the chairmanship of Deputy Director Press Information Bureau Srinagar Ghulam Abbass, who in his inaugural address highlighted the role of media in promoting different welfare initiatives of the government. He said media acts as an arm to the government in facilitating development and also acts as a bridge between people and government, besides giving voiceless a voice to get heard.

He said that media persons should focus on the positive reportage of government sponsored schemes for their maximum utilization at grass root level for the benefit of the people. He sought cooperation of local media and advised them to carry their professional duties with professionalism and raise awareness about different welfare schemes.

Media and Communication Officer, PIB Jammu Majid Pandit, Senior Journalist Tariq Bhat and other resources persons highlighted the role of media in facilitating development and public welfare.

Special sessions about role of journalists with reference to development in rural areas were held in the workshop, which was addressed by the senior and experienced journalists and other resource persons.

The representatives of Jammu and Kashmir Bank, Entrepreneurship Development Institute and other organizations presented an overview about different job oriented and welfare schemes for various sections of the society.

Besides resource persons, the workshop was attended by civil society members of Sopore District.

770 Machines, 4645 ULB, SMC men pressed on Snow clearance Job

Div Com reviews functioning of essential services

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Baseer Ahmad Khan today chaired a high-level meeting to review functioning of essential services across Kashmir Division after Snowfall.

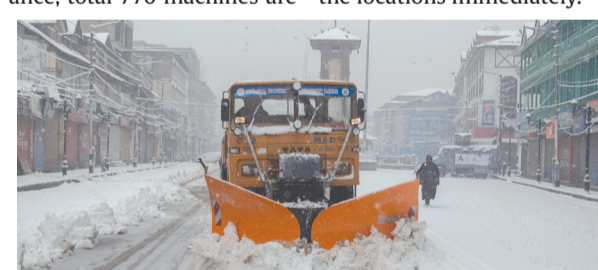
It was informed that 154 snow clearance machines of Mechanical Engineering Department (MED) and 450 machines with dedicated men of R&B, PMGSY, National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), Border Roads Organization (BRO) and RAMKY agencies have been already put on job.

Urban Local Bodies (ULB) have deputed 1645 men with 150 machines (Tractors, Tipplers & Hoppers) on the roads for snow clearance work. By today evening, Cent percent roads are expected to be cleared by the agency in towns which comes under its jurisdiction.

SMC had deployed 3000 men with 16 JCBs for snow clearance work in district Srinagar cleared all lanes and bye lanes of snow.

To solve inundation prob-

lem, SMC has deployed 80 permanent and 42 mobile de-watering pumps at water logged areas across Srinagar, while Fire & Emergency services has also deployed tenders and pumps for de-watering. For Snow clearance, total 770 machines are



K.O. FILE PIC: ABID BHAT

on job besides 4645 men of SMC and ULB for manual snow clearance work in their jurisdiction lanes, bylanes and roads.

Chief Engineer MED informed that new snow clearance machines are also on way from Banihal, which will be deployed for snow clearance in far flung areas of the Valley. It was given out that snow had been cleared from all major & interior roads and inner lanes & by lanes. Roads of Gulmarg and Pahalgam

tourist areas have also been cleared of snow and are open for visitors.

To connect far flung and cut off areas, the Div Com directed concerned Chief Engineers to deploy additional Snow clearance machines at the locations immediately.

The Divisional Commissioner directed Deputy Commissioners to deploy Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars for monitoring snow clearance operation on hourly basis and who will submit report to the concerned DCs.

The meeting was further informed that 90 percent electricity is restored in the Valley while restoration work is apace in other areas, besides repair work on some damaged Water Supply Schemes is also afoot.

AS College Gets Hi-Tech Auditorium

SRINAGAR: Secretary Higher Education, Talat Parvez Rohella today inaugurated the newly constructed auditorium at Amar Singh College, Srinagar in presence of Vice Chancellor, Cluster University Srinagar, Prof Shiekh Javed.

Principal of the Amar Singh College, Prof. Bashir Ahmed Rather was also present on the occasion.

On the occasion, it was given out that auditorium has been constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 12.28 crore and has a seating capacity of 500. The state-of-art auditorium is equipped with HVAC system, spotlights/stage lights, audio/visual, PA and recording facilities.

Meanwhile, Secretary Education directed the concerned to organize conferences, seminars and workshops to inculcate the research and scientific temper amongst the students that shall lead to enhancement of quality education. The efforts of the executing agency for timely completion of the project were also appreciated by the Secretary.

No snow clearance in Sonawari this season

SRINAGAR: A group of locals told CNS, while appealing Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) to investigate the matter and take action against the corrupt officers of the department. They requested ACB to seize all the records of Sumbal R&B office and check the accounts for the alleged embezzlement of lacs of rupees by raising the fake bills.

According to CNS no snow clearing operation has so far been conducted in many areas of Sumbal Sonawari,

which include Hajin, Markandal, Bahrabad, Shilwat, Gund Jahangir, where roads were covered with snow till late Tuesday afternoon, while no snow clearance operation was conducted, due to which people of these areas are cut off from other parts of the valley.

Local people further alleged that since November 2019, in no situation of snowfall in this season snow was cleared by the department from various roads of the area, but the local

Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE), while raising fake bills has fraudulently looted the public money.

Carrying on their allegations against the concerned AEE the locals further said that if at all snow was removed from some selected roads, instead of using relevant machines, tractors and JCs were used for the purpose, resulting in heavy damage to the macadam surface of the roads.

"Even here the thickness of

snow removed from the roads was fudged and an estimate, quite varying to the factual thickness of the snow was prepared and huge amounts were withdrawn", they added. They requested ACB to have a look on the estimates of snow clearance by the department to find the facts for themselves.

When contacted the AEE in question, instead of clarifying allegations leveled against him, switched off his phone. (CNS)