SEVERAL INJURED IN CLASHES, TEARGASSING, LATHI-CHARGE ON PROTESTORS

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SRINAGAR, Sep 18: Clashes erupted between stone pelting protesters and security forces in Nowhatta, Pulwama, and Anantnag after Friday prayers here this afternoon. Police burst smoke shells and resorted to lathi-charge to disperse the protesters. During these clashes around half a dozen youths were injured besides some policemen.

Reports said that immediately after Friday prayers in Jamia Masjid, a large number of youths took to the streets and held protest demonstration shouting slogans. When the protesters reached at the main gate of the Jamia Masjid, close to Nowhatta Chowk, policemen who were deployed there asked the protesters to end their protest and they would not be allowed to proceed.

The protesters tried to proceed. The police force swung into action by resorting to lathi- charge. The youths pelted stones towards them. The police also fired smoke shells towards the protesters with the intention to disperse them. The police action managed to disperse the protesters. However, the protesters managed to pelted stones in narrow lanes giving a tough time to police and para-military forces to control the situation.

The ding-dong battle between the protesters and police continued for many hours as the youths resorted to heavy stone pelting on the latter. They too fired smoke shells to being the situation under control.

The teargas shelling created panic in entire area. The worshippers were seen running towards safer places and many of them re-entered Jamia Masjid. However, the

masked youth pelted stones at Police and CRPF triggering clashes.

Group of youths after Friday prayers appeared in Nowhatta and Gojwara chowk carrying flags. These masked youth pelted stones on the police force. The clashes between these youth and police continued for hours resulting in the disruption of vehicular movement on the roads.

Reports of clashes have also come from Pulwama, group of youth attacked police station with stones. The police fired smoke shells to disperse the protesters. The protesters pelted stones towards police from the narrow lanes of the town.

Stone-pelting incidents were also reported from Lal Chowk, Reshi Bazar and Mattan Chowk areas of Anantnag.

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