

## Condemnation pours in over mysterious explosions in buses in Udhampur

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 29: Condemnation poured in over mysterious explosions in two buses in District Udhampur within a span of 8 hours.

Strongly condemning the twin blasts that rocked the Udhampur city within a span of 8 hours, Former Minister and senior leader of Democratic Azad Party (DAP) Jugal Kishore Sharma has called upon the administration to ensure fool proof security measures to avert such terror strikes.

Condemning the twin blasts in Udhampur, JKPC Senior Leader Ravinder Sharma has expressed serious concern over such incidents in the area, where Northern Headquarters of army is located besides repeated inci-

dents in sensitive Katra-Udhampur region. In a statement, JKPC Senior leader termed these incidents as warning signals and matter of great concern. He expressed solidarity with the injured and sought adequate ex-gratia relief and best possible free of cost treatment to the injured.

After the twin bomb blasts in Udhampur late last night and early this morning, the Shiv Sena Jammu and Kashmir unit warned the terrorist organizations operating in the UT to desist from their cowardly acts, calling for eradicating existence of Pakistan to end terrorism one for all. Led by Manish Sahni, President Shiv Sena, J&K, dozens of Shiv Sainiks assembled near party's central office and staged strong protest against

terrorism by burning the effigy of Pakistan. In a warning tone, Sahni asked the terrorist organizations to desist from their cowardly acts. General Secretary Vikas Bakshi, President Kamghar Raj Singh, Vice President Natwar Lal, Secretary Surendra Kumar, Youth Unit Secretary Rajesh Handa, Mangu Ram, Ashok Kumar, Vice President Workers Shashpal, Naresh Kumar, President Doda Vinod Kotwal, Sunny Kumar, Sohan Lal, Meenakshi, Shweta, Renu, Shama and many others were present on the occasion.

Sunil Dimple President Mission Statehood led a strong anti Pak rally on Janipur- High Court road against blasts in Udhampur and burnt flags of Pakistan. Addressing the protesters, Sunil Dimple appealed to the PM Narendra Modi and HM Amit Shah not to compromise with the Pakistan and settle the Kashmir issue once forever, by the liberation of POK, Gilgit Balochistan from Pakistan and also destroy the terrorists training camps operating on the Pakistan soil. He demanded NIA investigation into the mysterious blasts in the buses in Udhampur. Among others present were Dev Raj, Ashok Khanna, Vipin Mahajan, Vicky, Raju Kumar, Ram Kumar Das, Jitender Gupta, Harbans Lal, Shafi Khan, Akbar Khan, etc.



Gujjar-Bakarwal community members lodge protest, opposing grant of ST status to Paharis at Poonch on Thursday.

-Excelsior/Waseem

## Gujjars apprehend dilution of ST status, stage protest

Excelsior Correspondent

POONCH, Sept 29: Gujjar-Bakarwal Coordination Committee held a mass protest, opposing granting of ST status to Pahari community at Krishan Chander Park in Poonch City today.

They were apprehending dilution of ST status with the grant of ST status to Paharis as being projected by BJP. A large number of Gujjar community members from J&K and outside besides elected representatives, social activists and local people from Mandi, Surankote, Mendhar participated in the protest programme.

Speaking on the occasion Gujjar-Bakarwal leaders said that this mass protest-meeting in Poonch is being organized to register our protest against the move of the Union Home Minister to take decision in

hurry affecting the interests of this community badly.

"If the decision will go adverse to us, by diluting Pahari's in ST status, the Gujjar-Bakarwal community will launch a massive protest and long agitation," they cautioned.

They urged the Central Government to provide more reservation to Pahari community but their ST status should not be affected. Pahari people should be kept out of the purview of the ST status, the Gujjar leaders demanded.

Later, a memorandum was also submitted to the Deputy Commissioner, Poonch for the Union Home Minister.

Members of All J&K Gujjar-Bakarwal Tribal Coordination Committee led by Ch Jameel Kohli and national president, Rashtriya Yuva Gujjar Swabhimani Sangharsh Samiti, Adv Kavinder Singh Bhatti were leading the protest up to District Collector's office.

## Need to bridge rich-poor gap, overcome social ills to progress at faster pace: Gadkari

NAGPUR, Sept 29:

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said even as India has emerged as the world's fifth largest economy and although the country is rich, its population is poor, facing issues like starvation, unemployment, casteism, untouchability and inflation.

The gap between the rich and the poor has widened in the country, which needs to be bridged, he said. He was addressing a programme organised by the Bharat Vikas Parishad, a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)-inspired organisation.

"We are the fastest-growing economy in the world and are the fifth largest economy. We are a rich nation with a poor population. Our country is rich, but the population is poor facing starvation, unemployment, poverty, inflation, casteism, untouchability and other factors that are not good for the progress of the society," he said.

"There is a need to establish social and economic equality in the society. The gap between these two sections of the society has widened. Economic disparity has also increased like social disparity," the Minister for Road Transport and Highways noted.

Gadkari emphasised the need to work in the fields of education, health and services to bridge the rich-poor gap. Meanwhile, the Union Minister,

in a statement issued after the event, said his comment at the programme about the problems being faced by the country has been taken out of context and maintained talk about development should consider the social ills that are obstacles in achieving the desired goals.

"I am pained to know and see that once again my statement about the problems before our society and the nation has been flashed out of context and some unscrupulous elements are deriving joy out of it. This is only meant to create misunderstanding and nothing else," Gadkari said in the statement.

The senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader said his statement should be seen in the context of process of development. "My speech today, during a programme at Nagpur, that 'we are a rich nation with poor people' and the reference to the problems and issues before us, should have been considered positively in the context of process of development rather than clipping out a part of it to create misunderstanding," he said.

"I appeal all the fellow citizens of this country to understand the real intention of these references that, whenever we talk about development, we should consider the social ills that are obstacles in the process to achieve the goals. My entire speech echoes the same sentiment that, we will have to overcome these social problems to progress at a faster pace and

there is nothing wrong in it," the Union Minister said.

Earlier, speaking at the programme, Gadkari said the biggest challenge is how to work in various sectors with social responsibility. "The purpose of the Bharat Vikas Parishad is very clear, but the biggest challenge before us is how to work in various sectors with social responsibility and social consciousness to bring about a change in the society. However, we are still very far from our objective and need to speed up our efforts to achieve it," he said.

The Union Minister called for working in a united way to develop 124 aspirational districts in the country. "These 124 aspirational districts in the country are lagging behind socially and in terms of education and health. The urban regions have witnessed a lot of development, but a huge population has migrated to cities due to lack of facilities and opportunities," he said while appealing to the Bharat Vikas Parishad to work on empowering rural areas.

"Swami Vivekananda said that the 21st century belongs to India, and therefore everyone should contribute in their own way towards the progress of the nation," he said. Gadkari gave an example of his own initiatives being carried out in the tribal regions since the last 23 years, under which 1,200 Ekal Vidyalayas are being run in the Vidarbha, where 18,000 students are getting education. (PTI)



Former Minister, Sat Sharma and chairman JMC Hardeep Singh Mankotia kick starting construction of lanes and drains in Subash Nagar, Jammu on Thursday.

## Sat, Mankotia start developmental works in Subash Nagar

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 29: Former Minister and Ex-MLA Jammu West, Sat Sharma (CA) started construction works of lanes at Subash Nagar area of Ward 26 along with Chairman JMC and corporator, Hardeep Singh Mankotia.

Sharma was also accompanied by a large number of people including Mandal president, Raveesh Mengi, Mandal vice president, Jatin Gupta, local residents and political activists of the area.

The works will be executed under the supervision of JMC and construction of new lanes will be done in order to provide best infrastructure to the hundreds of inhabitants of the area.

Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma said that the main concern in Ward 26 was decades old water pipes and sewerage system which was totally replaced during his tenure as MLA. He said hundreds of crores were spent and the works were constructed under the supervision ERA (Economic Reconstruction Agency) in all wards of Jammu West Assembly segment and it solved many problems of locals. He stated that now hous-

es in the constituency including Ward 26 have clean drinking water and a channelized sewerage system which was a problem earlier from more than 30 years which has also improved sanitation system in the area and has also contributed in promoting "Swachh Bharat" vision of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

Hardeep Singh Mankotia hailed the proactive approach of former MLA and stated that Ward 26 has been equipped with all modern infrastructure and that with the help of former MLA who is still working 24x7 in order to provide best possible services to masses. He also stated that pending works in the ward are kept on priority and will be taken up in coming days.

Sharma along with corporator, JMC officials and locals also toured other adjoining areas in the Ward and asked the officials to prepare the estimates for pending works in the area so that their works can also be taken up as soon as possible. Purshattam Chib, Purshottam Khajuria, Sudesh Sharma, Mangal Singh Chib, Rohit Mahajan, Balbir Singh and several others were also present.

## Stay away from miscreants spreading false information: Co-owner Vaid Electricals

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 29: Some people are asking the general masses that the firm namely Vaid Electricals has been dissolved, which is wrong information.



Kewal Gupta, Co-owner Vaid Electricals interacting with media persons.

This was informed by Kewal Gupta, who is the co-owner of the Vaid Electricals, while interacting with media persons here. He further stated Vaid Electricals is the firm that gave birth to the brand White House and is still the rightful owner of the said brand since 1996.

Clearing the facts that the brand is renewed till 2031 by Kewal Gupta in Vaid Electricals, the brand till date is a preference of general masses for products like geysers, coolers, air conditioners and many other heating devices.

However, he appealed to the general public to stay away from some miscreants who are spreading false information about the aforesaid firm and the trade mark White House. He further appealed to check for the manufacturer i.e. Vaid Electricals on the product. He also mentioned that a proper legal action has already been taken in the competent court of law against those miscreants, who are spreading wrong information.

## Police seizes 90 grams of heroin, Rs 1,49,000 cash

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Sept 29: Continuing its war on drugs, drive to contain the spread of narcotics and psychotropic substances within the district, Kathua police under the guidance of SSP, R C Kotwal today seized 90 grams of heroin like narcotics along with cash amount of Rs. 1,49,000/- at Bamberwan Road Rajbagh, arrested one drug peddler and seized the narcotics as well as cash amount on spot.

Police said yesterday a team of PS Rajbagh led by PSI, Fazal Raja Dev under the supervision of In charge SDPO, Border Tilak Raj Bhardwaj and

Inspector, Amit Sangra, SHO PS Rajbagh during patrolling and checking duty in its jurisdictional area near Bamberwan road Rajbagh apprehended one suspect namely Murad Ali, son of Teg Ali of Jakhbar Bigwan tehsil and district Kathua.

During checking 90 grams of Heroin like narcotics along with cash amount of Rs. 1,49,000/- was recovered from his possession. Thereafter all the recovered narcotics and cash amount was seized and one person was arrested. A case vide FIR No.194 /2022 U/S 8/21/22 NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Rajbagh in this regard and further investigation is underway.



BJP vice president, Yudhvir Sethi listening public grievances at Jammu on Thursday.

## Yudhvir listens public grievances at BJP office

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 29: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is committed to provide basic amenities to all the citizens of the country irrespective of caste, colour and creed. "The slogan of the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas' cannot be fulfilled if we ignore the people who have less reach to the administration", said J&K BJP vice president Yudhvir Sethi.

He was addressing a routine public grievances camp here at Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan, Kacchi Chawni today where dozens of people visited to discuss their issues with the senior BJP leaders. Deputations and common people discussed various issues related to the development of their respective areas and their other concerns. They also put forth various issues pertaining to basic amenities including

drinking water, electricity, roads, etc. They sought immediate resolution of their pressing issues.

Yudhvir Sethi, after giving a keen and patient hearing to the people, assured to take up their issues with the concerned authorities and get the same resolved at the earliest. However he got some of the issues resolved instantaneously by talking to the authorities concerned on phone.

Sethi said that Bharatiya Janata 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 said that the PM, Narendra Modi led Government at the Centre being fully aware of the changing trends has been taking due care of accommodating and addressing the concerns of every section of the society irrespective of the caste, creed, colour, region or religion.



Students performing at cultural event 'Adhara' in SMVDU. 'Adhara' organised at SMVDU

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 29: School of Civil Engineering (SoCE), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), organised a cultural event 'Adhara' to highlight the importance of Civil Engineering in day-to-day life and to give a platform to the students to showcase their talent.

The event was inaugurated by Head of the Department, Dr. V.K Dogra who motivated the

students through his words. The event was also attended by the faculty members and it included talks on the background and prospects of Civil Engineering and cultural performances in the Matrika Auditorium of SMVDU.

Final year students, Akshat Mahajan, Ashish Goswami, Jaiveer Singh Manhas, Paras Kundal and Satyam Nanda coordinated the event under the guidance of Srijan, Assistant Professor SoCE.

## Langhe resents closure of Jhula bridge

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, Sept 29: The BJP leader and former MLA, Neelam Langhe raised serious concern over the problems being faced by the people due to closure of Jhula Bridge over river Chenab in Ramban.

In a statement issued here, today, the former MLA said that the people of Ramban-Maitra are facing hardships due to closure of old vintage Jhula bridge in Ramban which connects Maitra with Ramban. He said that the bridge will take at least next three to four months to reopen.

Langhe said that the district administration should

make alternate foot bridge over the River Chenab so that people of both Ramban and Maitra may not face any inconvenience. He said we are living in the 21st century in which with the help of technology and machinery nothing is impossible.

"If state of the art health care infrastructure was raised by DRDO in a record time of 20 days, then constructing of alternate foot bridge is not a big deal," Langhe said, adding that it shows the lackadaisical approach of the district administration which forced the people hailing from different areas of the district to face numerous problems.

## Faculty members from IIT Ropar deliver lectures at NIT Srinagar

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 29: Two faculty members from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar delivered special lectures at National Institute of Technology (NIT) on Thursday.

Dr Mukesh Saini, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering from IIT Ropar, was the eminent speaker. He delivered "AI for Monitoring in Agriculture" while his colleague, Dr Neeraj Goel also shared his knowledge in the field of AI/ML and its applications in Agriculture.

Director NIT Srinagar Prof Rakesh Sehgal said such lectures are aimed to provide a vibrant platform to students. During these sessions, path-breaking research ideas in sci-

ence and technology are being discussed, he said.

Institute's Registrar, Prof Syed Kaiser Bukhari said these important sessions will benefit students in long way and help them to explore more options in the field of science and technology.

Later both guests also interacted with CSE and IT faculty members. They were welcomed by IT Head Dr Shabir Sofi and Dr Omkar Singh from ECE department. The guests also interacted with students.

Dr Vijay Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics coordinated the event along with Dr Ranjeet Rout. A formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr Ranjeet Rout, Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering.

## Neelam, Dr Pardeep start tiles work

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 29: Paver Tiles' work was initiated by Neelam Nargotra and Dr. Pardeep Mahotra near Shiv Mandir in Kabir Colony, Ward No. 40, Talab Tillo under Assembly constituency Jammu West.

The Paver Tile work was started by Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) councillor from Ward 40, Neelam Nargotra along with J&K BJP media in charge, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra in presence of party leaders and department officials.

BJP Talab Tillo Mandal secretary Rahul Nargotra, Social worker Abhishek Sharma, BJYM Leader Vikas Kumar,

T.K.Koul, Pardeep Bhagat, Pushpa Devi, and other prominent locals were present at the moment.

Neelam Nargotra while inaugurating the Paver Tiles work said that this development work concerning the rebuilding of the lane will help the local people and the commuters approaching the lane. She said that the locals approached her for the repair of the lane sometime earlier and now the work is initiated and dedicated to these residents of the area. Dr. Pardeep Mahotra appreciated the concern of the local councilor for her dedication and said that the whole of the Ward is witnessing unprecedented development works.

## Police seizes 2 dumpers involved in illegal mining

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA, Sept 29: In continuation to take tough action against illegal mining within the district, Kathua police under the overall supervision of SSP Kathua, R C Kotwal today seized two dumpers indulged in illegal transportation of construction material in the jurisdictional area of Police Station (PS), Lakhanpur.

During the intervening night of 28/29.09.2022 a police team headed by Inspector, Vijay

Kotwal, SHO PS Lakhanpur under the supervision of DySP DAR Kathua, Sukhdev Singh seized two dumpers bearing Registration Numbers PB06AU-7642 & PB06AU-7519 indulged in illegal transportation of construction material (Bajri) in the jurisdictional area of PS Lakhanpur. Meanwhile, the vehicles indulged in illegal mining were seized and immediately handed over to the officials of Geological and Mining Department Kathua for further legal proceedings.

## Drug peddler held in Awantipora with contraband substance

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 29: Police in Awantipora today said to have arrested a drug peddler and recovered a huge quantity of contraband substance from his possession.

A Police party of Police Station Awantipora under the supervision of SDPO Awantipora arrested drug peddler near Padgampora-Reshipora Crossing.

"He has been identified as Manzoor Ahmad Bhat son of Abdul Ahad Bhat resident of Larkipora Padgampora Awantipora. During the search, 15.7 Kgs of grinded cannabis, concealed in a bag was recovered from his possession," police said.

Accordingly, police said, a case vide FIR No.212/2022 under relevant sections of the law has been registered at Police Station Awantipora and an investigation has been initiated.

## Janipur Market Association demands parking facility, public washroom

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 29: A meeting of Janipur Market Association (JMA) Jammu was held under the chairmanship of its President RC Bali.

In the meeting, the issues pertaining to the parking of the vehicles and public toilet were discussed.

While speaking, Bali said that the customers visiting the market are facing manifold problems due to non availability of parking facilities. The customers also face problems due to non availability of public washroom, he said, adding that not only the customers, but the shopkeepers also face problems

due to non availability of washroom.

The footfall in the market is decreasing day by day due to non availability of parking facilities.

Bali appealed to the concerned authorities to redress these issues on priorities so that the shopkeepers will have some sigh of relief.

Among others present were Raman Bakshi, ML Puri, Sunil Bhasin, Anil Tak, Baldev Anand, Arun Pandita, Navneet Raina, Dr Sandeep Khajuria, Rajesh Sharma, Puran Chand, Surinder, Ashok Babbar, Amit Gupta, Jackson, Ferooq Ahmed, Mohammad Qasim, Prithvi Pal Sharma, etc.



Team of Ascend Telecom Infrastructure during a health camp at Bal Niketan School in Jammu on Thursday.

## Health Camp organised at Bal Niketan School

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Sept 29: Under Corporate Social Responsibility, Ascend Telecom Infrastructure Private Limited (J&K Circle) here today organised a medical camp at Ved Mandir in Bal Niketan School, Ambphalla with the support of Dr. Sunny Devgon (Ayurvedic Doctor).

Dr. Devgon thoroughly examined about 50 students along with their teachers and management committee members of the school and gave them medicines.

He also made the students, teachers and management committee members aware about sanitisation and hygiene.

The whole team of Ascend Telecom Infrastructure enthusiastically participated in the programme and extended overwhelming support to the medical team as well as to students of Bal Niketan.

Vote of thanks was presented by the HR Manager. Hope was pinned for more such programmes by Ascend Telecom in future also.

## Rajbagh police rescues 16 bovines, seizes truck

Excelsior Correspondent

KATHUA: Sept 29: Kathua police under the overall supervision of SSP, R C Kotwal rescued 16 bovines and seized one truck used for smuggling of animals at Gurah-Panditan, Rajbagh area today.

Police said a team of Police Station (PS), Rajbagh led by PSI, Ram Krishan, in charge Police Post (PP) Jakhole under the supervision of in charge SDPO, Border, Tilak Raj Bhardwaj and Inspector, Amit Sangra SHO PS Rajbagh during special Naka checking duty in its jurisdictional area near Gurah

Panditan, Rajbagh noticed one suspicious truck bearing Registration Number JK08C-5045 which was being driven by an unknown person who was enroute from Punjab side towards Kashmir via Gurah Panditan. Police said on seeing naka party driver of vehicle managed to fled away from spot. During checking, the police team rescued 16 bovines (09 cows & 07 Oxen) from the vehicle. A case vide FIR No. 195/2022 U/S 188/IPC 11 PCA has been registered at PS Rajbagh and further investigation is going on. All the bovines were rescued and vehicle seized.

## 7 held for illegal extraction of minerals

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Sept 29: Police today said to have arrested 7 persons seizing as many vehicles in Awantipora for illegal extraction and transportation of minerals.

"Police parties of PS Pampore and PS Khrew seized 7 vehicles involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals in respective jurisdictions," police said, adding that the drivers of these vehicles were also arrested.

Accordingly, cases under relevant sections of the law have been registered in respective police stations and investigations have been initiated.