

SNOW FURY DAY 3

Many Areas Of Uptown Srinagar In Darkness

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Over a dozen Srinagar uptown areas remained in darkness for the past three days due to total power failure after some technical snag in main power grid at Barzulla.

Reports of frequent and unscheduled power curtailment, leading to protests by people, were received from almost all parts of the valley, including Srinagar. The Casual and Daily labourers working in Power Development Department (PDD) have joined the power restoration operation after suspending their indefinite strike for few days in the interest of general public.

Majority areas in summer capital, Srinagar, including Natipora, Budshah Nagar, Azad Basti, Kralpora and other areas remained under darkness since Monday, when electricity supply



there was major snag in main transformer of grid station at Barzulla. "We on the job to restore power supply to affected areas," he said. However, people in affected areas alleged that for the several months they are facing frequent and unscheduled power cuts. "Despite metered areas, we are facing seven to eight hours power cuts during the day," they alleged. People across the valley alleged that during this winter, particularly after August 5 when centre scrapped Article 370 and 35 A, besides divided the state into two Union Territories (UTs), power situation has worsened.

They said, "Even the metered areas are facing eight to ten hour electricity curtailment against two hour power cut in the morning, afternoon and evening daily announced by the PDD.

remained off, badly hitting the normal life in these areas.

People alleged that since 1600 hrs on Monday electricity

remained off, badly hitting the normal life in these areas.

Power failure has badly hit water supply in these areas.

People could not lift water to their overhead tanks due to power failure.

A PDD official told UNI that

Snow avalanche stops water to Krishan Ganga project

SRINAGAR: A huge snow avalanche stopped water supply to Krishan Ganga power project in border town of Gurez in north Kashmir district of Bandipora while over 35 Water Supply Schemes (WSS) were damaged in Shopian and Budgam districts, official sources said.

They said a huge snow avalanche blocked Check Nallah, badly affecting water supply to Krishan Ganga project. "We have stopped all water supply to power project and efforts are being made to remove the avalanche," they said.

Sources said about 20 WSS were affected due to heavy snowfall and avalanche in south Kashmir district of Shopian, badly hitting water supply to dozens of villages. However, they said Public Health Engineering (PHE) has pressed into service workforce and eight of them were partially restored.

"Work was going on war footing to restore all WSS," they said.

They said 15 WSS were also badly affected in central Kashmir district of Budgam. "Large number villages were hit and efforts are being made to restore these WSS," they added.

A number of other WSS were also hit as water could not be lifted to these schemes due to continued power failure in north and central Kashmir.

Meanwhile, the PHE department had recently announced that water supply to over 20 uptown areas in the city would remain affected on Wednesday due to some repair work. However, people of Natipora, Badshah Nagar, Azad Basti and other areas in the uptown alleged that they could not store water due to power failure for the past three days due to some technical snag in main Barzulla grid station of Power Development Department (PDD).

No respite from weather woes in city

Agencies

SRINAGAR: There was no respite from weather woes in summer capital, Srinagar, where life remained disrupted for the third day on Wednesday due to fresh snowfall since early this morning.

Despite snowfall coupled with icy cold winds and other odds, security forces remained deployed in Srinagar to maintain law and order.

Srinagar had turned white due to fresh snowfall as people woke up on Wednesday morning. Roof of houses and vehicles and treetops besides roads and open field were under a carpet of snow which occurred despite prediction for dry weather today by Met office.

A fresh Western Disturbance (WD) is likely to hit the region by Thursday and there could be more snow and rain due to this system till Friday.

Snow on streets remained frozen due to which roads have become slippery in the city. Very less number of vehicles were seen plying on city roads. People alleged that snow clearance machines are leaving two to three inches of snow on the roads which later gets frozen, leading to slippery conditions. Drivers were driving their vehicles very slowly to avoid accidents due to slippery road conditions.

Meanwhile, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Traffic, Srinagar, has again appealed to people to drive very slowly and not to apply sudden breaks as roads are very slippery due

to sub zero temperature during the night.

The SSP said due to slippery conditions, people should drive care-



fully on Rambagh-Stadium crossing-Jehangir Chowk fly over. He advised drivers to keep distance between two vehicles to avoid accident. People driving two wheelers should wear helmet and take extra precautions.

Majority main roads in Srinagar remained waterlogged, badly hitting normal activities. Large number of

shops and business establishments were closed. However, shops selling "Hareesa" a famous winter dish made by meat in Kashmir, witnessed



heavy rush.

People are resuming their normal business and other activities only after 1000 hrs due to cold as the mercury witnessed further drop. Meanwhile, students, including girls, could be seen covering the snow bound slippery roads on foot to reach their tuition and coaching centres.

CEO dismisses petition seeking disqualification of 7 Congress councilors of SMC

SRINAGAR: J&K's chief electoral officer has dismissed a petition seeking disqualification of seven Congress corporators for violating the party's whip and "merging" with Peoples Conference.

According to sources, the CEO Shalendra Kumar, in the order, has said that there is no evidence that the party whip has been issued to Congress corporators at the time of election for mayor and deputy mayor in 2018.

"In the present case, there is no evidence that on record that a party whip has been issued as such the question of violation of the whip doesn't arise," reads the order. According to the CEO's order, the communication of commis-

sioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation clarifies that no whip was issued by the party during the elections.

"The applicant who was chief whip of INC in the SMC wrongly assumed that show cause notice is equivalent to whip and in case of non-reply of show-cause notice issued by him, copies of which he has provided and are available in the file amounts to non-observance of whip issued by the party and hence attracts as was made in the case of Asifa Jehan Gattu versus Doda Municipal Council (2008) is not a correct position and fact," reads the order.

As per KNO, the CEO has ruled that the applicant failed to prove defection as per sec-

tion 34 of Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Corporation Act.

"The applicant, additionally, could not present any document about action taken by the party against the non-applicants, on the contrary the party letter as member of the party and withdrawal of the subject matter under consideration," reads the order.

The Congress party wrote to the CEO that these corporators continue to be members of the party. "The President Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress through its general secretary certifies that non-applicants have not been removed from basic membership of the party nor they have changed stand after winning on party ticket," reads the order. (KNO)

Cultural programme Meeras organised at Tagore Hall

SRINAGAR: District Administration Srinagar, Cultural Wing of the directorate of School Education Kashmir, Jammu & Kashmir Art Culture And Languages in collaboration with Angel's Cultural Academy conducted a cultural programme "MEERAS." The youth Cultural Event was held at Tagore Hall with an aim to encourage youth towards Kashmiri culture. A large number of youths participated in the event. Folk songs, Drama, ladhishah, Mimicry, Chakri, Sufi Songs, Rouff and Folk Dance etc. were presented by the participants. The audience was delighted with the programmes and were thankful to the organisers for organising such a vibrant program.

Secretary Cultural Academy Muneer-ul-Islam was the

Chief Guest on the occasion. A large number of eminent artists and other persons from the Kashmir also graced the occasion.

Muneer-ul-Islam hailed the artists for the outstanding performance and announced that the first three position holders will be rewarded by an amount of Rs 10000, Rs 8000 and Rs 5000 respectively and the rest participants as Rs 3000 each. Awards were distributed among the participants during the concluding programme. Those who received awards also included Irfan Fazil, Nadeem Cyclist and others. President Angel's Cultural Academy Tariq Ahmad Shera while giving a special vote of thanks said that more such programmes will be organised in future.

Malaysian tourists turn emotional after accessing internet at Media Centre

SRINAGAR: Emotional scenes were witnessed at the government-run media centre in the city on Wednesday as a group of Malaysian tourists, currently on a visit to Kashmir, accessed the internet for the first time since reaching here, due to the continued blockade of the services in the valley.

Three tourists from Malaysia, out of a group of eight, dropped by at the media facilitation centre, housed at the Government's Information Department Com-

plex here, to seek permission for accessing the internet.

They were accompanied to the media centre by a local tour operator who had heard of the facility.

"I came to know about this facility so I brought them here," Geelani Mir, the operator said.

He said the tourists were frantically looking for some place to access the internet.

"They had been in touch with their families, but they wanted to see their faces. They did not

know that the internet was not working in the valley," he said.

After the tourists accessed the internet on their phones, they turned emotional as they saw the faces of their family members, including kids, for the first time since they reached the valley on January 11.

"We have never been without internet in our lives. This is the first time that we have been without the facility. It has been a very difficult period for us," Ida, one of the tourists, said.

Another tourist, Youssinda, thanked the journalists and the department for providing them access to the internet.

"Our phones did not work here, but we contacted our families through the phone provided by the tour operator. However, we wanted to see them and that is why we came here and we are satisfied now thanks to the people who let us in," she said.

The tourists were supposed to return on Wednesday, but bad weather forced cancellation of

all flights.

"We are stuck here as flights were cancelled. So, we wanted to tell our parents that we were here for few more days until we confirm our tickets once again and do not be worried about us," Ryna, their fellow traveller, said.

Internet services have remained suspended in the Kashmir valley since August 5. The government-run Media Facilitation Centre is the sole facility for accessing the internet for the mediapersons in the valley.

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

- 1929 - WHP-AM in Harrisburg PA begins radio transmissions
- 1935 - Adolf Hitler orders German rearmament in violation of The Treaty of Versailles
- 1939 - Germany occupies Czechoslovakia
- 1939 - Hungary annexes republic of Karpato-Ukraine
- 1940 - German air raid on British fleet base Scaapa Flow
- 1941 - Blizzard hits North Dakota & Minnesota killing 80
- 1945 - Allies secure Iwo Jima
- 1945 - Würzburg, Germany is 90% destroyed, with 5,000 dead, in only 20 minutes by British bombers.
- 1959 - Iraq & USSR sign economic/technical treaty
- 1962 - 1st launching of Titan 2-rocket
- 1962 - US Super-Constellation disappears above Pacific Ocean, kills 167
- 1966 - Gemini 8 launched with Armstrong & Scott, aborted after 6.5 orbits
- 1968 - General Motors produces its 100 millionth automobile, the Oldsmobile Toronado.
- 1969 - Viasa DC-9 crashes at Maracaibo's Grano de Oro airport, killing 155
- 1970 - New English Bible published
- 1971 - Northern Ireland Prime Minister Chichester-Clark meets with British PM Heath to discuss the security situation in Northern Ireland
- 1973 - Shah of Iran and Consortium members agree to nationalize all assets immediately in return for an assured 20-year supply of Iranian oil
- 1973 - OPEC discusses raising prices to offset decline of U.S. dollar value
- 1976 - British Prime Minister Harold Wilson announces his resignation
- 1977 - US president Carter pleads for Palestinian homeland
- 1978 - Amoco Cadiz spills 223,000 tons of crude oil off French coast
- 1978 - Soyuz 26 returns to Earth
- 1978 - US Senate accepts Panama Canal treaty
- 1984 - South Africa & Mozambique sign non attack treaty
- 1985 - Associated Press correspondent Terry Anderson taken hostage in Beirut
- 1988 - US sends 3,000 soldiers to Nicaragua's neighbor Honduras
- 1994 - Moravcik forms Slovakia government
- 1995 - Mississippi House of Representatives formally abolishes slavery & ratifies 13th Amendment.
- 1995 - World best 7th wkt stand 461 by Bhopinder Singh Jr & P Dharmani
- 1998 - Pope John Paul II asks God for forgiveness for the inactivity and silence of some Roman Catholics during the Holocaust.
- 2003 - The largest coordinated worldwide vigil takes place, as part of the global protests against Iraq war.
- 2005 - Israel officially hands over Jericho to Palestinian control.
- 2006 - The United Nations General Assembly votes overwhelmingly to establish the UN Human Rights Council.
- 2012 - Turkish NATO helicopter crashes into a house killing ten people in the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan
- 2012 - Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar becomes first cricketer to score 100 international centuries
- 2012 - George Clooney and other several prominent participants, including Martin Luther King III, are arrested outside the Sudanese Embassy for civil disobedience
- 2013 - 24 Pakistani Army soldiers are killed after their bus falls down a ravine in Rawalpindi

HIJRI CALENDAR
20
JUMADA AL-AWWAL
1441

PRAYERS

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

From KO Archives

74% Polling In Panchayat Polls: Govt

JAMMU : Defying throaty and boycott calls an estimated 74 percent of nearly two and a half lakh voters today cast ballots as the opening day of the first phase of panchayat polls in Jammu and Kashmir passed off peacefully. Polling was held in seven and half blocks of the border districts of Kupwara, Rajouri and Poonch, chief electoral officer (CEO) Pramod Jain said. He said 85 percent polling was recorded at panchayats of Krapora block of Kupwara dis-trict. However, it was only 70 percent each in Tangdhar and Teetwal blocks of the district. Jain said 68 and 65 polling was recorded in Mehndhar and Balakote blocks of Poonch dis-tricts respectively, while it was about 78 percent in three blocks of Rajouri district.

He said counting was in progress and the results were expected by late evening.

Police said, barring one in-cident of altercation between two groups during which some polling boxes were damaged in Aruni village of Poonch district, polling was peaceful.

A report from Tangdhar block said two women — 120-year-old Tahira Begum and 108-year-old Yakdoh Bibi polled at the booth.

The polling in the remain-ing blocks of the three districts would be held on January 17 and 19, Jain said, adding over five lakh electorates will decide the fate of 1667 candidates, panchs and sarpanchs in 125 panchayats. (PTI)

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 16 January, 2001)

Child back after 12 years

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: A child who had cross over to the other side of the line of con-trol (LoC) at the age of five has returned to his home at Keranin the border district of Kupwara after turning 17. Identified as Babu Bhat s/o Taj Din Bhat, he crossed the LoC Thursday to the pleas-ant surprise of his grieving family.

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 16 January, 2001)