



SSOCA team posing with Deputy Chairman LAHDC Leh Tsering Angchuk and other ECs at Council Secretariat, Leh.

LAHDC Leh discusses upcoming schemes with SSOCA

Excelsior Correspondent
LEH, Jan 5: A team of Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency (SSOCA) led by its Director Sudhir Giri and Technical Expert Vimal Pravash today met Deputy Chairman LAHDC Leh Tsering Angchuk and Executive Councillors at Council Secretariat here and discussed upcoming schemes, training and exchange programmes in guiding Leh towards organic and sustainable agriculture practices. It is to mention that under the chairmanship of the then CEC, LAHDC, Leh Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, a memorandum of understanding between Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency and LAHDC Leh was signed to exchange ideas, knowledge, expertise and to conduct training to convert entire Leh district into an organic region by 2025 in June 2019. Recently, the visiting team of

Aijaz seeks quick action response for snowbound areas

Excelsior Correspondent
REASI, Jan 5: District Development Council (DDC) member from Thuroo Constituency and Vice President of Apni Party Aijaz Ahmed Khan today demanded quick action response for snowbound areas to evict trapped people and assessment of losses suffered by the hilly areas in Jammu Division. In a statement, Aijaz Khan said that the snowfall in the upper reaches of Reasi, Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar, Kathua and Udhampur districts have affected normal life and many localities have been disconnected from the rest of the world. Khan said the Government should immediately activate Quick Response Teams of National Disaster Management for compensation and assessment of the losses suffered by the people in hilly areas. He demanded that the affected families should be provided

Shahnawaz calls on Commissioner Secretaries of PDD, Jal Shakti

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Jan 5: Shahnawaz Choudhary, Member DDC Poonch (Surankote A), today expressed his concern and resentment among the people. Shahnawaz asked the PDD Commissioner Secretary to increase the 30 Amperes power from 132KV side and to complete the work of Grid Station Chandak and 132 KV receiving station at Marhote on priority, so that sufficient power supply can be ensured. He also demanded installation of more transformers and installation of poles, as still the wires are hanging on trees in several villages. Shahnawaz also called on Commissioner Secretary PHE M Raju and discussed the issue of shortage of water supply in several areas of Surankote and asked him to cover the area in Jal Shakti Mission schemes so that every house hold can get water connection. Both the Commissioner Secretaries assured Shahnawaz to redress the issues on priority.

Shahnawaz submitting a memorandum to Rohit Kansal during meeting at Jammu. He handed over a representation to him and said that this was the height of discrimination with the border district that there is power cut around 10 hours daily in this severe winter. Stating that there is a huge

Protest demonstration of Soan Kashmir Front enters day 96

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Jan 5: During a protest demonstration today at Nagrota, Jagti Tenement Committee and Soan Kashmir Front has demanded a hike in monthly cash relief of Kashmiri Pandits (KPs) relief holders from Rs. 13,000 to Rs. 25,000 per family. Addressing the protesters, Shadi Lal Pandita, Front leader said today their protest entered day 96 but none from the Government has met them to listen their demands. He claimed that BJP Government only deceived Kashmiri Pandits and did nothing for them. The Front leader also demand Government job for those families which have no family member in Government job till date and demanded a new package of 20,000 posts for such families. Pandita claimed that there are many families in KP community which were unable to teach their children beyond matriculation due to migration and demanded 5000 Class IV jobs for such people. He appealed to the Director General of Police to start a recruitment drive at Jagti Township and other migrant camps for KP unemployed youth so that they can also get an opportunity to serve the nation. "For rehabilitation of KPs in Kashmir valley, the Government should set up three satellite townships in Baramulla, Srinagar and Anantnag where at least 35,000 KP families can live in each township together," Pandita maintained.

Raj Kumar Tickoo, Front Convener; Kashi Nath Bhat, Vice President; Ravinder Koul, M.L. Razdan, Vijay Bakshi, Kamal Pandita, Vinod Moza, Rakesh Ambardar, Shuban Raina, Mithan Pandita, Shadi Lal Koul, Rakesh Tickoo, S. Charanjit Singh, Javaid Ahmad and others were also present in the protest.

Roads leading to hospitals not motorable: DAK

Excelsior Correspondent
SRINAGAR, Jan 5: Doctors Association Kashmir (DAK) today expressed its displeasure towards administration for not making the roads accessible leading towards hospitals. In a statement issued in the evening, Dr Suhail Naik said that it was said to see that the roads leading to hospitals and health centres are not cleared of snow which makes it difficult for doctors and our medical staff to reach to their place of duties. He also expressed displeasure on the suspension of a medico at Primary Health Centre, Chiram, block Bijbehara by district administration Anantnag and said that the medico could not reach on time due to roads that were blocked due to snow. "Though the medico had left early morning from his residence but could not reach on time as the roads were not cleared of snow. It is shame that the road leading to that PHC was not cleared of snow up to 4:00 PM today and the district administration has failed in performing its duties during this hour of crisis," he said. He said that DAK is receiving continuous calls from doctors who are facing difficulty in reaching hospitals due to the non-clearance of snow from the roads "and the administration wants to hide its failure by pass-

Samphel reviews issues of hoteliers

Excelsior Correspondent
LEH, Jan 5: In a meeting here today Commissioner Secretary Tourism, Rigzin Samphel reviewed various issues of hotels and guest houses of Ladakh. Issues such as NOC, fire and pollution safety norms and incentives based issues were discussed during the meeting. Speaking in the meeting Samphel said the matter would be taken up with Central Pollution Control Board and directed Chief Wildlife Warden to put up the case to address pollution-related issues in UT of Ladakh. He also informed that a local Pollution Control Committee would be set up in the next two months and directed the concerned officers of Tourism Department to organize counselling sessions, awareness

Seven JU officers get new posting, additional charges

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Jan 5: The University of Jammu has today ordered new postings and additional charges to seven of its officers of which some are relieved from the additional charges already with them. Dr Dharminder Magotra, Joint Registrar (CDC) is relieved from the additional charge of I/C Establishment NTW. Vivek Slathia, Deputy Registrar (Accounts/Pension) is transferred and posted as Deputy Registrar (Evaluation Prof.). Dritika Singh, Deputy Registrar (RUSA/Grants) shall also hold the charge of Accounts Branch in addition to her existing duties relieving Vivek Slathia, Deputy Registrar of the charge. Khem Paul Singh Sambhal, Deputy Registrar (Development/Admission) shall also hold the

EC Chandan discusses issues with LG, others

Excelsior Correspondent
KARGIL, Jan 5: Executive Councillor for Health and Agriculture Muhammad Ali Chandan called on the Lieutenant Governor (LG) Ladakh Radha Krishna Mathur at Raj Bhawan Leh to discuss several important issues related to Kargil district in general and Shargole Constituency in particular. Chairman Block Development Council Shargole, Tsering Nurboo also accompanied the EC during the meeting. EC Chandan sought the intervention of the LG for construction of the civil airport at Sarukathang Wakha, the release of funds for repair and renovation of Wakha Irrigation Canal, implementation of Government Order with regard to enhancement of wages of watch and ward (Mali), consolidated and casual laborers working in Forests and Wildlife Protection Department on the basis of prevailing wages rates of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir in their respective categories. The LG gave a patient hearing to all issues raised by EC Chandan and assured that the demands projected by him would be considered for suitable follow up. Later, the EC also met the Commissioner Secretary Tourism Ladakh, Rigzin Samphel, Divisional Commissioner Ladakh Saugat Biswas and Administrative Secretary PDD Ladakh Ravinder Kumar and took up various issues which included the construction of Babar Khan Polo Ground at Wakha, organizing of Mamani Festival at Shargole, construction of helipad at Fokar Lungma and civil airport at Sarukathang Wakha, construction of Ice Hockey Rink at Fokar Lungma, Shargole and Lothum, installation of 1200 number of electric poles in Shargole constituency, opening of Industrial Training Institute (ITI) at Shargole and other related issues. Commissioner Secretary Tourism, Divisional Commissioner and Administrative Secretary assured the EC that appropriate steps would be taken to fulfill the demands raised by him in a phased manner.

Deportation of illegal immigrants demanded

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Jan 5: A meeting of Sangram Sena was held here today under the chairmanship of R.K Raina, its president and Kapil Sharma, president Dogra Liberation Front. Speakers in the meeting expressed concern over the Government allegedly allowing Bangladeshis and other illegal immigrants to settle in Jammu region of J&K. They claimed that these illegal immigrants have virtually settled in Jammu and have even procured ration card with the help of some then leaders of Jammu who for their vested interests to provide facilities to the illegal immigrants. Speaking in the meeting R.K Raina said successive leaders of Jammu never thought for the region but sold interest of Jammu for their selfish ends. He also claimed that allowing illegal immigrants to settle in Jammu city is suicidal for Jammu people. Raina said continuing of the illegal immigrants in Jammu will prove dangerous for entire J&K and may take an ugly turn which can't be controlled. He demanded deportation of Bangladeshis and other illegal immigrants from J&K and urged upon the LG and his Advisors for taking steps in this direction.



MP Jugal Kishore Sharma in a meeting with NHAJ officers at Jammu.

Jugal discusses developmental projects with NHAJ officers

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Jan 5: Member of Parliament (MP) Jugal Kishore Sharma discussed various developmental projects of Jammu with officers of National Highways Authorities, here today and passed directions to expedite the already running projects in his Jammu-Poonch Parliamentary Constituency. Stating that the traffic in Jammu City is increasing day by day, Jugal said to ensure the hassle free movement of traffic there is dire need for framing new proposals for underpasses, flyovers and crossing over bridges at many locations frequently visited by public in large. The MP said that after the formation of Bharatiya Janata Party's Government at center under Prime Minister Narendra Modi Jammu City has been enlisted among the developing cities and moving ahead towards smart city. Project Director NHAJ Ajay Kumar Rajak, Assistant Manager (Technical) Ish Gupta and team leader SVK Singh were present in the meeting.



Apni Party leaders posing with new entrants at party office, Gandhi Nagar in Jammu.

Apni Party urges Govt to fast track recruitment process

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Jan 5: Apni Party has appealed the Government to fast track recruitment process in Jammu and Kashmir. While speaking at an impressive function at Apni Party office in Gandhi Nagar where many youth joined Apni Party, Vijay Bakaya (general secretary of Apni Party and ex-MLC) expressed great satisfaction that so many youth, college going youth had come forward to show interest in the pragmatic policies of the Apni Party. He told the gathering that youth had a vital role to play in helping the Apni Party to take the people of the UT towards a stable peaceful and prosperous future. He said that this would happen as the Apni Party do not believe in divisive politics and is not indulged in empty rhetoric. Bakaya said the Apni Party would strive to make youth develop an optimistic and healthy attitude and to assure employment opportunities for all deserving youth. He urged the Government to fast track recruitment and also takes care of the aspirations of youth engaged on temporary basis who were working like any Government servant with meager emoluments with hope of becoming permanent only after completing seven years of service. Apni Party general secretary Vikram Malhotra appealed the Government of India to reserve certain jobs in Union Government departments keeping in view the troubling period since the last three decades. Malhotra said that there was frustration among the youth due to poor employment avenues in Government departments. Provincial president and former Minister Manjit Singh termed the youth as backbone of J&K and the nation who should be given special attention and special recruitment drives should be conducted in the border area of Jammu division from Kathua to Poonch district. Provincial president, women wing, Namra Sharma, ex-MLC and vice provincial president, Asghali Ali and Shoaib Lone (district president, Baramulla) also addressing the gathering.

Prime accused in rape, POCSO Act arrested

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Jan 5: Domana Police arrested prime accused, who was wanted in a rape and Prevention of Children from Sexual offences (POCSO) Act case. As per police sources, a report regarding rape of a minor girl was lodged in Police Station Domana in the month of February last year. Acting over the report, a case under FIR Number 99/2020 under Sections 366-A and 376 IPC and 3/4 POCSO Act was registered at Police Station Domana and medical examination of the victim was conducted. After medical examination, the victim was handed over to family members and hunt was launched to nab the accused. During the course of investigation, it came to fore that the accused identified as Yasir Khan, son of Zakir Hussain of Takku Chak Domana District Jammu has fled outside Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. After this, different teams of Police Station Domana were constituted under the supervision of SDPO Domana Kosheen Koul for the search and arrest of the accused person. Police team led by SHO Domana Inspector Chanchal Singh and assisted by PSI

Drug peddler held with heroin

Excelsior Correspondent
POONCH, Jan 5: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the drug menace in Mendhar area, Police alongwith local Army unit nabbed a person from Dabbi village of Balakote area and recovered 300 gms of heroin from his possession. A police spokesman said that the search in the area is continuing as huge quantity of arms and ammunition was also earlier recovered recently from Dabbi village in Balakote. The police was also looking at the terror angle of this drug recovery. The police avoided to reveal identity of the drug peddler at this stage. People of the area appreciated the role of police and security forces in successfully conducting anti-narcotic operations.

CGM SBI distributes sanction letters to 17 SHGs

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Jan 5: Chief General Manager (CGM) State Bank of India (SBI) Circle Chandigarh Anukool Bhatnagar today distributed sanction letters to 17 SHGs amounting Rs 1.19 crore under National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) programme. Anukool Bhatnagar was accompanied by Binod Kumar Mishra General Manager, Network-III, Ajitav Parashar Deputy General Manager SBI Head J&K and Ladakh UTs, Fayaz Ahmad Wani Regional Manager RBO V and Chief Manager C M Bhat. While addressing the Presidents and Secretaries of SHGs, Anukool Bhatnagar impressed upon the age old relationship of the State Bank of India with the Self Help Groups. He focused on the fact the SBI was created mainly to protect the rural poor from the unpleasant money lenders and to bolster rural development. He acclaimed that the growth of SHGs is impeccable, supported by the fact that their products are sold not only in India but also in other countries. Their products are readily available at local market as well as on online platforms. He advised the Self Help Groups to perform their activities at large scale as well, with the support from bank's credit. He suggested SHGs to focus on savings and keeping good record of accounting. While concluding, he mentioned that the State Bank of India's aim lies in the upliftment of the rural, which will be reflected by the upliftment of the Self Help Groups and the bank, is consistently performing to achieve this aim.



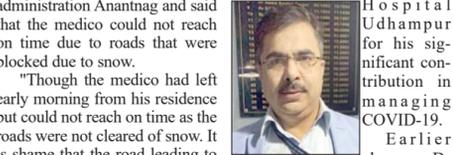
ADGP Security and Director Police Academy Dr SD Singh Jamwal and newly promoted Head Constables posing for group photograph.

ADGP Security pins ranks to newly promoted HCs

Excelsior Correspondent
UDHAMPUR, Jan 5: ADGP Security and Director Police Academy Dr SD Singh Jamwal pinned ranks to 11 newly promoted Head Constables (HCs) of SKPA Udhampur and 2 HCs of Security Headquarters in a pipping ceremony held at Security Headquarters J&K Jammu. The newly promoted officials included HC Noor Hussain, HC Jugal Kishore, HC Ghulam Sarwar, HC Hardev Chand, HC Madan Lal, HC Dev Raj, HC Narinder Singh, HC Subash Chander, HC Om Parkash, HC Gian Chand and HC Kuldeep Singh of SKPA Udhampur and HC Baljit Singh and HC Rakesh Singh of Security Headquarters. Dr Jamwal advised newly

TDF demands forest clearance to ensure road construction

Excelsior Correspondent
JAMMU, Jan 5: President Thathri Development Front, Kuldeep Kumar Rao has urged upon the Lt. Governor, Manoj Sinha, J&K Chief Secretary and Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union MoS for according forest clearance of Suringa Morh-Jai link road without any further delay for taking up the suspended work on the link road immediately. In a handout Rao said on 14 km Suringa Morh-Jai link road earth cutting work is already complete from Suringa Morh to village Jaura Kalan - a distance of 4 kms while work from Jaura Kalan to Jai which is 10 km



Dr Raina awarded for COVID-19 services. Dr Raina was awarded by Financial Commissioner, Health and Medical Education Department Atal Dulloo for his commendable work as Corona Warrior in telecommunication team. Moreover, Dr Raina was also awarded by DC Udhampur on August 15 last year for his efforts to mitigate the affairs of COVID-19.