

DDC asks telecom companies to improve connectivity

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Nov 17: District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting with the officers and representatives of telecom companies to review the telecom services being provided in the district.

The DC said that there was a dire need to improve the connectivity in the border areas of the district to mitigate the sufferings of the public as poor connectivity has become an impediment in the way of progress in these areas.

The DDC directed the telecom service providers to make the best use of existing infrastructure and create additional infrastructure in the district to improve connectivity.



DDC members, Shahnawaz Choudhary flanked by others inaugurating link road at Surankote in Poonch.

Shahnawaz inaugurates road from Radi to Tola Mumtaz

Excelsior Correspondent

SURANKOTE, Nov 17: JKPC general secretary and DDC Member from Surankote- A block, Shahnawaz Choudhary inaugurated link road from Radi to Tola Mumtaz via High School Nandyali, Marhote here today in presence of Naib Tehsildar Marhote Abdul Majeed, AEE R&B Vikas Bhardwaj, other department officials, district president Sarpanches Association Sikander Noorani, Sarpanch Niaz Ahmed and other dignitaries of the area.

Speaking on the occasion, Shahnawaz Choudhary said that our rural area lacked basic infrastructure and this was ignored by yester year's political leadership. Road infrastructure influences life of common people in positive way and this is my top priority as DDC Member.

Shahnawaz further said that he

He further asked them to provide quality telecommunication services to the public.

He also instructed the concerned officers to submit the list of shadow zones within the shortest possible time so that necessary steps can be taken to provide better connectivity to all such areas of the district.

The DDC also directed the telecom operators to resolve all the administrative and technical inter-organisational issues and ensure that the shadow areas have services at par with other areas of the UT.

Officers who attended the meeting included ADC Rajouri, Sachin Dev Singh; CPO, Mohammad Khurshid; Tehsildars and representatives of telecom companies.

Thoise Airport to get operational under UDAAN scheme for civilians

Excelsior Correspondent

LEH, Nov 17: A long pending demand of the people of Nubra valley gets a leap ahead as the airport at Thoise sanctioned under UDAAN scheme has been allotted 28 kanals as informed.

A joint survey was conducted by the officials of Indian Airforce, Civil Aviation Administration, Defence Estate Office and Airport Authority of India recently to demarcate the land and the handing over of land with a prepared sketch was initiated today by the officials in the presence of Councillor Tiger, airport for civilians under UDAAN scheme. BDC Chairperson Diskit, and officials of BJP unit

extended his gratitude to the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, LG Ladakh RK Mathur and MP Ladakh Jamyang Tsering Namgyal for



A view of Thoise airbase in Leh district which has been sanctioned to be developed as airport for civilians under UDAAN scheme.

Chairman/CEC, Advocate Tashi Gyalsong said after constant interactions and negotiation with the concerned authorities and the Ministry of Defence by the Hill Council, Leh, this has become possible. He further

their assistance in smoothly clearing the procedures.

Gyalsong stated that this step would pave ways for a large number of opportunities to the people of Nubra region and would boost the local economy of the region in all the developmental sectors.

Hassnain Masoodi raises issues concerning Kashmir Railways

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Nov 17: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (NC) senior leader and Member of Parliament from Anantnag Hassnain Masoodi raised a number of issues concerning railways across Kashmir province in the Northern Railways meeting at Chandigarh.

The meeting was attended by MPs from Northern India to deliberate on the problems and discuss solutions. Demanding an increase in facilities at existing railway stations like waiting areas, washing rooms, lighting in railway coaches across the Valley, Masoodi

said, "There is an urgent need to replace coaches that are in bad shape with modern facilities and look to correspond with the surrounding scenic ambience."

Seeking an increase in the frequency of trains between Banihal to Baramulla, he sought additional halt points at Sangran, Monghall and Naen Batpora.

He also demanded construction of approach road to Ratanpora Halt and expedite work on Baramulla- Banihal and Jammu- Poonch. "Laying of Railway line between Qazigund-Pahalgam will also increase the tourist rush in Pahalgam and bring the destination on the national tourist map," he added

Identify fake licence holders, ban outdated vehicles: Asgar

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, Nov 17: Apni Party State general secretary, Syed Asgar Ali has appealed authorities in Kishtwar district to check fake licence holders and outdated vehicles on the roads of hilly district causing unwanted tragedies.

In a statement to the press, Syed Asgar Ali said that the road accidents happen in Chenab valley due to careless driving, bad road conditions or rash driving. Therefore, the authorities must come into action and check the vehicles, driving licenses and ban outdated vehicles from plying on the roads of Kishtwar district to avoid tragic road accidents.

He also said that vehicular traffic has been allowed on roads which have not been passed by the authorities yet for plying of vehicles and that needs to be monitored by the concerned department and accordingly action should be taken. Meanwhile, he has expressed deep concern and shock over the tragic road accident in

Marwah of Kishtwar district in which eight people lost their lives.

"The deceased person's next of kins should be provided adequate financial support," he said and raised a question mark on the shabby condition of roads in remote areas of Kishtwar district where such accidents happen. He demanded that road connectivity should be improved.

He insisted on investigating the matter and upgrading the road connectivity in the remote area of Kishtwar district. He expressed his concern over the authorities who hardly give heed to the general issues of the people concerning the road connectivity.

"The authorities should frame a committee to review the situation so that the road accidents can be avoided in future. Chenab valley has repeatedly witnessed such deadly road accidents in which innocent people lost their lives. We shall provide better roads to the people and punish those driving carelessly violating the traffic rules," he said.

Notorious drug-peddler detained

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Nov 17: The police has detained a notorious drug-peddler under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act.

The detention has been ordered keeping in view public safety and to ensure that activities of notorious persons are checked. The notorious drug-peddler and supplier, namely Tariq Mehmood, son of Pervaiz Ahmed, resident of Hasplate in Thanamandi in district Rajouri has been detained under "The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Act" and has been lodged in District Jail Dhangri, Rajouri under the orders of Divisional Commissioner,

Jammu. The individual is involved in number of drugs and criminal cases registered at different Police Stations over the past couple of years, police said.

He is repeatedly found engaged in anti-social activities and is a habitual drug smuggler, supplier which is prejudicial to the maintenance of public order and posed serious threat to safety and security of lives and property of citizens particular young generation from menace of drug in Thanamandi town and entire district.

SSP Rajouri, Mohd Aslam said that Rajouri Police is committed to serve the general public and to ensure sense of security among public and to contribute for 'Nasha Mukta Abhiyan' started by Government.

Migrants demand restoration of flour supply

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 17: The inmates of Jagti township have expressed concern over non supply of flour since July this year to Kashmiri migrants and rice from this month.

In a statement issued here, today Sunil Pandita and Vijay Koul the social activists of the Jagti camp said that the Government has failed to issue the flour to Kashmiri migrants since July this year while many families were not given the rice quota of the this month too.

In an appeal to Relief authorities they demanded immediate release of ration to migrants residing in various camp and non camp localities. They said many migrant families especially suffering from diabetes have been advised by doctors to avoid rice and they are in dire need of flour but after stopping the supply they are unable to purchase the same from the market on high cost.

Power Grid constructs 2 PHCs in Ferozepur

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 17: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharashtra PSU under Ministry of Power, Government of India, has constructed two Public Health Centre buildings at Mallanwala and Kassoana as part of its CSR initiative for strengthening the medical infrastructure in the aspirational district of Ferozepur in Punjab.

Kailash Rathore, Executive Director, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Northern Region-II in the presence of Naresh Kataria, MLA, Jira, Ferozepur district and Amrit Singh, Deputy Commissioner (Ferozepur) handed over two newly constructed Public Health Centre buildings at Mallanwala and Kassoana to Civil Surgeon Ferozepur.

Satish Kumar J, Chief General Manager (Moga), POWERGRID, and other senior officers from district administration, Health Department, Ferozepur and POWERGRID were present on this occasion.

These PHC buildings have been constructed under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative at a cost of Rs.3.19 crore. This CSR Project is a flagship initiative of the Government of India

in partnership with the State Governments, towards transformation of aspirational districts under which a concerted effort is being made to rapidly transform 117 aspirational districts across the country and Ferozepur district is one of them, which was assigned to POWERGRID for the said purpose.

This initiative of POWERGRID will help in providing good health facilities to the poor and underprivileged population of more than 25000 in Mallanwala, Kassoana and other nearby villages of district Ferozepur.

Prior to this, POWERGRID had handed over three ambulances to Civil Surgeon, Ferozepur in January 2021, under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), at a total cost of Rs.44 lakh. With this initiative of POWERGRID, the patients are being benefitted by providing faster transportation to hospitals.

In addition to above, 282 Sanitary Napkin Vending Machines and 282 Incinerators have been installed by POWERGRID in 217 Middle, High and Senior Secondary Schools of district Ferozepur, Punjab under CSR. This work was completed at a cost of Rs. 1.83 Crore benefiting more than 22,000 girl students.



Theatre artists and directors inaugurating the acting workshop organised by Natrang at Jammu on Thursday.

Acting workshop begins at Natrang

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 17: Theatre workshop for new acting aspirants commenced here, today at Natrang Studio Theatre which was thrown open by vice president, Natrang Suresh Kumar along with Neeraj Kant, secretary Natrang and senior most artist of Jammu, Subash Jamwal.

This workshop will be conducted by Rahul Singh, a young actor and director of Natrang, who got trained in direction from National School of Drama, New Delhi and Gauri Thakur- a young theatre director who has proved her mettle in theatre direction. In his virtual address from Director Balwant Thakur said that Natrang in response to the growing demand of having regular acting training and learning opportunities in Jammu, has taken the initiative to conduct

professionally designed Acting workshops for new aspirants/entrants of theatre. This new initiative also comes as a special gift to Jammuities by Natrang on the occasion of its 40th year of existence. Such workshops will now be the regular feature in Natrang with the specific aim of channelizing the overflowing energy of youth towards positive activities specially related to artistic creativi-

ty and innovation.

Soon Natrang is going to start separate workshops for children in theatre and dance for which the advance registration has already been started. In addition to this Natrang is also starting music classes in which the lovers of music will have the rarest opportunity to learn under great masters of music. All these new initiatives being taken by Natrang is to provide a total professional training environment in Jammu aimed at giving a new ease of life to the cultural movement of the city.

Describing the utility of such workshops and training programmes, Balwant Thakur said that theatre equips a participant with a lot of confidence and sharpens the communication skills in addition to the overall personality development. This has been the experience that people related to theatre and arts excel in every sphere of life.

He further observed that most of the youngsters only do day dreaming and never venture to put their best in achieving excellence in life.

The participants of this workshop included Deepak Sharma, Sheryaar Salaria, Sumit Bandral, Aarti Devi, Aadesh Dhar, Sahil Verma, Amit Brahm and Rafi Mushtaq.

Interstate drug peddler held with 411 kg poppy straw, 1.55 kg Charas

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 17: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drug trafficking from its gross root level under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) Jammu arrested one interstate drug peddler and recovered huge quantity of contraband substances from his possession.

ANTF Jammu received information that one truck bearing registration number PB06V-8987 driven by Satpal Singh son of Kherva Singh, resident of Bulla Gurdaspur, Punjab with criminal intention has concealed huge quantity of poppy straw and Charas in his truck which came from Kashmir valley and is parked near Try Ground, behind Wave Mall, Narwal, Jammu.

On this information, a case FIR Number 15/2022 u/s 8/15/20 NDPS Act was registered at Police Station ANTF Jammu and ANTF team immediately swung into action and spotted the truck. During search, 411 Kg of poppy straw and 1.550 Kg of Charas were recovered from the truck by ANTF team.

The accused person was arrested in the instant case and the truck used in the commission of crime was seized. ANTF is investigating forward and backward links of this racket. Preliminary investigation revealed that the arrested drug

peddlers was going to sell the same contraband among the youth and other drug peddlers in Punjab.

The operation was conducted under the supervision of SSP ANTF Vinay Sharma.

Man held with poppy straw

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Nov 17: Foiling a narcotics smuggling bid, the police arrested a person along with a consignment of poppy straw in Lam area of Nowshera sector today.

Official sources said that a police team from Lam, headed by Incharge Police Post, Razaq Ahmed during routine checking in Thandikassi Nakka on Lam - Kerri road intercepted a Tata Mobile vehicle bearing No. JK11F/ 6986 coming from Bhawani side.

During checking of the vehicle, two bovines were found loaded in the vehicle following which it was put to thorough frisking that resulted in recovery of 500 grams of poppy straw (Bukki) from the vehicle.

Taking action, driver of vehicle namely- Sumit Kumar, son of Tilak Raj, resident of Bhawani was arrested. SSP Rajouri Mohd Aslam said that action against those involved in unlawful activities is a priority of police and necessary steps are being taken in this regard.



BJP vice president, Yudhvir Sethi listening to public grievances at Party Office, Kacchi Chawni Jammu on Thursday.

BJP committed to address problems of people: Yudhvir

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 17: Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP vice president today conducted a public grievances camp at Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan, Kacchi Chawni here.

Many deputations including individual persons visited the party office to discuss their issues with the senior BJP leaders.

A party handout said that deputations and common people discussed various issues related to the development profile of the region. The stakeholders in J&K are working relentlessly for achieving the goal of making the Union Territory an example for its counterparts with up to the mark edifice and all round development," he said.

The senior BJP leader said that the party is fully committed to address the day to day problems being faced by the people in general and that of Jammu city in particular. He stressed on the party's sincere attempt to have direct interaction with the masses and provide best possible solutions to their day to day administrative and development issues. He said that it is a sincere attempt to lessen the gap between administration and people and ensure that genuine issues of people are redressed in an efficacious way.

have ushered Jammu & Kashmir into a new dawn marked by development. This is particularly evident after the total unification of J&K with the rest of India, he said.

"Modi Government has initiated number of development projects in the last couple of years and very soon the results would start coming out changing the development profile of the region. The stakeholders in J&K are working relentlessly for achieving the goal of making the Union Territory an example for its counterparts with up to the mark edifice and all round development," he said.

The senior BJP leader said that the party is fully committed to address the day to day problems being faced by the people in general and that of Jammu city in particular. He stressed on the party's sincere attempt to have direct interaction with the masses and provide best possible solutions to their day to day administrative and development issues. He said that it is a sincere attempt to lessen the gap between administration and people and ensure that genuine issues of people are redressed in an efficacious way.

Many office bearers, workers of AROPS extend support to AAP

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 17: Scores of office bearers and workers of Association for Restoration of Old Pension Scheme (AROPS) led by their leaders Mohd. Ashraf and Vishal Manhas here today supported Aam Aadmi

workers of AROPS to bring the matter once again into the notice of AAP national convener, Arvind Kejriwal for compassionate remedial step as soon as AAP is voted to power on Punjab pattern, senior AAP leaders said that all the working class, daily wagers, contractual and labour-



Leaders of AAP and AROPS addressing media personnel at Jammu.

Party (AAP) in the presence of senior AAP leaders-Major General Rajinder Singh Jamwal (Retired), Farooq Ahmed Bandy, Satish Sharma, Ram Singh Chauhan, Kuldeep Kumar Rao, Sarpanch Ravinder Singh and Amit Langer.

Assuring office bearers and

ers have high hopes with the policies and programmes of AAP because they have proved in Delhi as also in Punjab by actually doing what they say as thousands of daily wagers and contractual employees have been regularized within shortest period after AAP came to power.

AAP leaders further said that people of Gujrat are completely fed up with 27 years of misrule, corruption and lawlessness of the ruling dispensation and have decided for a change.



Army officers along with students during a Talent Hunt programme at Poonch.

Army organizes Talent Hunt programme

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Nov 17: Army's Poonch Brigade here today organized talent hunt programme for the youth of district Poonch at Natu Auditorium as part of Poonch linkup day.

About 400 students from various schools and colleges of

Poonch participated and showcased their talent and witnessed the performances.

The activities included solo and group songs and dance performances.

Dignitaries from Army and Civil, staff and students of schools and colleges were present on the occasion.

Manmohan seeks justice for martyr SPO Rajat Choudhary

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 17: President All India Jat Maha Sabha (AIJMS), Ch. Manmohan Singh here today sought justice for the martyr SPO Rajat Choudhary.

In a meeting the Jat leader sought benefit of SRO 43 to the family of SPO Rajat Choudhary. He said that the SPO Rajat Choudhary, son of Lekh Raj Choudhary, resident of village Morchapur in Bishnah died in a road accident yesterday while performing duties on a check post and termed it a tragic incident and a big loss for the community.

Manmohan appealed LG Sinha to provide a Government job to one of the family members of Rajat

Choudhary as he laid down his life while performing duty.

He said that Rajat's father is also in JKP working as SI and therefore the Government should consider his case on priority and provide a Government job to one of his family members.

Earlier, Manmohan Singh along with Jat Maha Sabha members participated in last rites of Rajat Choudhary. Among those participated in the meeting were Sunil Choudhary, president AIJMS Bishnah; Sham Choudhary, general secretary AIJMS Bishnah; Surinder Singh and Kamal Choudhary, vice presidents; Shamsheer Singh, Saarbajit Singh and Sushil Singh Choudhary.