



Prime Minister, Narendra Modi interacting with the Directors of Centrally Funded Technical Institutions, through video conferencing, in New Delhi on Thursday.

PM interacts with directors of premier technical institutions

NEW DELHI, July 8:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today interacted with directors of centrally-funded technical institutions and stressed on the need to adapt higher and technical education to the changing environment and emerging challenges.

According to the Prime Minister's Office, Modi noted that technological and R&D institutions will play a major role in the upcoming decade, which, he added, is also being called as "India's Techade".

Interacting with over 100 heads of institutions via video-conferencing, Modi highlighted the need to focus on developing futuristic solutions in the fields of education, healthcare, agriculture, defense, and cyber technologies.

He also lauded the research and development work done by these institutions towards meeting the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and appreciated the efforts of young innovators towards providing quick technological solutions.

In a tweet, Modi later said, "Had an enriching interaction with Directors of leading IITs and @iiscbangalore during

which we exchanged thoughts on a wide range of subjects including making India a hub for R&D, innovation and popularising science among the youth."

Emphasising the need to adapt to changing environment and emerging challenges, Modi said this requires the institutions to reinvent and reevaluate themselves, develop alternative and innovative models in accordance with the present and future needs of the country and society.

He stressed that the country's higher educational and technical institutions need to prepare the youth for continuous disruptions and changes, keeping in mind the fourth industrial revolution, the PMO said.

He underlined the need to progress towards education models that are flexible, seamless, and are able to provide learning opportunities according to the requirements of the learners.

He said that access, affordability, equity, and quality should be the core values of such education models.

Appreciating the improvement in the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in higher education in the past few years, Modi said digitalization of higher educa-

tion can play a big role in increasing GER, and students will have easier access to good quality and affordable education.

He also highlighted the need to develop an ecosystem of technological education in Indian languages and translate global journals into regional languages. "Aatm Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan" (Self-reliant India campaign) will form the basis of dreams and aspirations of India in the coming 25 years when it celebrates 100 years of Independence, he said.

Newly appointed Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and the Ministers of State for Education were present during the interaction.

During the interaction, Prof Govindangarajan of IISc Bangalore, Prof Subhasis Chaudhuri of IIT Bombay, Prof. Bhaskar Ramamurthy of IIT Madras, and Prof Abhay Karandikar of IIT Kanpur gave presentations to the prime minister and highlighted various ongoing projects, academic work, and new research being done in the country. (PTI)

"Further, the OIC should be watchful that their platform is not subverted by these vested interests for comments on internal affairs of India or for anti-India propaganda through biased and one-sided resolutions," he said.

"As regards Pakistan, I have already referred to vested inter-

India asks OIC not to allow vested interests to use it for anti-India propaganda

NEW DELHI, Jul 8:

India today called on the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to not allow vested interests like Pakistan to "subvert" the grouping's platform for anti-India propaganda through biased and one-sided resolutions.

The strong comments by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) came in response to the OIC secretary-general proposing to send a delegation to Jammu and Kashmir in line with relevant resolutions by the grouping's council of Foreign Ministers.

In a meeting with Indian ambassador to Saudi Arabia Ausaf Sayeed, OIC secretary-general Yousef Al-Othaimen also asked about the possibility of a meeting between India and Pakistan, stating the grouping's General Secretariat stands ready to assist "if the two parties would so request", according to a statement by the OIC.

"During the meeting, a wide range of issues were discussed. Our Ambassador conveyed the need to correct some of the misperceptions about India that are perpetrated by vested interests in the OIC," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said at a media briefing.

"Further, the OIC should be watchful that their platform is not subverted by these vested interests for comments on internal affairs of India or for anti-India propaganda through biased and one-sided resolutions," he said.

"As regards Pakistan, I have already referred to vested inter-

ests in my remarks," he added. Bagchi was replying to a question on the statement issued by the OIC following the meeting.

"We have seen the press release issued by the OIC Secretariat regarding the meeting between our ambassador to Saudi Arabia and the Secretary-General of the OIC on July 5. The meeting was held in response to an earlier request made by the OIC Secretary-General to meet our ambassador," the MEA spokesperson said.

In the past, the OIC has criticised India over the Kashmir issue.

On its part, New Delhi has always been asserting that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral and inalienable part of the country and that the OIC has no

locus standi in matters internal to India.

The OIC is a grouping of Muslim-majority nations.

In its statement, the OIC said Al-Othaimen received Sayeed on July 5 in his office in Jeddah and that the Indian envoy was paying a "courtesy visit".

"The Secretary General welcomed Ambassador Sayeed and reviewed with him a number of issues concerning the situation of Muslims in India, along with the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, and relevant UN and OIC resolutions opposing any unilateral actions on the issue," it said.

"He conveyed the desire of the OIC General Secretariat to dispatch a delegation to the disputed territory in line with relevant resolutions of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers," the OIC said. (PTI)



Apni Party leaders during a meeting at Parkhoo migrant camp on Thursday.

Accommodate Purkhoo ORT migrants properly: Apni Party

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 8: In continuation to Apni Party's mass outreach programmes, a get together was organized at Purkhoo Migrant Camp today to discuss and deliberate upon the basic problems being faced by the One Room Tenements (ORT) families living in pathetic & unhygienic conditions there and taking programmes and policies of the party at grass root level.

In a hand out issued here the party said that the programme was organised by Inderjeet Raina and his team and it was chaired by Vinod Pandita, State coordinator of displaced Kashmiri Pandits for Jammu division.

He was accompanied by Sanjay Dhar, State coordinator of displaced Kashmiri Pandits for Kashmir Division, Vaibhav Mattoo, district vice president Jammu urban, party leaders, Vishal Jotshi, Deepak Bradoo and Vinod Bhat.

G.L. Pandita Apni Party leader in his address highlighted basic problems of ORT Purkhoo and demanded regularization of the camp by providing all basic facilities like water and power supply, allotment of suit-

able accommodation to more than hundred families living there in miserable and pathetic condition, sanitation and immediate repair and renovation of these ORTs to make them worth living.

He appealed party leaders to take up these issues with concerned authorities for immediate redressal in a time bound period. Vinod Pandita said that the living condition of these families is quite pathetic and painful. He appealed Lt. Governor and Relief Commissioner Migrants to take necessary steps for their suitable accommodation.

Pandita assured the residents that he will take up their genuine problems with party's senior leadership for early mitigation.

Sanjay Dhar said that Government needs to address the problems of Kashmiri displaced Pandits on priority basis and it should accommodate all such migrants who are still living in miserable conditions in various temporary camps and non camps for last more than three decades.

He urged the new entrants in the party to work for strengthening of party at grass root level. Vote of thanks was proposed by Inderjeet Raina, camp president of party Purkhoo camp.

Vaccination is ultimate weapon to fight COVID: Prof Kaul

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 8: BJP leader and J&K In-charge Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Prof. PL Kaul today said that COVID-19 pandemic is the greatest calamity of the century which has engulfed whole world and is becoming a real challenge as to how to defend the human race against the damage caused by this invisible enemy of mankind.

In a handout, he said that J&K experienced a surge in COVID cases in the months of April and May 2021. "Though the number of cases reported was high in Kashmir valley but fatality rate was more in Jammu, even double of what was reported in valley," Prof Kaul maintained adding that there is need for greater trans-

parency with regard to preparedness to increase the tests, surveillance, vaccination and awareness to contain the disease amongst masses.

"Existing rural health care system with shortage of doctors and paramedical staff needs revamping and immediate attention to meet the challenges posed by the present pandemic," said Prof Kaul.

He also said that testing, tracing and treatment as suggested by PM Modi to control the pandemic will have to be implemented in rural areas more vigorously.

"Vaccine largely reduces death rate and thus necessitates dire need to scale up and speed up mass vaccination campaign in the entire J&K as vaccine is the ultimate weapon to fight the disease," he further said.

GMC Anantnag gets high-end ECHO Machine

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 8: The much-needed Echocardiography Machine (ECHO) was today installed at Government Medical College Anantnag with the result the long pending demand of the population was fulfilled.

HOD, Medicine, Dr Gh Jeelani Romshoo said that the department's priority is to install the latest high-end equipment in the hospital for better diagnosis and optimal management of patients.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Dept of Medicine at present has one cardiologist, Dr Showkat H Shah (Consultant) apart from other trained technical staff.

Principal GMC Anantnag, Dr Syed Tariq Qureshi said that the administration is keen to procure and install the latest medical gadgets at associated hospitals of GMC Anantnag.

People face manifold problems due to deplorable condition of road

Excelsior Correspondent

DODA, July 8: The road from Bhella to Roukali via Panshai-Chagsoo is in deplorable condition and has affected the life of the people.

The road is already constructed but there is no drainage sys-

tem but the politicians after winning the elections shows no interest in development", Numberdar of the area said.

He further added that during the year 2012-13 when flood were erupted since then slides are on the roads but department never bothered to clear it, adding that not even walls were retained and no culverts were constructed yet.

"We ran from pillar to post for our genuine demand but nobody paid heed to our grievance", he added.

Member of Panchayat of the area said that they have seen no benefits after revocation of Article 370.

He requested the concerned department and DC Doda to take necessary action for the maintenance and blacktopping of this road.

Drivers of passenger vehicles said that after every week, they have to get their vehicles repaired and maintained due to deplorable condition of the road.

"As soon as the funds will be available, we will get the road repaired", R&B Officials said.



Vehicle moving on road which is in deplorable condition. — Excelsior/Tilak Raj

Ex-Sarpanch of the area said that from the last 11 years no maintenance and blacktopping of this road have been done.

"When we have to shift ailing persons or pregnant women to GMC Doda in emergency, we face manifold problems", he said and demanded maintenance and blacktopping of the road.

"We voted for development,

Court directs DC to attach property of contractor

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 8: Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Jammu Amarjeet Singh Langleh today directed the Deputy Commissioner to attach moveable property of Om Parkash, son of Bodh Gupta, proprietor of Om POP Contractor and Decorator Opposite Parshotam Building Subash Nagar.

The order has been passed in an application filed by Ramesh Kumar seeking execution of decree in which an award amounting to Rs 1,03,000 was passed in favour of petitioner by authority under the Payment of Wages Act on 29.06.2019. However, respondent failed to deposit award amount before the authority concerned.

After going through the application, CJM observed, "despite lapse of more than one year, award is yet to be fructified", adding "an award under a pro-bono statute like Payment of Wages Act if

remains un-executed for more than one year, the said course is not only contrary to the spirit of statute but also an utter contempt of mandate of enactment in question".

Accordingly, CJM directed that an attachment warrant be issued against respondent authorising therein District Collector (Deputy Commissioner), Jammu to attach moveable property of respondent to the tune of Rs 1,03,000 (award money) and submit compliance report by or before next date of hearing.

"During execution of warrant in question if it is found that respondent does not own and possess moveable property to the tune of Rs 1,03,000, in that eventuality, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu shall cause respondent to be taken into custody by concerned SHO who shall produce him before this court so that further proceedings can accordingly be shaped", the CJM said.

Thieves' gang busted; 7 notorious burglars arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 8: RS Pura Police busted a thieves' gang with the arrest of seven notorious burglars.

As per police sources, several complaints were lodged in Police Station RS Pura regarding theft of electricity wires and other logistic material used in laying the electricity poles in different areas of Jammu by some unknown thieves.

Subsequently, a case under FIR Number 131/2021 under Section 379 IPC was lodged at Police Station RS Pura and investigation started.

During the course of investigation, a team from Police Station RS Pura led by SHO Inspector Jai Pal Sharma was constituted under the supervision of SDPO RS Pura Shabir Khan.

The team did strenuous efforts and with the help of CCTV footages of the area and other technical aid finally arrested seven thieves, who were identified as

Bodh Raj, son of Suraj Pal of Shanal Teshil Atroli District Aligarh, at present Shehri Gangyal District Jammu, Sonu Kumar, son of Raj Veer of Shanal Teshil Atroli District Aligarh, Harvind Singh, son of Ganesh Lal of Bajhera Baland Slehr Uttar Pradesh, Deepak Kumar, son of Dinesh Singh of Shanal Teshil Atroli District Aligarh, Mukesh Kumar, son of Sardari Lal of Jhella Teshil Tara Garh Pathankot Punjab and Vikas Gupta, son of Romesh Pal of Nehru Nagar Pathankot Punjab.

One more accused namely Rohit Kumar Khokhar, son of Younis Massi of R S Pura was arrested in the above case and a different case under FIR Number 137/2021 under Section 379 IPC also stands registered against him.

During sustained questioning, the accused confessed their involvement in the above cases and on their disclosure stolen bundles of wires were recovered.

Further investigation into the cases is going on.

JPDCL conducts surprise checking of power theft

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 8: With the objective to curb the pilferage of electricity, Inspections teams of Electric Sub-Division-II, Janipur, of Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Ltd (JPDCL) headed

by AEE, OP Sharma, conducted surprise checking /inspection of consumers at Indira Colony - Janipur, Lakad Mandi, Shantipuram, Muthi, Bhawani Nagar, Roop Nagar and many other areas falling under its jurisdiction.

DC Indu Kanwal Chib listened patiently to the delegation and assured that she would make a surprise visit to check the development works going on in the area.



JPDCL team along with seizure of heaters during surprise checking in Janipur area in Jammu on Thursday.

by AEE, OP Sharma, conducted surprise checking /inspection of consumers at Indira Colony - Janipur, Lakad Mandi, Shantipuram, Muthi, Bhawani Nagar, Roop Nagar and many other areas falling under its jurisdiction.

During checking, the team comprising two Junior Engineers and area Inspectors found many violations and disconnected serv-

ice lines for illegal usage of AC's and other Electronic gadgets. Over two dozen of illegal power connections were also disconnected by the team and heaters seized.

Anil Kachroo, Executive Engineer, Electric Division-III, JPDCL said that this drive helped in gaining momentum in enforcement activities. He said his teams are fully geared up to plug power thefts from both rural as well as urban areas. He further added that these inspections are being conducted on daily basis to

check the menace of illegal load which is instrumental in frequent damage of transformers, putting the genuine and honest consumers to suffer.

He appealed to the electricity consumers to identify the theft of power in their localities by some unscrupulous and fraudulent elements in the society and inform the concerned officials immediately.



Unemployed dental surgeons during a protest at Amphalla Chowk in Jammu.

Unemployed dental surgeons continue protest on 18th day

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 8: The unemployed dental surgeons continued their protest at Amphalla Chowk on 18th day today, demanding creation of fresh posts for dental surgeons in Government Hospitals across J&K and their absorption through JKPCS.

The protesting youth said that they have been loafing with wild thoughts of fear and stress, being broke and penurious over their poor future job prospects. "Our employment woes have not been addressed since 2008 when Government last officially advertised posts for induction of dental surgeons in Health Department. Since then thousands of dental surgeons are hopeless and jobless. The reason for this unemployment clearly follows a mismatch between supply and demand in health sector," they added.

The unemployed dental surgeons said that they gave representation to the authorities time to time but nothing has been done till date for their welfare. "Two years back with the help of

Governor Satyapal Malik and his Advisor Vijay Kumar, we were finally able to put our demands rightly and officers were told to work on creating new posts for dental surgeons in the State but that file is gathering dust in Finance Department for last three years," they added.

They demanded the Government to increasing job avenues and opportunities for dental surgeons in rural areas as per the intake capacity with the help of various schemes under NRHM like NOHP RBSK, Ayushman Bharat and School Dental Health Program, increase sanctioned posts and new plans for dental graduates in PHCs, NTPHCs, CHCs and Sub-centres, and start public-private partnership with help of EDI to grow entrepreneurship and to start a good reputed dental clinic in the UT.

Slamming the Jammu and Kashmir Government for neglecting the professionals, the protesting dental doctors said, "If the Government cannot provide jobs to the educated youths then it should close the colleges".

7 drug peddlers, bootleggers arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

REASI, July 8: Continuing its drive against drug peddling and liquor smuggling, Reasi Police today arrested seven offenders along with narcotics and liquor.

During surprise naka checking at Siar Baba area, team of Police post Talwara intercepted and arrested four drug peddlers Ghulam Ali of Talwara, Talib Hussain of Sirla Bhaga, Mohd Farooq of Tulli Banna and Mohd Usman of Tulli Banna. Heroin like substance was recovered from their possession. In this regard case FIR number 142/2021 U/S 8, 21, 22, NDPS ACT was registered at Police Station Reasi.

Accused Talib Hussain is a habitual offender and involved in three case FIRs i.e FIR No 33/2019 U/S 435/ 427 RPC, 4/25 Arms Act, FIR No 41/2020

U/S 8/22 NDPS Act and FIR No 60/2021 U/S 8/21/22/ NDPS Act registered in Police Station Reasi against him.

To curb his illegal activities, his name will be entered in Register Number 10 of Police Station Reasi and constant surveillance will be kept over him and recorded in his History Sheet, said Police.

Meanwhile, Team of Police Station Arnas arrested one bootlegger Suraj Ram of Dugga from Zero Morph Arnas and recovered 14 bottles of liquor from his possession. Suraj Ram is a habitual offender and a history sheet of police station Arnas.

Police team of Police Station Pouni intercepted a vehicle (ECO) bearing registration number JK11E-2350 at Domail and arrested Sanjay Singh of Khwas and Jeet Singh of Keri, who were smuggling 32 bottles of whisky & rum.

JJB enquires about well being of children in conflict with law

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 8: As part of the Juvenile Justice Care and Protection Act 2015, a follow-up meeting was organized by the Juvenile Justice Board Jammu to enquire about the well being of the children in conflict with law whose cases have been disposed of by the Board and who were released on probation or admonition by the Board in the past.

The meet was presided over by Jyoti Bhagat, Principal Magistrate; Dr Cheshta Sharma and Nischint Pachandana, Members of JJB Jammu along with Jui, Legal-cum-Probationary Officer Jammu.

Children attended the event and discussions were held regarding the various problems being faced by them and occupations as well activities in which they are presently engaged.

Speaking on the occasion, Board apprised the gathering that they can approach the Board in

case of any difficulty and they will be assisted as per the law. The meet discussed various issues associated with the future planning in pursuance of building up their career.

During the meet, the children communicated to the Board that some of them are pursuing their studies and some are assisting their parents in their business where as some of them have become major and started their own business. They communicated to the Board that they are getting problem in obtaining their character certificates. The Board considered this issue seriously and issued directions to the concerned authorities to issue Character certificates to the children under Juvenile Justice Act 2015 at earliest without any delay. The Board also apprised the children about their basic fundamental rights.

During the meeting, 32 follow up reports of released CCL were submitted by LCPO Jui.

3 mechanical cutters seized; PPF official injured, 1 arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

BHADERWAH, July 8: After reports of massive green felling by using banned portable chain saw (mechanical cutters) and large scale smuggling in Neeru Range of Bhaderwah Forest Division, sleuths of Forest Protection Force (FPF) seized 3 cutters and arrested a smuggler in late night operation at Halian Nallah in Puneja Block of Neeru Range.

According to DFO Bhaderwah Chander Shekhar who also holds the charge of Deputy Director Forest Protection Force Doda, said that they were receiving reports that some timber smugglers have hired half a dozen trained persons from Tanta village along with banned mechanical cutters to carry illegal felling reportedly in connivance with

some officials of territorial forest department of Neeru Range.

"We came to know from sources that the smugglers have planned a night operation to carry massive felling and extraction of timber by using mechanical cutters. Accordingly in the wee hours, we managed to locate them but 4 of the 5 smugglers managed to give our team a slip while one of their accomplices was arrested and 3 portable chain saw mills were seized", said DFO Bhaderwah Chander Shekhar.

In the operation, one Rehbar-e-Janglat (ReJ) official of PPF who was chasing the culprits got injured and is undergoing treatment at SDH Bhaderwah, DFO added.

A case under forest act has been registered and further investigation is going on.

SCOPE-GIZ Germany sign MoU to support PSEs in Climate Change Mitigation

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 8: Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Atul Sobti, Director General,

Chairman, SCOPE Committee on Sustainable Development, Dr Ashish Chaturvedi, Director, Climate Change, GIZ India, other senior officials of GIZ, SCOPE and Public Sector were present during the signing.

While the earlier association was more centric towards building capacities in PSEs, the present MoU signed by SCOPE and GIZ seeks to explore and support implementation of studies and pilots in Public Sector Enterprises on climate and sustainable development related issues. Signed virtually, the collaboration shall engage in a series of activities in the areas of SDGs, carbon markets and climate finance amongst other issues pertaining to climate change mitigation.



Dignitaries during signing of MoU.

Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) and Dr Julie Reviere, Country Director, GIZ, a German public-benefit federal enterprise, for supporting the PSEs in playing a critical role in the national agenda of climate change mitigation.

MV Iyer, Director Business Development, GAIL and