

## Quake survivors struggle for food, water

ANKARA, Feb 9:

Thousands who lost their homes in a catastrophic earthquake huddled around campfires and clamoured for food and water in the bitter cold, three days after the tremor and series of aftershocks hit Türkiye and Syria, killing more than 19,300. Rescuers continued their race to pull more people alive from the rubble, with the window closing to find trapped survivors.

While stories of miraculous rescues briefly buoyed spirits, the grim reality of the hardship facing tens of thousands who survived the disaster cast a pall.

In the Turkish city of Antakya, dozens of people scrambled for aid in front of a

truck distributing children's coats and other supplies.

Ahmet Tokgoz, a survivor, called for the Government to evacuate people from the devastated region.

While many of the tens of thousands who have lost their homes have found shelter in tents, stadiums and other temporary accommodation, others have spent the nights outdoors since Monday's 7.8 magnitude quake.

"Especially in this cold, it is not possible to live here," he said.

"People are warming up around campfires, but campfires can only warm you up so much. ... If people haven't died from being stuck under the rubble, they'll die from the cold." (PTI)

## 2 children killed, one injured in accident

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Feb 9: Two school children died while another received injuries in a road accident near Smailpur, Bari Brahmana area of Samba district today.

As per police a scooter bearing Registration Number JK02CM 9884 was hit by a car near Bari Brahmana Smailpur road, resulting into on the spot death of two school children and injuries to another.

The deceased were identi-

fied as Ashish Mato, son of Soma of Teli Basti and Lucky Raj, son of Bodh Raj of Meen Sarkar.

The injured identified as Salim Malik, son of Rashid Ahmed of Teli Basti has been shifted to Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) Jammu for treatment.

A case FIR Number 29/2023 under sections 279, 337 and 304-A IPC has been registered at Police Station (PS) Bari Brahmana and investigation started.

## Kingpin of 'chitta' trade arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, Feb 9: Kishtwar Police today claimed to have arrested a kingpin of 'chitta' trade in the district.

Giving details of the case, SSP Kishtwar Khalil Poswal said that recently a case under FIR Number 20/2023 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Kishtwar and one Mohammad Iqbal Khanday son of Bashir Ahmed Khanday, resident of Thakrie (at present Shaktinagar, Kishtwar) was arrested with 52 grams of heroin like substance (chitta) which he had kept in his shop.

"During the investigation, backward and forward linkages were ascertained and a major breakthrough was achieved by arresting main supplier of heroin

(chitta) namely Shah Nawaz Ahmed, resident of Tund (Kishtwar), who was responsible for trapping innocent youth of the area and indulging them in drug trafficking with huge financial transactions," the SSP said.

While divulging further details, the SSP said a team led by Inspector Abid Bukhari (SHO Police Station Kishtwar) raided the suspected locations and arrested the main supplier of drugs namely Shah Nawaz Ahmed son of Abdul Majid, resident of Hidayal (Kishtwar).

He said that Police are aggressively working to bust the involvement of other narcotic syndicates to save the innocent youth of Kishtwar and its surrounding areas from the menace of drug addiction.

## Man found hanging, another killed in accident

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Feb 9: A man was found hanging in his house in Bin Gar Camp a border village of Samba today.

The deceased was identified as Kuldeep Raj, son of Lal Chand of Gar Camp, district Samba.

The body was shifted by police to District Hospital Samba for autopsy.

After completing medical and legal formalities, the body of the deceased has been hand-

ed over to legal heirs for last rites.

Inquest proceedings under section 174 CrPc have been initiated by Samba Police in this regard.

Meanwhile one person died after falling down from tractor at Purmandal Morh today. The dead body was shifted to GMC Jammu for post-mortem. He has been identified as Ram Murat, 25, of UP presently at Sarore. The police has registered a case in this regard and started investigation.

## Prof Tandon nominated as national expert in PSUR review committee

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 9: Prof (Dr) Vishal R Tandon from GMC Jammu has been nominated as national expert in National Periodic Safety Update Reports (PSUR) Review Committee in order to evaluate the PSUR(s) submitted by the Marketing Authorization Holders (manufacturers and importers of Human drugs and vaccine).



The Committee will regulate safety, efficacy and quality of drugs, medical devices and cosmetics under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and Rules 1945 made there-under. The Committee will also be responsible for regulatory approval of new drugs, clinical trials, new medical devices and cosmetics in the country.

It is important to mention here that Dr Tandon is already a Subject Expert Committee member of DCGI, GoI and also expert member of signal review committee of two national programmes, PvPI and MvPI, IPC GoI.

## JKMEF deputations meets MD NHM

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 9: A deputation of Jammu Kashmir Medical Employees' Federation (JKMEF) Jammu led by Sushil Sudan (State president) and Dharminder Singh (senior leader) met with Ayushi Sudan (MD NHM J&K) at Civil Secretariat Jammu and demanded release of pending salary of 2 months of NHM employees of Block Sohanjana.

The deputation informed the MD NHM that the post of Accounts Manager NHM had been lying vacant for 3 months in Block Sohanjana due to

which salary of the NHM employees for last 3 months could not be released. The JKMEF leaders told Ayushi Sudan that the employees of NHM had been badly suffering due to non-release of their salary.

The members of the deputation stressed upon MD NHM to fill post of Accounts Manager (NHM) in Sohanjana immediately so that employees may not suffer more.

Ayushi Sudan listened to their demand patiently and assured to fill the post of Accounts Manager in Block Sohanjana as early as possible.

## Lithium reserves found in Jammu and Kashmir: Mines Secretary

NEW DELHI, Feb 9:

The Government on Thursday said lithium reserves have been found for the first time in the country in Jammu and Kashmir.

Lithium is a non-ferrous metal and is one of the key components in EV batteries.

"For the first time, lithium reserves have been discovered and that too in Jammu and Kashmir," Mines Secretary Vivek Bharadwaj said. Upon exploration by the Geological Survey of India (GSI), lithium reserves have been found in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, the Mines ministry had said that to strengthen the critical mineral supply chain for

emerging technologies, the Government was taking several proactive measures to secure minerals, including lithium, from Australia and Argentina.

Currently, India is import-dependent for many minerals like lithium, nickel and cobalt.

Speaking at the 62nd Central Geological Programming board meeting here, Bharadwaj also said that whether it is a mobile phone or a solar panel, critical minerals are required everywhere.

In order to become self-reliant, it is very important for the country to find out critical minerals and also process it, he said.

He also said that if gold imports are reduced, then "we will become atmanirbhar (self-reliant)". (PTI)

## 100 metres around hospitals-schools declared 'Silence Zone' in Ladakh

LEH/JAMMU, Feb 9:

The Ladakh Pollution Control Committee (LPCC) has declared a 100-metre area around hospitals and schools as a 'silence zone', officials said.

"100-metre area around hospitals and schools & courts is declared as 'silence zone' banning total use of loudspeakers", they said.

It is forbidden to use loudspeakers, horns, or burst crackers in these areas, officials said.

LPCC has categorised areas into four zones-industrial area, commercial area, residential area and silence zone and has fixed ambient air quality standards with respect to noise.

While 75, 65, 55 and 50 decibels have been fixed as noise limits for industrial, commercial, residential and silence areas respectively in the day, it has fixed 70, 55, 45, and 40 decibels respectively for these areas in the night. (PTI)



Office bearers of BJP cultural cell and artists releasing devotional album at Jammu on Thursday.

## Devotional album 'Baba Kaliveer Karka Ji' released

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 9: A video devotional song 'Baba Kaliveer Karka Ji' was released today in Kaliveer Darbar, here in special function, organised by Sahil Mahajan BJP JK UT co-convenor Sanskriti Art and Culture Cell, Rajveer Manni Maa Bawe Wali Records Chairman, and others.

The devotional song was sung by singer Ravinder Gupta, while lyrics were written by Sunny Nath, music composed by Surinder Manhas and video was prepared by KK Malhotra. The Album has been simultaneously released on YouTube Channel Maa Bawe Wali Records Presents.

While addressing the audi-

ence, Sahil Mahajan said, "We as a societal family must make an effort to support and nurture young talent which will bring laurels to the whole Jammu & Kashmir."

He said, "Dogri culture and heritage is revered by one and all in the whole region. He praised the whole production team for their efforts in making the release of the album. He said that 'Bharat Bhoomi' has a vast and rich cultural heritage and these devotees of fine arts ensure that the mind of our creative youth is directed towards nurturing their skills with a positive mind setup.

Rajveer Manni complimented and wished all the success for the young artists for their new devotional video song.

## Theft case solved; stolen revolver, bullets, cash recovered

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 9: Gandhi Nagar Police today claimed to have solved a theft case by arresting a thief and recovering stolen articles including a revolver and some bullets in his disclosure.

"Acting on a written complaint lodged at Police Station Gandhi Nagar by a person namely Abhishek Gupta son of late Sanjeev Gupta, resident of 418-A Gandhi Nagar (Jammu) that someone has stolen his licensed revolver number GLJK050403201600013 along with 7 to 8 bullets and a cash amount of Rs 1,05,000 from his locker, a case under FIR Number 25/2023 U/S 381 IPC was registered in Police Station Gandhi Nagar and investigation got started," a Police spokesman

said. He said during investigation, a team of Police Station Gandhi Nagar under the supervision of SDPO South Sachit Sharma and led by SHO Gandhi Nagar Inspector Pankaj Sharma, with the help of CCTV footages of the area, arrested the accused person namely Sarabjeet Singh alias Shubam son of Sukhjeet Singh, resident of Batiyari Khatel (Ramnagar, Udhampur) from Ramnagar area.

"On questioning, the accused his involvement in the theft case and on his disclosure, the stolen revolver along with bullets and cash worth Rs 90,000 was recovered from his rental accommodation situated at Gandey Talab, Shakti Nagar, Udhampur," the spokesman said.

He said further investigation of the case was going on.

## Nine vehicles involved in illegal mining seized

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 9: Jammu Police has seized nine vehicles involved in illegal mining from different parts of the district.

According to a police spokesman, three tractor trolleys bearing registration numbers JK02CW-7508, JK02CT-2801 and JK02CS-0962 were seized by Police Station Kahnachak while one tractor trolley bearing chassis number 04226028572 was seized by Border Police Post Gansojan.

He said five tractor trolleys bearing chassis numbers MBNAAALXBKNH00315, G Z C D S 8 4 3 6 5 2 S 3 , B Z C D S 8 1 9 0 9 8 S 3 , MBNBS55AAKCK82497 and MBNGAALFZNNAA00615 were also seized by Police Post Phallian Mandal.

The DMO Jammu was also intimated about the same, he added.

## Every BJP activist works with motto nation first: Koul

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 9: Senior political leaders from National Conference (NC), People's Democratic Party (PDP) and other social personalities with their supporters joined Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in presence of senior party leaders at party headquarters, here, today.

J&K BJP general secretary (Org.), Ashok Koul, BJP National Council Member, Dr. Ali Mohammed, office secretary, Tilak Raj Gupta and other senior party leaders welcomed the new entrants into the party fold.

Former youth leader of NC, Choudhary Yasir former PDP leader and Board Member, Gujjar Bakkarwal Board, Choudhary Fayaz,, Youth leader Fayaz Ali Choudhary and Mohammed Jamal all from Budgam along with their supporters joined BJP on the occasion.

Ashok Koul, while welcoming the new entrants said that today, every common and prominent member of society is recognizing the dedicated and constant efforts of BJP and its activists in strengthening the

nation. He said that every activist of the party works with the motto of "nation first" in mind and the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has himself established the highest benchmark of serving society and nation selflessly.

Ashok Koul further said that these new entrants are the established leaders who have enough experience of dedicated public life. He expressed his belief that their services will further extend the base of the party into the society.

Dr. Ali Mohammed welcomed them into the party fold and said that going by its selfless policies the party is increasing base day and night along the length and breadth of the nation. He said that more and more people have adopted the principles of BJP to serve the nation selflessly.

New entrants said that impressed by the dedicated working of PM Modi, they have developed firm belief that the nation will reach new heights in a short span of time. They assured party leadership that they will leave no stone unturned to work for the party, the society and the nation.

## EDI, CUJ hold awareness programme-cum-workshop

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 9: Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) today organized a one-day awareness programme-cum-workshop on J&K Startup Policy with a special focus on innovation and incubation at the Bari Brahmana Regional Campus of the Institute at Jammu.

Director JKEDI, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat presided over the

detailed insight into the basic prerequisites for the creation of a successful enterprise. It will also emphasize the importance of such enterprises in a rapidly changing startup environment where innovation and creativity are considered the drivers of economic and social stability.

During the program, many aspects of J&K Startup policy including incubation, funding, patents, networking and access to market support, legal support,



Participants at awareness programme-cum-workshop on Thursday.

program as the chief guest.

The program was conducted by the Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Business Modelling (CIIBM), a program vertical of JKEDI in association with Central University of Jammu. The program is a part of the Institute's campaign to involve and collaborate with academic Institutions to create a sustainable entrepreneurial culture in the UT of J&K.

Director JKEDI has given special instructions to conduct such programs across all districts of J&K. "It is extremely crucial to inculcate the principles of entrepreneurship in young minds and we have strived hard towards achieving this goal since the inception of the Institute. This initiative will help young minds develop an innovative mindset and they will be able to reach their full potential in order to become leaders in their respective fields," said the Director.

Students were provided with a platform for open and productive exchanges of ideas and knowledge to become entrepreneurs. They were also given a regulatory and compliance support as well as infrastructure support were discussed in detail with the students. The university students were also acquainted with the Startup India interventions and support available for the Startups. The Students also visited the incubation facilities at the Institute.

A large number of students from different vocational and management courses at Central University Jammu participated in the awareness program cum workshop. The students were accompanied by faculty members from the Central University of Jammu, Ketan Bhat, and VibhuJohar. The Institute also thanked Dr. Shahid Mushtaq, Head Department of Marketing and SCM at the Central University for his support.

Dr. Majid Mazoor Khan, Associate Senior Faculty, Dr.MeirajUd Din Bhat, Faculty, Vishal Ray, Faculty/Manager Incubation, Arif Ahmad Khan, Communication Officer, Dr. Vinod Kumar, Assistant Faculty and Imtiyaz Ahmad, Associate Project Manager were also present on the occasion.

## Poppy straw seized from truck, smuggler arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Feb 9: Two days after the recovery of 350 kgs of poppy straw, Police Station Chenani today seized 30 kg more poppy straw in its series of efforts against the menace of drugs.

The consignment was being smuggled in a truck (PB07S-9688), which was on way from Kashmir and intercepted by a Police Party, led by SHO Chenani, Insp Om Parkash, under the supervision of SDPO Chenani Sheikh Tahir Amin, near Motor Shed Chenani NHW.

During checking, 30 Kgs of poppy straw packed in polythene bag was recovered from the truck. It was concealed inside the tool box of the said vehicle to avoid being checked by the Police. Driver of truck, identified as Sukhdev Singh son of Mangal Singh, resident of Modhera, Pannua, Tarn Taran, Punjab, was arrested on the spot. The contraband item along with the vehicle was seized on the spot and a case FIR number 27/2023, under section 8/15 NDPS Act has been registered in this connection at PS Chenani. Meanwhile, continuing its Nasha Mukh Abhiyaan, Chenani Police also arrested a bootlegger who was preparing and selling hooch. Police seized seven litres of illicit liquor from his

possession and destroyed 180 litres of Lahan.

One distillation unit being run by the accused at Mantalai was also smashed by the Police Party, headed by IC PP Sudhmahadev, PSI Rahul Singh, under the supervision of SHO Chenani.

The arrested bootlegger has been identified as Rattan Lal, son of Ram Lal of Mantalai. Case FIR number 29/2023, under section 48 (A), (E) Excise Act has been registered in this connection at PS Chenani.

## 787 kanal state land retrieved

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, Feb 9: The District administration Ramban, in continuation of anti-encroachment drives in the district, today retrieved more than 787 kanal state land in different tehsils of the District.

In joint anti encroachment drives conducted by the Revenue officers and Police, 534 kanal encroached state land was reclaimed in tehsil Banihal, 207 kanal in tehsil Ramban, 23 kanal in Khari and 21 kanal in Ramsoo.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mussarat Islam and other senior officers personally monitored the anti encroachment drives.



Security personnel posing with recovery made at Mendhar. Excelsior/Rahi Kapoor

## Hideout busted in Mendhar

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Feb 9: Security forces today busted a hideout and recovered ammunition and explosive material in Poonch district, sources said.

A team of police, assisted by the Army, launched a search operation in the Naka Manjari

area of Mendhar tehsil in Poonch district. It busted a hideout and recovered ammunition and explosive material.

Four AK rifle magazines with ammunition, two grenades, some explosive material, one binocular and other material were recovered, the sources said.



Dy Mayor BS Billawaria handing over keys of house under PMAY scheme to beneficiary in Jammu.

## Dy Mayor hands over keys of PMAY houses to beneficiaries

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 9: Deputy Mayor of Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria visited Ward No. 55 Shanti Nagar, Kunjwani, Ward No. 51 Chami Himmat and Ward No. 47 Bahu Fort and inspected the houses coming under the Housing for all scheme.

During his visit, the Deputy Mayor handed over the keys of houses to the beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (URBAN) mission scheme. The Deputy Mayor Jammu was accompanied by Corporator Ward No. 51 Raj Kumar Tarkhan, Corporator Ward No. 55 Sharda Devi, Corporator Ward No. 55 Pritam Singh and officers of the concerned department.

Speaking on the occasion Billawaria said that the 'Housing for All' scheme is a revolutionary initiative of the Central Government that aims to provide housing to all the citizens of the country. He further said that the aim of the scheme is to provide

housing to all by 2023 and the government is committed to make this mission a success. He also highlighted the various initiatives taken by the government to provide housing to the weaker sections of the society.

He expressed the Prime Minister's Narendra Modi commitment to providing housing for all and said that this scheme will help to bridge the gap between the haves and the have-nots. He said that according to the dream of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, every poor person should have his own house, houses being given to the needy under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

Deputy Mayor also held a meeting with the local residents and discussed the various development issues and other problems faced by them. He assured the people that the government is committed to provide all possible assistance to the people and that all their problems will be addressed on priority.

## VHP national secretary Khem Chand passes away

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 9: Khem Chand Sharma, national secretary VHP and president, Akhil Bharatiya Goa Raksha Samiti breathed his last today after a cardiac arrest at New Delhi. He was 68. His cremation took place at Nigambodh Ghat in the afternoon.

A Sangh Pracharak from his student life, Khem Raj has served in J&K during nineties as organizing secretary of VHP for about a decade and has actively participat-

ed in various activities of VHP from time to time including Ram Janambhoomi Andolan.

He joined as RSS Pracharak in 1976 and was deputed to VHP in Punjab during 1990 and in 1997 he was appointed as organising secretary of VHP J&K. Later he was appointed as additional organising secretary of VHP's Inderprast Region. In 2005 he was appointed national secretary VHP.

VHP general secretary, Miland Prandey and national spokesperson, Dr Surinder Jain, RSS and VHP leaders from J&K have expressed their shock and grief over his demise and termed it a great loss. They also highlighted his services to the nation.

## Samba police arrests 2 women heroin smugglers

Excelsior Correspondent

SAMBA, Feb 9: Police, under the guidance of SSP Samba, Benam Tosh, achieved another major success in their continued operation against narcotic smugglers, suppliers, arrested two interstate female heroin smugglers of narcotic substances and recovered heroin like substance (Chitta) weighing 200 grams approximately worth Rs ten lac along with cash amounting to Rs 24920.00 from their possession.

The arrested women narcotic suppliers have been identified as Chanchlo, 28, wife of Mohammad Sharif alias Bully of Sarore Bari-Brahmana and Sheema alias Jhulan, 23, wife of Golu of Nakodar Jalandhar. A case FIR No. 22/2023 U/S 8/21/22/29 NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station (PS) Vijaypur and investigation started.

Police said the alert officials of a 'naka' near Vijaypur under the supervision of Additional SP, Samba, Surinder Choudhary and SDPO, Vijaypur, Priyanka Kumari while conducting checking found two suspicious women inside a passenger bus and got conducted their personal search through Executive Magistrate, First Class and during search Heroin along with

cash was recovered from the possession of the duo.

Total six notorious suppliers of narcotic substances including three women narcotic smugglers have been arrested by Samba Police within a short period of one month and traps and raids are being organized to track down the other anti-social elements involved in narcotic trafficking & drugs supplying.

## Man dies due to electrocution

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Feb 9: A man died today due to electrocution in Gho Manhasa area of city outskirts.

The deceased was identified as an electrician namely Surinder Kumar (30) son of Ram Dayal, resident of Badhrore (Gho Manhasa), Police sources said, adding, he came in contact with a high tension electric passing through an under-construction house at Khanpur (Gho Manhasa), where he was doing some electrical work and died on the spot.

He said the body of the deceased was shifted to Government Medical College and Hospital, Jammu for post-mortem while a case in this connection was registered in concerned police station and further investigation started.