

## 35 trapped in rivers rescued, many houses damaged; 1 killed

\* Miraculous escape for Hemkund passengers

Gopal Sharma

JAMMU, Aug 2: At least 33 persons trapped in the flash flood in river Ujh near Rajbagh and Kotpunnu and two other in Naj at Billawar were rescued by Air Force helicopter, Army and police men while over 1000 passengers had miraculously escaped after a train got trapped as a portion of the track was washed away and damaged in Samba area while at least 100 houses were fully and partially damaged in the region due to massive rain and land slides, resulting into one death and injuries to nearly half a dozen persons in Kathua and Samba districts since last night.

Heavy rain in the region since last mid night caused extensive damage to the public property and also threw normal life out of gear. Most of the rivers including Ujh, Ravi and Chenab were over-flooded and caused damage to the standing crop with land erosion. The flood water also entered into the fields in many low lying areas of



Family members flushing out rain-water from a room in Beli-Charana area in Jammu on Friday. (Another pic on page 6)

Kathua and Hiranagar bordering near Balahr border post, adjoining pillar No. 49, along Indo-Punjab.

Nearly 100 ft long fencing

## Two NC Ministers lock horns over water sharing DSP among several hurt, MLC motorcade attacked

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 2: At least three dozen people including Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) of Jammu and Kashmir police were injured and National Panthers Party (NPP) Member Legislative Council (MLC) had close shave as the farmers of several villages of Handwara fought pitched battles with those of Kupwara over sharing of irrigation water in the North Kashmir's Kupwara district for last two days.

The farmers of dozens of villages of Handwara constituency of National Conference leader and Cabinet Minister, Chowdhary Ramzan and those of dozens of villages of Kupwara constituency of NC leader and Cabinet Minister Mir Saifullah fought pitched battles for last two days in Kupwara district over the sharing over irrigational water of snow fed Kahmil stream in Kupwara district.

Over 2000 farmers of several villages Handwara Assembly constituency including those of Ramhal, Vilgam, Dahama, Punzoo, Tarathpora and Magam and around 3000 farmers of several villages Kupwara Assembly constituency including those of Kralpora, Trehgam, Shumnag, Batargam, Gushi, Nagri and Hatmulla clashed with each other at Ridi, Chokkibal in Kupwara district yesterday during which over two dozen farmers and DSP of J&K police, Sajjad Khaliq were injured.

Eyewitnesses said that the farmers of Handwara constituency were trying to divert the water towards Handwara villages and those of Kupwara district towards the Kupwara villages after gathering at Redi where the Kahmil streams bifurcates. As the discharge of the stream was low, the farmers of two constituencies wanted lion's share of the water for their paddy fields. The stream irrigates thousands of acres of paddy land in two constituencies.

Eyewitnesses said that as the two groups of farmers were trying to divert the water towards their areas, clashes broke out. "Kupwara police immediately rushed to the spot and fired tear smoke shells and resorted to aerial firing to disperse clashing farmers", witnesses said.

The farmers again fought pitched battles at Shuloora bridge today that connects village Vilgam in Handwara constituency with village Trehgam in Kupwara constituency. The clashes continued throughout the day during which several farmers were injured and police resorted to baton charging, fired tear smoke shells and fired in air to disperse the farmers. Reports said that at least one dozen farmers were injured in clashes.

Sources said that the farmers also dismantled a portion of the steel bridge. "The MLC Kupwara, Rafiq Ahmad Shah who had gone to spot as a peace broker between warring farmers had a close shave. His two vehicles were broken in the stone pelting and he had to flee from the area to save self", sources added. Deputy Commissioner, Itrat Hussain told Excelsior that a water sharing agreement was reached at a few days ago but the farmers were not complying with it. "We called a meeting of the farmers of Handwara and Kupwara villages today and both the sides have agreed to the water sharing agreement. Now we have to implement it on the ground", he added.

Sources said that the agreement is not being implemented for past several days as the Handwara farmers have the backing of Cabinet Minister, Chowdhary Ramzan and Kupwara farmers have the backing of another Cabinet Minister, Mir Saifullah. However, Chowdhary Ramzan told Excelsior that due to the heavy rains the issue has been resolved now as the farmers have got enough water for their paddy fields.

## Hideout busted; arms recovered Infiltration bid foiled in Tangdhar; militant killed

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, Aug 2: Army today foiled an infiltration bid in North Kashmir's Tangdhar sector and killed one militant and critically injured another while security forces busted a militant hideout in North Kashmir's Sopore area and recovered huge cache of arms and ammunition.

A Srinagar based defence spokesman said here that last night Army foiled an infiltration bid and killed one militant while seriously injured the other on the Line of Control in the Tangdhar sector of Kupwara during an operation.

The spokesman said that based on inputs regarding movement of militants in the area, troops deployed in Tangdhar sector of Kupwara detected movement of two militants on Indian side of the LoC on July 31.

"The troops cordoned off the area. Heavy fog with intermittent rains delayed the operations throughout the day. By night, when the weather started to clear, the two militants were

observed by troops, who on being detected opened fire on own troops. The retaliatory fire by the troops resulted in elimination of one militant and seriously injuring the other. The dead body of the killed militant has been recovered while the



Arms and ammunition recovered by Army and police at Sopore on Friday.

search for the second injured militant is still in progress. One AK 47, ammunition and the war like stories were recovered on

## 11 Indian prisoners write from Kot Lakhpat Rai prison

### Secret letter exposes Pak barbarism on jail inmates

Sanjeev Pargal

JAMMU, Aug 2: Months after two Indian prisoners Sarabjit Singh and Chamel Singh, hailing from Punjab and Jammu were brutally murdered by prisoners and staff in Kot Lakhpat Rai jail of Lahore district in Pakistan, 11 Indian prisoners including those hailing from Jammu, have shot off a letter clandestinely to human rights activists in India apprising them of worst conditions prevailing in the Pakistani jail and inhuman treatment meted out to them.

The letter signed by 11 Indian prisoners, a copy of which has been accessed by the Excelsior, was equally critical of the Indian Government for doing nothing to secure their release and leaving them at the mercy of cruel jail authorities of Pakistan, who, they said, were neither allowing them to live nor die.

The letter said 17 more Indian prisoners (including some females) wanted to sign the letter but they had been ren-

dered mentally deranged due to torture in the jail and that they were not even in a position to sign the document. Most of the signatories and those, who have become mentally deranged, have completed their sentence for the past about three years, it added.

The nightmare for the Indian prisoners languishing in Pakistan's Kot Lakhpat Rai jail, which has gained notoriety after

the brutal killing of Sarabjit Singh and Chamel Singh in January and April this year, for years together, continued. The letter clandestinely written by 17 Indian prisoners from inside the jail has exposed Pakistan's brutalities.

The letter revealed that life for Indian prisoners lodged in Pakistani jail is no less than a hell. Indian prisoners languishing in Kot Lakhpat Rai jail day in and day out continued to face the brunt of Pakistani jail authorities. Even after the killing of Sarabjit Singh and Chamel

year after the Indian Government released Dr Khaleel Chisti, a Pakistani national accused of murder in Rajasthan, that some of them would also be released in exchange.

"We were given to understand in the jail that Dr Chisti was being released at the behest of former Pakistan President Asif Zardari with an understanding with the Indian Government that some Indian prisoners, at least Sarabjit Singh, would be released by Pakistan. But that didn't happen," the Indian prisoners regretted.

Such was the condition of these prisoners that they were not in a position to sign the letter. And look at the Indian Government. They are unmoved despite brutal killings of Sarabjit Singh and Chamel Singh," the letter said.

It added that the Indian prisoners lodged in Kot Lakhpat Rai jail had developed a hope last

Dismissing that Joint Judicial Committee of India and Pakistan had visited Kot Lakhpat jail thrice on June 13, 2008, April 22, 2011 and April 30, 2013, the Indian

There has been spurt in the infiltration attempts from across the International Border at Chhawani BOP in RS Pura sector at 2.30 am today and opened firing aiming the direction of the intruders. Taking cover of thick vegetation and undulating ground, the

Official sources said the jawans of 193 battalion of BSF observed suspicious movement of some persons across the fencing along the International Border at Chhawani BOP in RS Pura sector at 2.30 am today and opened firing aiming the direction of the intruders. Taking cover of thick vegetation and undulating ground, the

## Cocaine seized from trans-LoC truck

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 2: Police today recovered cocaine worth Rs 10 crore from a truck that was carrying goods for trans-Line of Control (LoC) trade and had returned from Pakistan occupied Kashmir after unloading bananas in Chakoti, PoK.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police, North Kashmir range, J P Singh told a news conference in Baramulla that it is evident that LoC trade is being used to smuggle narcotics into Kashmir valley from the across and the money generated is being used in funding of militancy.

Singh said that this consignment was to be delivered to Hizbul

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## Jawan killed, 6 injured in Leh

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 2: An Army jawan was killed and six others were injured when an explosive device they had recovered in Pyongyang lake area near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) went off in their camp on July 29.

Sources said that on July 29, 23 Punjab Regiment patrol party recovered a Chinese army device some 20 to 30 kilometers ahead of Pyongyang lake.

The patrol party brought the device in their barrack and it went off killing an Army jawan and injuring six others. The dead Army

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## Currency, weapon seized on IB

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 2: The Border Security Force (BSF) recovered Rs 4.96 lakh worth fake Indian currency and some other items including a Chinese pistol from the area falling near Border Out Post (BOP) of Chhawani in RS Pura sector in early hours of this morning.

Official sources said the jawans of 193 battalion of BSF observed suspicious movement of some persons across the fencing along the International Border at Chhawani BOP in RS Pura sector at 2.30 am today and opened firing aiming the direction of the intruders. Taking cover of thick vegetation and undulating ground, the

(Contd on page 6 Col 5)

## Two civilians hurt in blast

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Aug 2: Two civilians were injured when a hand made bomb they were making exploded in their house at village Simbal under the jurisdiction of Miran Sahib police station tonight.

The injured have been identified as Harnam Singh, 70 and Mohinder Singh, 50, both relatives and residents of Simbal.

Sub Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) RS Pura Diwakar Singh told the Excelsior from the spot that Mohinder and Harnam were making hand made low intensity bombs in the house of Mohinder's

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## Major roads restored in Kargil

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 2: The major roads that were blocked due to landslides caused due to flash floods after cloudbursts at over a dozen of places in Kargil in Ladakh region last evening have been restored. However, work on restoration of Srinagar-Leh National Highway is going on.

Deputy Commissioner Kargil, Fida Hussain told Excelsior that cloudbursts struck at around a dozen of places in Kargil district last evening and the district administration averted a major tragedy by declaring an alert especially in the vulnerable areas.

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## CM asks PM, HM to reconsider decision on relief package

### Fresh earthquake jolts Doda, Kishtwar; panic grips people as cracks widen

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, Aug 2: Fresh earthquake of moderate intensity today jolted the Doda and Kishtwar districts this morning and widened the cracks, which were developed due to May 1 tremor and subsequent aftershocks. Though there was reportedly no loss of life, yet panic gripped the people, who had just started coming out of the shock of previous earthquakes.

In the meantime, Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah took up the issue of relief package for the tremors affected populace with the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh and Union Home Minister, Sushil Kumar Shinde requesting them to reconsider their decision and help in rebuilding damaged infrastructure in the erstwhile Doda district.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department, earthquake of 5.4 Magnitude having depth of 28 kilometers shook Doda and Kishtwar districts at around 8.04 am. The latitude of the earthquake was 33.5 degree North and longitude 75.5 degree East. The earthquake lasted six to seven seconds and created panic among the people of the twin districts, who had just started coming out of the shock of the previous tremors.

Though there were no reports of loss of life from any part of these districts yet one woman got fainted during the tremors while as another woman sustained injuries while rushing out of her house in Kishtwar district. They have been identified as Rubina Begum, wife of Ikhiaq Hussain of Sangrambhatta and Parveena of Padyarna. Both were rushed to the District Hospital Kishtwar and later discharged.

The fresh earthquake, however, aggravated the damages caused by the earlier tremors with widened cracks in the houses staring at people as if they will be swallowed any time. The panic stricken people came out of their houses amidst rainfall and returned after spending two hours in the open sky due to fear of aftershocks.

The rainfall has also been weakening those houses, which have suffered damages due to tremors and whether these houses would withstand the snowfall during the winters remains an issue required to be seriously pondered upon by the administration", official sources said.

They disclosed that majority of the earthquake affected people have not come forward till date to receive the meager financial assistance for repair of their houses although Deputy

Commissioners of Doda and Kishtwar have placed the money as per the existing norms at the disposal of the Tehsildars concerned.

When contacted, Deputy Commissioner Doda, Mubarak Singh confirmed that fresh tremor has aggravated the damages and led to panic in the entire district. "This is a fact that people have not come forward till date to receive the assistance under the existing norms", he added.

Meanwhile, sources said that Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah has written to the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh and Union Home Minister, Sushil Kumar Shinde requesting them to reconsider their decision and give nod to Rs 607.7 crore worth special package for the victims of earthquake of erstwhile Doda district.

"Under the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) norms, there is a provision of very meager relief ranging from Rs 1250 to Rs 35,000 and keeping in view the immense damage caused by the earthquake this amount is inadequate for the people to repair their houses", sources said quoting the Chief Minister's communication to the Prime Minister and Home Minister.

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* India eye whitewash, Zimbabwe desperate for win...Page 14	Highest: 100.0 per cent
	Lowest: 95.0 per cent
	Sunset on Saturday: 07.29 p.m.
	Sunrise on Sunday: 05.48 a.m.
	KASHMIR
	Possibility of light rain/thundershowers
	TEMPERATURE
	Max: 25.5 Degree C
	Min: 21.3 Degree C
	RELATIVE HUMIDITY
	Highest: 80.0 per cent
	Lowest: 77.0 per cent

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