

India using technology as weapon in war against poverty: PM

BENGALURU, Nov 16:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said India is using technology as a weapon in the war against poverty, and the country's youth have ensured tech and talent globalisation.

In his video message to the Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS), he also said India is no more a place known for red tape.

"It is known for red carpet for investors. Whether it is FDI reforms, or liberalisation of drone rules, or steps in the semiconductor sector, or the production incentive schemes in various sectors, or the rise of ease of doing business", he told the 25th edition of Asia's largest technology event.

India has many excellent factors coming together, Modi noted.

"Your investment and our innovation can do wonders. Your trust and our tech talent can make things happen. I invite you all to work with us as we lead the world in solving its problems."

India's technology and innovation, he said, have already impressed the world. But the future will be much bigger than our present. Because India has innovative youth and increasing tech access.

Noting that the power of India's youth is known across the world, Modi said they have ensured tech globalisation and talent globalisation.

"Healthcare, management, finance - you will find young Indians leading many domains. We are using our talent for global good. Even in India, their impact is being seen," he said.

India, Modi said, jumped to the 40th rank in the Global Innovation Index this year. "In 2015, we were ranked 81. The number of unicorn start-ups in India has doubled since 2021. We are now the 3rd largest start-up hub in the world. We have over 81,000 recognised startups. There are hundreds of international companies that have R&D centres in India. This is due to India's talent pool," he said.

Modi said Indian youth are

being empowered by increasing tech access. A mobile and data revolution is happening in the country. In the last eight years, broadband connections rose from 60 million to 810 million, smartphone users went up from 150 million to 750 million. The growth of the internet is faster in rural areas than in urban areas. A new demography is being connected to the information superhighway, he said.

For a long time, Modi said, technology was seen as an exclusive domain, and it was said to be only for the high and mighty. "But India has shown how to democratise technology. India has also shown how to give tech a human touch. In India, technology is a force of equality and empowerment," he said.

Referring to the world's largest health insurance scheme, 'Ayushman Bharat', the PM said it provides a safety net for nearly 200 million families. "It means, about 600 million people. This programme is run based on a tech platform. India ran the world's largest COVID-19 vaccine drive. It was run through a tech-based platform called COWIN". (PTI)

Driver held with 302 kg poppy straw

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Nov 16: The Police achieved a major success by recovering 302 kg of poppy straw at Zero Point, Chenani, on National Highway under the jurisdiction of Police Station, Chenani today.

Official sources said that a Police team from Police Station, Chenani headed by SHO, Inspector Om Parkash under the supervision of Anwar-Ul-Haq, Adl SP Udhampur and SDPO Chenani, Ahmed Shaafi while conducting routine vehicle checking at Zero Morh Chenani, National Highway intercepted a truck bearing registration No. PB10CV-1307 which was coming from Kashmir valley towards Udhampur.

During checking of the said vehicle, Police recovered 302 kg of poppy straw and arrested one smuggler along with consignment. The arrested driver disclosed his identity as Jagdeep Singh, son of Baldev Singh of Koabet, Ludhiana, Punjab.

In this connection, a case FIR No.190/2022 under sections 8/15 NDPS Act stands registered at Police Station Chenani and further investigation of the case has been taken up.

ZEO Anantnag asked to vacate department-owned building

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR Nov 16: The Zonal Education office in South Kashmir's Anantnag district has been asked to vacate the education department-owned building, leaving the teachers and officials in a fix as they have no alternative place to operate from.

An official told Excelsior that the then Chief Executive Officer of Anantnag had asked them to move to a vacant building in the premises of Government Higher Secondary School Khanabal, a centrally located school with better access, after realizing that the office was operating from a risky rented facility.

"For more than 50 years, the office had been operating from a dilapidated, hazardous, and rented facility in the Kadipora area of the town. The office moved to the new buildings in March, and work has continued freely since then," an official said.

He lamented how absurd it was that they were being ordered to leave the building that belonged to the Department of Education. "The building is owned by the Education Department because it was built as a resource centre for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), but the administration of Higher Secondary has asked us to vacate the property without a valid justification," an official said.

The ZEO Anantnag, Suram Chan said he was surprised to receive an order from the Director of School Education's office asking him "not to move into the Resource Center."

"The building is within my zone, and we have no idea why such an order was issued. Since the earlier accommodation from which we used to conduct our operations was in disrepair and was a rented residence, we had nowhere else to work from," he said.

However, he hopes that the decision would be reconsidered in light of the potential issues that could result from it. "We have written to the CEO about the issue but have not heard any-

Arrest warrant against Union Minister in 2009 jewellery theft case

ALIPURDUAR (WB), Nov 16:

A court in Alipurduar has issued an arrest warrant against Union Minister of State for Home Nisith Pramanik in connection with thefts at two jewellery stores 13 years ago.

The hearing of the case was conducted at the judicial magistrate's court and no lawyer representing the Minister, also a BJP MP, was present at the court when the warrant was issued.

Along with the Minister, the warrant of arrest was also issued against another accused on November 11.

Pramanik's lawyer Dulal Ghosh did not disclose their next legal move.

The incidents of theft had taken place at jewellery shops near Alipurduar railway station

Mega cultural festival held at Bandipora

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Nov 16: Shah Qalandar Folk Theatre in collaboration with District Administration Bandipora, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages and All J&K Folk Artists Association today organ-



A cultural item being presented during 'Jashn-e-Kashmir' festival at Bandipora on Wednesday.

ised a mega cultural festival at Government Degree College, Bandipora.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Dr. Owais Ahmed who was chief guest on the occasion, inaugurated the Cultural Festival with "Isban Sozi".

The programme witnessed various cultural performances including Bacha Nagma, Kashmiri Wanwun, Kashmiri Rouf, cultural performances by students, besides folk dances and music performances.

The cultural performances were full of social messages for availing benefits from various Government schemes, maintaining cleanliness in surroundings and contributing to other developmental fronts.

The programme was attended by Chairperson, District Development Council Abdul Gani Bhat, Vice Chairperson, DDC Kousar Shafiq, SSP

and Birpara in 2009.

Public prosecutor Jahar Majumdar told reporters on Wednesday that the matter was transferred from a special MP/MLA court in North 24 Parganas district to the Alipurduar court on the directions of the Calcutta High Court.

Pramanik is a resident of Dinhatra town near the Bangladesh border in north Bengal.

The Minister, who was elected in 2019 to the Lok Sabha for the first time, had joined the saffron party in February 2019. He was earlier with the Trinamool Congress before being expelled for alleged anti-party activities.

When contacted, Alipurduar Superintendent of Police refused to comment. (PTI)

Bandipora Mohd Zahid, Principal GDC Bandipora Dr Syed Willayat Rizvi, DPO Bandipora Mohd Ashraf Hakak, Joint Director Planning Imtiyaz Ahmad and students of college and other concerned.

The festival was organised to celebrate the rich tradition, culture and heritage of the district.

The DC complimented the organizers for organizing such a cultural show in the district. He said such events boost the revival of culture of Kashmir valley.

Dr. Owais in his speech urged youth and college going students to join hands with administration for eradicating drug menace from District. He urged students to focus on studies to showcase talent in different fields.

While expressing his views, Festival Director, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat said that conducting programme at District level was aimed to promote cultural traditions and provide platform to young artists to showcase their talent.

He expressed gratitude to District Administration, Principal GDC Bandipora and other supporting agencies for organising the show. Jash e Kashmir events are providing platform to the youth artists to showcase their talent, he added. Later, all the participants were felicitated.

As per police sources, on specific information a team from Police Station Bishnah led by SHO Inspector Vikram Sharma under the supervision of SDPO RS Pura Surinder Singh and SP Headquarters Rannish Gupta laid a naka at Deoli and intercepted a person, who was moving under suspicious circumstances.

During checking, police team recovered 3 grams heroin from the possession of the person and arrested him.

The arrested person was identified as Jagdeep Singh, son of late Surjeet Singh of Village Simbal Camp, Miran Sahib District Jammu.

A case FIR Number 200/2022 under section 8/21/22 NDPS Act has been registered at Police Station Bishnah and investigation started.

Don't force package employees to join services in Valley: PK

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 16: Panun Kashmir (PK) has expressed its disappointment at the manner the PM package employees are being treated. The hapless employees have been sitting on dharna in the premises of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner's Office for the last many months but the Government seems to be oblivious to their demands. On the contrary these employees are being forced to join duties in Kashmir in the presently uncertain conditions.

Panun Kashmir president, Purse snatcher arrested

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Nov 16: The police arrested a youth for snatching purse of a woman and recovered some cash and a few snatched items from his possession in Udhampur area today.

Based on a written complaint lodged by one lady in Police Station Udhampur stating that when she was coming from Bus Stand Udhampur, one miscreant restrained her way and snatched her purse and fled away from the spot.

On this a case FIR No. 156/2022 U/S 382 IPC got registered at Police Station Udhampur and investigation started.

After this a police team led by SHO Raghubir Singh, assisted by PSI Rahul Jamwal after strenuous efforts arrested the accused namely- Rakesh Kumar, son of Yashpal of Ossu, Udhampur.

On sustained questioning, the accused confessed his involvement in the above case and on his disclosure stolen items were also recovered from his possession.

Economic self-reliance empowers women: President Murmu

BHOPAL, Nov 16:

President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday said that making women economically independent is an effective way of empowering them. To make India a developed country, maximum participation of women is needed, she said while addressing a Women's Self-Help Groups conference here.

"Economic self-reliance is an effective means of empowering women. Economic and social self-reliance complement each other. Self-Help Groups can contribute effectively to make women self-reliant," the president said. More than four lakh women's Self-Help Groups are active in Madhya Pradesh, she noted, adding that greater participation in such groups by women will strengthen the economy, society as well as the country.

The idea of making women's Self-Help Groups a mass movement was commendable, the president added. "To make India a self-reliant and developed nation, maximum participation of women is essential. We have to create an environment in which women feel free and fearless and can make full use of their potential," Murmu said.

The president also urged women to inspire and help each other, raise voice together for each other's rights, and move forward together on the path of progress. "Women's Self-Help Groups are good platforms for bringing women together," the president said.

Madhya Pradesh has a rich tradition of women leaders like Rani Durgavati, Rani Kamalapati



President Droupadi Murmu addressing a conference of Women's Self-Help Groups in Bhopal on Wednesday.

and Ahilyabai Holkar, Murmu noted. The president also recalled former Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan who is from Madhya Pradesh, and her role in giving direction to our democracy.

Noted tribal artists Bhuri Bai and Durga Bai as well as Dr Leela Joshi of Ratlam who is "working like Mother Teresa" are from the state, and they can be role models for other women, she said.

She named these three women, who are recipients of Padma Shri award, so that they inspire the women attending the program, she said.

"If they can achieve these laurels, you too can do that, because they are like you. You have the same level of courage and willpower," the president added.

Women play an important role in society and economic poli-

icy, and it is our national duty to ensure their progress and treat them with honour, she added.

India was once considered "Vishwa Guru", (the world's guide), and if people worked together and supported the government, it can regain that status soon, Murmu said.

She was happy that products made by tribal women are reaching consumers through the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED), she said.

Literacy among women was increasing in rural areas which was good news, the president said.

"Our sisters and daughters are moving towards earning their own livelihood and achieving economic self-reliance. This is resulting in improvement in the living standards of rural families," she said. (PTI)

IGNOU organizes webinar on 'TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan'

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 16: In line with PM's vision to make a National Strategic Plan for elimination of Tuberculosis from the country, the President of India launched 'Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan' in September this year to make this a people's movement and provide community support to TB patients.

In this regard, IGNOU Regional Centre (RC) Jammu organized a webinar through online platform which was attended by officials and staff of the RC, Director School of Health Sciences, IGNOU New Delhi Hqs., Coordinators, Programme In-Charges of Learner Support Centres (LSCs) under Jammu and other stakeholders of the University.

The resource person was Dr. Dinesh Kumar, Professor and Head, Department of Community Medicine, AIIMS, Jammu.

Dr. Kumar in his discourse elaborated about symptoms of the disease, do's and don'ts and need for awareness of tuberculosis among masses. He briefed about the different aspects of this disease and the need for psychological evaluation of the patients during the course of treatment.

Dr. Sandeep Gupta, Regional Director In-charge stated that IGNOU with its huge network of LSCs spread across the length and breadth of the country and having a gigantic student base can play a vital role in creating mass awareness movement about 'TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan'.

Dr. Asha Upadhyay, Assistant Regional Director also spoke on the occasion while Dr. Vikram Singh, Assistant Regional Director presented vote of thanks.

Public representatives demand jobs to locals in Rattle project

Excelsior Correspondent

KISHTWAR, Nov 16: A meeting was held at Drabshalla Block Office in Kishtwar district today between the representatives of district administration, Rattle Power Project construction companies and local public representatives including DDCs, BDCs, Sarpanches and panches in which the problems of the local people especially those whose land was acquired for the construction of project were highlighted.

The speakers showed their grave concern over the denial of jobs, small contracts and work orders to deserving and local people especially whose land has come in the project. They said non locals as well as influential people have been given employment in the project while locals and deserving people were ignored. They questioned why those people whose land has come in the project have not been given preference in employment by the constructing companies or provided work orders or small contracts to earn their livelihood.

AIMCC discusses issues of migrants

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 16: A Core Committee meeting of All India Migrant Camp Coordination Committee (AIMCC) was held today at Jagti township under the chairmanship of B K Raina in which burning issues of displaced Pandits from Valley were discussed.

While addressing AIMCC chief, Desh Rattan Pandita said, that Government must take KPs into confidence on resettlement of Pandits in Valley and its strategy on Kashmir.

He said AIMCC has rejected appeasement politics and policies of Government and showed concern that no scheme is being

implemented for KPs and migrants living in camps at Jammu. He said why migrant camps or colonies were not included in much publicised Back to Village. Being migrants Pandits deserve these schemes but they are being ignored every now and then. It seems that their welfare is no priority for present Government at Centre, he added.

He sought the cooperation of the local people especially the public representatives in construction of the project and its completion in time.

The representatives of Megha Company and RHPCL also attended the meeting and assured to redress the grievances of the locals.

2 injured as vehicles collide inside tunnel

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, Nov 16: Two persons were injured after several vehicles collided inside Chenani-Nashri tunnel here.

As per police sources, several vehicles collided inside Chenani-Nashri tunnel, resulting in injuries to two persons.

On getting information, police team rushed to the spot and shifted the injured persons to CHC Chenani, where their condition was stated to be out of danger, when last reports came in.

The injured were identified as Satish Pal and Brij Pal, both residents of Uttar Pradesh. Batote Police has taken cognizance in this regard.



VRS given JKRTC employees staging protest near Press Club in Jammu on Wednesday.

VRS given RTC workers protest, demand release of arrears

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Nov 16: Voluntarily retired employees of J&K Road Transport Corporation held a protest demonstration here today and demanded release of pending dues of the VRS given employees.

The retired (VRS) employees of the JKRTC under the leadership of Dev Raj Bali assembled near Press Club Jammu here today and held strong protest demonstration. They were shouting slogans in support of their demands and expressed serious concern over the delay being caused in the release of their COLA and Pay Commission arrears.

They alleged that they have not been paid their COLA and 6th Pay Commission arrears by the RTC authorities despite the fact that Central Government has paid an amount of Rs 76.95 crore to them including payment of the arrears of the more than 700 employees.

Bali said that most of them

are senior citizens and struggling for their hard earned money for the last more than nine years. But the authorities concerned have failed to pay their arrears. The officers in J&K administration are only harassing them and adopting delaying tactics. He pointed out that at least 51 retired employees have passed away during past ten years and the Government did not pay their arrears to them or their families till date. This is shameful on the part of this government.

They appealed the Prime Minister Modi and J&K Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha to intervene into the matter and provide justice to over 700 VRS given RTC workers of J&K, struggling for the last over eight years for getting their own hard earned money.

Prominent among those present in the meeting included, Sat Bhushan Singh, Surinder Singh, Deep Raj, B B Sharma, Balwinder Singh, PP Singh, Ram Pal and others.



Dignitaries releasing third volume of 'Alchemy of light' in Srinagar on Wednesday.

Third volume of 'Alchemy of Light' released

Excelsior Correspondent

CHRRAR-I-SHARIEF, Nov 16: Third volume of 'Alchemy of light' comprising English and Urdu translation of the verses of revered Sufi saint Hazrat Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Wali was released here today.

The book contains some rarer of the rarest verses of the saint which were unexplored till now. For this purpose, Markaz Adab-w-Saqafat held an impressive function near sanctum sanctorum of the Sufi saint at Chrar-i-Sharief, the heavenly abode of Alamdar-e-Kashmir (torch bearer of Kashmir).

The function was attended by a galaxy of prominent writers, research scholars, poets, religious luminaries and people from different cross sections of the society.

The function was presided over by the noted scholar and Head Markazi Noor, Sheikh-ul-Alam Chair, Kashmir University, Prof. G.N Khaki.

Prominent writers Dr. Gh. Nabi Haleem, president Adbi Markaz Kamraz; Mohd. Amin Bhat and Advocate Ab. Rashid Hanjura shared the presidium.

SSP Budgam, Tahir Saleem, Chairman Life School, Charar-i-Sharief, Nazrul Islam, Editor Brighter Kashmir, Farooq Ahmad Wani, General Secretary Adbi Markaz Kamraz, Shabnam

Tilgami and Movi Bashir Ahmad also attended the function. Welcoming the guest author of the book Gh. Nabi Adfar dwelt in detail on the main objective of the publication.

Prof. Khaki in his presidential address said that Sheikh Noor-Ud-Din Noorani (Sheikh-ul-Aalam) is unique legend of Kashmir, unmatched for centuries, who transformed the ideology, culture and tradition of this land.

Unknown body found in train

Excelsior Correspondent

UDHAMPUR, Nov 16: GRP police recovered an unidentified male dead body on the DMU train today morning.

According to the SHO, GRP, Udhampur Sanjay Raina, an unidentified male dead body in the age group of about 70-75 yrs was found in DMU/ train coming from Pathankot to Udhampur station.

He said the dead body after examination was later shifted to the mortuary of District Hospital, Udhampur. Its identity could not be known till late this evening. Anybody identifying may contact on police phone numbers: 9419158620- SHO GRP Udhampur, 9469503575- PCR GRP Katra, he added.