

# Snow Accumulated In Different Areas Of City, Admin Unmoved

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Life remained affected in summer capital, Srinagar, where almost all interior roads and lanes and by-lanes remained under snow. Neither Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) nor the Roads and Buildings (R&B) launched snow clearance operation on interior roads, people alleged. "We could not drive our vehicles to main roads from our houses as inner roads are under snow which has now frozen," people alleged.

However, snow on main roads has been cleared though few inches of snow remained there which has frozen with the result roads have become slippery, they said.

In the uptown areas, including Budshah Nagar, Natipora and Azad Basti, people said snow has not been cleared so far. The SMC officials also could not collect garbage from houses due to snow

bound roads. Residents had to take garbage to a point at a distance where SMC workers had put up their handcart. Similar reports were also received from other parts of the city.

Due to sub zero temperature during the night (minus 0.8 degree), snow also remained on roof and tree tops besides open fields in the city. The day chill also intensified forcing people to remain indoors.

The morning walkers were missing due to severe chilly condition in Srinagar, where heaviest snowfall was recorded in 40 years. Life in the city starts only after 1000 hrs though some vehicles and people could be seen on the streets from 0800 hrs.

Very less number of vehicles were seen plying on city roads. However, the number will increase as the day progresses today. Drivers have been advised by police to drive their vehicles very slowly to



K.O. FILE PIC: ARBID BHAT

avoid accidents due to slippery road conditions.

Majority shops and business establishments are now reopening very late in the morning. However, people in large numbers could be seen in shops selling "Hareesa" a famous winter dish made by meat in Kashmir.

Meanwhile, students, including girls, could be seen covering the snow bound slip-

pery roads on foot to reach their tuition and coaching centres. "The minimum temperature in Srinagar was minus 0.8 degree," a Met department spokesman said.

Large number of roads, leading to remote villages, remained closed due to accumulation of snow in the central Kashmir district of Badgam and Ganderbal.

Similar, reports were also

received from south and north Kashmir districts. However, Deputy Commissioner, Baramulla, Dr G N Ittoo admitted that due to over five feet of snow road clearance operation was affected in the district.

He said 220 priority and 630 roads were affected due to heavy or very heavy snowfall for three days from Monday. However, during the first 24 hours, snow on 150 priority roads, including hospitals, was cleared by pressing into service sophisticated machines. "We put through all the 220 priority roads by Thursday evening," he said, adding in some areas we had to press into service heavy snow cutters.

A report from Kargil said dozens of roads, connecting far flung and remote areas, with district headquarter remained closed as no snow clearance operation was started so far.

The Drass, second coldest place in the world after Siberia and Suru remained cut off from Kargil due to snow.

## National Road Safety Week concludes at Sgr

SRINAGAR: 31st Road Safety Week organised Motor Vehicles Department concluded, here today.

The highlights of week-long programme were seminars, health check-up and vision tests to sensitize people about road safety measures and traffic rules.

On the concluding day a valediction function was held at IRC Sumo Stand, Srinagar where road safety awareness programme for drivers and other road user was organised by the MVD. A medical camp was also organised to conduct vision tests drivers. Pamphlets and T-Shirts were also distributed among the drivers during the camp.

## 'Witch hunt' against Engineer Rashid bound to fail: AIP

SRINAGAR: Awami Itehad Party Friday denounced and condemned BJP government's political witch hunt against Engineer Rashid saying the manner in which Rashed was repeatedly summoned and forced to report for NIA questioning till date finds no logical justification.

Party spokesperson Sheeban Ashai told Reporters that Engineer Rasheed was lodged in Tihar at a time when whole Kashmir was on boil against the abrogation of special status. He accused investigation agencies of framing Rasheed in false cases and even condemned him for speaking about BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He said that AIP President was subjected to rigorous questioning of 12 hours a day and severe pressure tactics were used by the current Government to force him to forego his stand on the Kashmir issue.

"The very fact that Er Rashid used to echo the sentiments of the Kashmiri people both inside the JK Assembly and on the streets irked many in New Delhi especially the RSS," the spokesperson told KNT.

"Awami Itehad Party terms the entire exercise against Er Rasheed as worst form of political vendetta. There is no case prima face against him. The misuse of agencies for political gains by BJP government is an open fact and everyone knows how BJP misused the agencies like CBI, ED and NIA while tackling with the opposition parties," he said. (KNT)

## Airline companies take stranded passenger 'for a ride'

SRINAGAR: Dozens of Kashmir-bound passengers stranded at the various airports mainly in Jammu, Delhi and Chandigarh following cancellation of their flights accused private carriers of taking them for a ride.

Taking to a Srinagar based news agency over phone from Delhi, Jammu and Chandigarh the passengers said the carriers are asking them to claim refund or wait for more days to fly home following cancellation of their flights due to bad weather.

"We have purchased tickets last month for 6000 rupees, but now they are charging us more than 18000 rupees for a flight if we book it for tomorrow or the day after. This is sheer loot," said Tasaduq Hussain, a stranded passenger in Jammu.

Another stranded passenger, Ishfaq Ahmad, said: "If

we don't opt for refund, they are asking us to wait for more days before they could allow us to book another flight. We are travelling with kids and there is no hope for the Srinagar-Jammu highway to open anytime soon. How we can spend thousands of rupees on hotel accommodations when we don't have any money left with us?"

Adding there are some passengers who have chosen air travel only due to the highway closure. They can't spend thousands on hotel accommodations for coming days. The aggrieved passengers said it is the responsibility of the private carriers to provide them hotel accommodation if they want them to stay in Delhi, Jammu or any other state for more days.

The continued closure of the Srinagar-Jammu highway has resulted in sky-

rocketing of air ticket prices in the Jammu-Srinagar and Delhi-Srinagar sectors, and vice-versa.

Passengers are unlikely to see any respite as weatherman has predicted heavy spell of snow till 18th of January which could continue to disrupt surface and air traffic in the valley. The Kashmir valley is witnessing widespread snowfall since past four days. Both air as well as road traffic has been badly impacted, causing massive inconvenience to stranded passengers.

Citing reasons ranging from bad weather to operational issues, airlines (led by market leaders IndiGo are cancelling dozens of flights every day. IndiGo has announced dozens of flight cancellations per day till Thursday morning.

In case of flight cancellations, airlines are man-

dated to rebook passengers on other flights at no extra charge or refund full booking amount. "But often they put customers on long-haul flights at odd hours, which force them to book flights of their convenience for a higher price. Or people end up paying double for a cheaper ticket," said a travel agent in Srinagar.

Adding the carriers is often deliberately cancelling flights in order to sell fresh tickets at expensive rates.

An employee in Indigo wishing anonymity said the company will review the flight schedule to monitor the number of cancellations, and said that the company is also assessing the situation.

"Due to inclement weather in Srinagar all the flights were cancelled. The proper visibility is essential for restoring air service," he said. (KNT)

## JKPCC passes resolution, vows to fight for restoration of Statehood to JK

Owais Gul

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) on Friday passed a four point resolution here under the leadership of Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad along with All India Congress Committee (AICC) General Secretary Ambika Soni.

According to the sources, the four-point resolution adopted by the 230 leaders of congress party called for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, constitutional protection to jobs and owning of land by the people of Jammu and Kashmir, release of all political prisoners and creating conducive atmosphere for the revival of political activity.

The resolution was passed by 230 leaders of Jammu and Kashmir including all former ministers, legislators, district presidents and party functionaries of Jammu and Kashmir. However, he said few leaders from Kashmir

couldn't attend the meeting due to bad weather conditions that disrupted flight operations.

JKPCC president, Ghulam Ahmad Mir said that a threadbare discussion was held regarding Jammu and Kashmir in two meetings held on Thursday and Friday.

He said that a resolution was also passed after the discussion which mentioned that the Congress party will continue to fight till Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir is restored with full rights it had in the past. "We will fight for statehood from national level to local level," he added.

Mir further stated that "Jammu and Kashmir is bordering with international borders. Many people belonging to poor section here and also reside along the border areas. Therefore, there should be constitutional protection to jobs and owning of land by the people of Jammu and Kashmir."

He added that the resolution fur-

ther adds that political detainees of Congress party should be released and curbs imposed on Congress be lifted immediately, adding that after this, the leaders affiliated with other political parties too to be released to create a conducive atmosphere for the revival of political activity.

"Its local leaders in Jammu and Kashmir who have to work on the ground and fight the elections," he said, adding that the visit by Ministers from outside Jammu and Kashmir won't prove anything, saying that "it is tantamount to a picnic only." "If government claims normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir, then the leaders who are undergoing detention should be released," he said.

He further stated that the outreach will be started across Jammu and Kashmir soon and the party leaders will go to every district, Tehsil and blocks with regard to the decision taken in the meeting. (KNO)

## Gelatin Sticks a new choice for militants to target security forces, reveals police probe

SRINAGAR: An internal investigations by the Jammu and Kashmir police into the arrest of five Jaish-e-Muhammad militants has revealed that militants are relying more on Gelatin sticks to prepare IEDs to target security forces in the Valley. Gelatin is largely used at the stone quarries in Kashmir and is available at government counters.

A senior police officer revealed to new agency, that it has been found that the five Jaish-e-Muhammad men arrested from Srinagar, who were involved in two grenade attacks at Hazratbal and Habak areas recently, had managed 100 to 200 sticks of Gelatin with a sole aim of making IEDs to target security forces. Gelatin or simply jelly, is an explosive material consisting of collodion-cotton (a type of

nitrocellulose or guncotton) dissolved in either nitro-glycerine or nitro-glycol and mixed with wood pulp and saltpetre (sodium nitrate or potassium nitrate). "During the course of investigations, we found that the arrested militants from Jaish had dumped 200 sticks of Gelatin in Srinagar area. We raided the area and seized the Gelatin and other items including nitric acid. This signifies that the arrested Jaish men were planning a major strike on the eve of Republic Day," the officer, privy to the investigations said. Gelatin is largely used by the stone-quarry owners for blasting mountain to fetch small and large stones that are usually used for laying plinth of residential houses and government buildings across Kashmir.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**PHE RURAL WATER SUPPLY DIVISION GANDERBAL / SRINAGAR**  
**H.Q: DUDERHAMA GANDERBAL**  
Fax: 0194 - 2416292 e - mail: pherwsd@yahoo.in  
No.:- PHE/RWSD/Corrs/9016-39 Dated:-16.01.2020  
**CORRIGENDUM**

Reference:- This Office e-NIT No.'s 47/PHED/RWSD/Civil/SHfi of 2019-20 issued under No. PHED/RWSD/Corrs/8386-8410 Dated 03.01.2020.

Due to inclement weather conditions, prevailing circumstances in the valley and as requested by the contractors, the critical dates for afore mentioned e-NIT are extended and re-fixed as under:-

Last Date of Submission of Bids online	20.01.2020 upto 4:00 PM
Date of Opening of Bids online	21.01.2020 10:30 AM

All other terms and conditions of the NIT shall remain unchanged.

Sd/-  
**Executive Engineer**  
**RWS Division Ganderbal/ Sgr.**  
**H.O. Duderhama, Ganderbal**  
**DIPK : 5863**

### 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

- 1307 - German king Albrecht I makes his son Rudolf King of Bohemia
- 1478 - Grand Duke Ivan II of Moscow occupies Novgorod
- 1520 - Christian II of Denmark & Norway defeats Swedes at Lake
- 1788 - First elements of the First Fleet carrying 736 convicts from England to Australia arrives at Botany Bay to set up a penal colony
- 1817 - José de San Martín leads a revolutionary army over the Andes to attack Spanish royalists in Chile
- 1865 - Battle of Ft Moultrie, South Carolina
- 1871 - Second German Empire proclaimed by Kaiser Wilhelm I and Otto von Bismarck
- 1884 - General Charles Gordon departs London for Khartoum
- 1896 - British troops occupy Kumasi, West Africa
- 1913 - Turkish-Greek sea battle near Troy
- 1919 - The Paris peace conference (aka the Versailles peace conference) opens to draw up the treaties formally ending the Great War (WWI)
- 1941 - World War II: A counter-offensive is launched by the British against the Italians in East Africa
- 1943 - Soviets announce they have broken the long siege of Leningrad by Nazi Germany
- 1943 - US rations bread & metal - banning presliced bread reduce bakery demand for metal parts
- 1943 - The first Warsaw Ghetto Uprising
- 1945 - Soviet troops capture Krakow, Poland.
- 1945 - Soviet Armed Forces enter Krakow and push Germans out only to eventually occupy entire country.
- 1947 - Small river steamer sank on Yangtze River, kills 400
- 1959 Ruth Jessen wins LPGA Tampa Golf Open
- 1960 - US & Japan sign joint defense treaty
- 1960 - Capital Airlines Flight 20 crashes in Virginia, killing all 50 people on-board
- 1968 - USSR performs nuclear test at Eastern Kazakh/ Semipalatinsk USSR
- 1969 - Expanded 4 party Vietnam peace talks began in Paris
- 1969 - United Airlines Flight 266 crashes into Santa Monica Bay, killing all 38 people on-board
- 1974 - Israel & Egypt sign weapons accord
- 1977 - Imran Khan takes 12 wickets in match for Pakistan win at the SCG
- 1977 - Scientists identify a previously unknown bacterium as the cause of the mysterious Legionnaires' disease.
- 1977 - Australia's worst rail disaster occurs in Sydney, killing 83 people
- 1978 - Geoff Boycott captains England for the 1st time, v Pakistan at Karachi
- 1978 - Thiokol conducts 2nd test firing of space shuttle's SRB
- 1981 - Iran accepts US offer of \$7.9 billion in frozen assets
- 1983 - IOC restores Jim Thorpe's Olympic medals 70 years after they were taken from him for being paid \$25 in semipro baseball
- 1988 - Airliner crashes in SW China, killing all 108 on board
- 1989 - Astronomers discover pulsar in remnants of Supernova 1987A (LMC)
- 1989 - IBM announces earnings up 10.4% in 1988
- 1990 - South Africa says it is reconsidering ban on African National Congress
- 1991 - Iraq launches SCUD missiles against Israel
- 1991 - US acknowledges CIA and US Army paid Manuel Noriega \$320,000 over his career
- 1991 - Eastern Air Lines goes out of business after 62 years, citing financial problems.
- 1993 - Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observed in all 50 states of the USA for 1st time
- 1994 - The Cando event, a possible bolide impact in Cando, Spain. Witnesses claim to have seen a fireball in the sky lasting for almost one minute.
- 1996 - Baseball owners unanimously approve interleague play in 1997
- 2005 - The world's largest commercial jet, the Airbus A380, is unveiled in France
- 2008 - The United Nations announce George Clooney as a UN messenger of peace
- 2015 - AB de Villiers makes the fastest century in ODI cricket history from 31 balls against the West Indies.
- 2016 - World's 62 richest people are now as wealthy as half the world's population according to a report published by Oxfam.

HIJRI CALENDAR  
**22**  
JUMADA AL-AWWAL  
**1441**

### PRAYERS

FAJR  
**6:08**  
ZUHR  
**12:38**  
ASR  
**4:08**  
MAGRIB  
**5:51**  
ISHA  
**7:15**

## From KO Archives

# 5-Day Lashkar Ultimatum On Power

Observer News Service

SRINAGAR : Lashkar-e-Taiba has threatened to target vital army and government installations across India if power supply is not restored to the people in the Kashmir Valley within five days. Lashkar spokesman Abu Osama called news organisations on telephone here to convey the threat saying if their demand was not met, activists of the outfit would target installations across India. "If adequate power supply is not restored to the residents and traders of Kashmir, we have plans to disrupt power supplies to government and army installations across India," Osama said. Lashkar, which carried out an attack at the Red Fort in the Indian capital last month and threatened to target the Prime Minister's office, however, said "civilian installations will never be attacked by us".

(KASHMIR OBSERVER, 18 January, 2001)