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Fear instilled by Navy, IAF skill, Army's bravery brought Pak on knees within no time: PM Modi

Joins Diwali celebrations on board INS Vikrant, says armed forces deserve special salute for their actions

Operation Sindoor

PANAJI, OCT 20
Termining coordination among the armed forces during 'Operation Sindoor' as a main factor for Pakistan's surrender, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said fear instilled by the Navy, extraordinary skills of the Air Force and bravery of the Army brought the enemy on its knees within no time.



Addressing armed forces personnel during Diwali celebrations on board INS Vikrant, PM Modi, according to the agency said the aircraft carrier represents India's capability to design and build its own warships. "INS Vikrant is not just a warship, it is a testimony to 21st-century India's hard work, talent, impact

and commitment," he said, adding, "It's a powerful symbol of Atmanirbhar Bharat. Its handover to the Navy led to renunciation of a major colonial legacy." "A few months ago we had seen how INS Vikrant gave some sleepless nights to Pakistan. INS Vikrant, the

PM Modi to kickstart BJP's Bihar poll campaign on October 24 with twin rallies in Samastipur, Begusarai

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) campaign for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections on October 24 with two massive rallies in Samastipur and Begusarai, marking the formal start of the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) high-stakes battle to retain power in the state.

According to party officials, Modi will begin his day in Samastipur, where he is expected to pay homage to the late socialist icon Karpoori Thakur at his native village, Karpoori Gram, before addressing a large public gathering. The choice of venue carries strong symbolic weight, as Karpoori Thakur remains an enduring figure among Bihar's Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs), a crucial voter base that the BJP is seeking to consolidate in this election. Later in the day, Modi will head to Begusarai for his second rally, aimed at energizing voters across nearly 20 assembly constituencies in the region. Party sources said that these two rallies are part of a larger strategy to blend symbolism with electoral arithmetic — using Karpoori Thakur's

Holy relics of Lord Buddha brought home from Russia

LG Sinha says, 'Buddha's presence will continue to guide seekers in Kalmykia'



NEW DELHI, OCT 20
Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha returned to the national capital on Monday after concluding a three-day visit to the Republic of Kalmykia in Russia, leading the Indian delegation that brought back the sacred relics of Lord Buddha. The relics had been on a week-long exposition in Elista, the capital city of Kalmykia, where thousands of

devotees, monks, and visitors from across Russia and other countries participated in the rare spiritual event. The exposition of the relics, which were taken from India to Russia under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture, was part of ongoing cultural and spiritual exchanges aimed at deepening civilizational ties between the two countries. The

visit, officials said, marked yet another significant chapter in India's diplomatic and cultural outreach through shared heritage and spirituality. In a post on social media platform X, Lieutenant Governor Sinha expressed deep satisfaction over the successful completion of the exposition and the safe return

Delhi's Air Quality Worsens On Diwali: 34 Out Of 38 Stations In 'Red Zone'

NEW DELHI, OCT 20
Delhi's air quality deteriorated on Diwali, with 34 out of 38 monitoring stations recording pollution levels in the 'red zone' on Monday, indicating 'very poor' to 'severe' air across the national capital. Delhi's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI), which is reported at 4 pm every day, remained in the 'very poor' category at 345, higher than the 326 recorded

Congress backs out of Nagrota bypoll, cites alliance unity but weak ground reality key factor

ISHA SHARMA
GY CORRESPONDENT
JAMMU, OCT 20
The Indian National Congress has decided not to contest the Nagrota Assembly bypoll scheduled for November 11, citing the broad objective of defeating the BJP and maintaining alliance cohesion with the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (NC). However, political analysts say the underlying reason is the party's weak position in the constituency and

absence of a strong candidate capable of mounting a credible challenge. Nagrota, in the Jammu region, became vacant following the death of sitting BJP MLA Devender Singh Rana. The BJP has fielded Devyani Rana, daughter of the late MLA, as its candidate. In the 2024 Assembly elections, Congress secured only around 6,000 votes in the constituency, compared to BJP's 48,000 and NC's 17,000, highlighting the steep challenge the party faces in this region.

While NC had reportedly offered Nagrota to Congress, signalling willingness to mend alliance tensions after disagreements over Rajya Sabha seat-sharing, Congress ultimately chose to step aside. Publicly, the party emphasized alliance strategy, arguing that contesting the seat could split anti-BJP votes and undermine the common objective of defeating the ruling party. Analysts, however, point out that the decision reflects Congress's pragmatic recognition

Court Sentences Man to 20 Years in POCSSO Case Involving Minor Girl

GY CORRESPONDENT
JAMMU, OCT 20
In a significant verdict, the Court of Principal Sessions Judge, Udhampur, on Monday sentenced a 41-year-old man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for committing aggravated penetrative sexual assault on a minor girl aged below 12 years, under provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. The convict, Mohd

Arshad alias Nika, son of Mohd Iqbal, resident of Bain (presently at Motor Shed, Chenani, Udhampur), was found guilty under Section 5(m) of the POCSSO Act, punishable under Section 6 of the Act. The Court also imposed a fine of ₹50,000, directing that the amount, if realised, be handed over to the victim to meet her medical and rehabilitation expenses. The case dates back to 28 July 2020, when the victim's mother, lodged a complaint

Diwali greetings



On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, we extend our warm greetings and best wishes to all our esteemed readers living in India and abroad. Diwali is a festival of happiness and joy. On the day of Diwali, people worship Goddess Lakshmi in their homes and pray for everyone's happiness and prosperity. The festival of Diwali is also an occasion to further strengthen the spirit of mutual cooperation and harmony. The light of Diwali symbolizes the knowledge that dispels all the darkness of our inner and outer ignorance.

May energy & light spread in our lives like a Diya. May the spirit of helping the underprivileged grow deep in the minds of people and let us all continue our tradition of 'Subh' and 'Labh'."

33 candidates file nomination papers for two seats

20 in fray for Budgam, 13 in Nagrota

GY CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, OCT 20
A total of 33 candidates have filed nominations for the Budgam and Nagrota Assembly constituencies, as the deadline for submissions concluded on Monday. According to official details available with the news agency, 20 candidates have submitted nominations for the Budgam seat, while 13 have filed for the 77-Nagrota seat. For the Budgam seat, National Conference nominee Aga Syed

Mehmood, Peoples Democratic Party candidate Aga Munazzir Mehdi, Bharatiya Janata Party's Aga Syed Mohsin, independent candidates Nazir Ahmad Khan, Muntazir Mohiuddin, Jibran Dar, and Aam Aadmi Party's Deeba Khan are among the 20 candidates who have filed their nomination papers. On the last day of filing nominations, candidates from all major political parties submitted their papers before the Returning Officer in Budgam.

Security Forces Destroy IED in J&K's Shopian

GY CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, OCT 20
Security forces averted a potential tragedy on Monday with the timely detection of an IED in the Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. The IED was planted by suspected terrorists and was found by security forces during a routine patrol along the roadside in Heli, officials added. They further stated that a bomb disposal squad was called to the scene, where the IED was safely destroyed without causing any damage.

NC finalises Shamim Begum for Nagrota after Congress refusal



GY CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, OCT 20
After Congress declined the offer to contest the Nagrota seat, the National Conference on Monday decided to field District Development Council member Shamim Begum

as its candidate for the constituency. Speaking to news agency, NC's Provincial President for Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta, said that the party has decided to nominate DDC member Shamim Begum as its candidate for the seat after Congress deciding against contesting the seat. "The party high command has cleared her name and she will be filing nomination papers," he said. A Muslim Gujar woman, Shamim Begum won 2020 district development council elections from Nagrota.

Border fences lit, BSF remains alert along J&K borders on Diwali

GY CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, OCT 20
As Diwali was observed across India, Border Security Force (BSF) personnel along the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir marked the festival by lighting candles along the fences. Officials told the news agency that personnel placed candles in multiple sectors, including Tangdhar, Keran, Gurez, Uri, and Akhnoor, as well as along RS Pura

NC, PDP, BJP candidates file nominations for key election to Budgam



GY CORRESPONDENT
BADGAM, OCT 20
The candidates of all major political parties, including National Conference, Peoples Democratic Party, and the Bharatiya Janata Party, filed nominations for key election to the Budgam seat on Monday—the last day for filing

nominations papers. According to details available with news agency, National Conference candidate Aga Syed Mehmood was accompanied by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah filed his nomination papers, while Peoples Democratic Party candidate,

SC Refers To Larger Bench Question Of Parity Between AYUSH And Allopathic Doctors



NEW DELHI, OCT 20
The Supreme Court has referred to a larger bench the question whether doctors practising indigenous medical systems such as Ayurveda, Unani, homeopathy can be treated on par with "allopathic" doctors for determining service conditions, retirement

age, and pay scales. On May 13, a bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandan reserved its order on the pleas seeking answer to whether there can be a different age of superannuation for doctors practising modern medicine from the

Privilege over transparency? Legislative privilege invoked as J&K Assembly withholds question details

GY CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, OCT 20
The Jammu & Kashmir Assembly has refused to disclose information about the questions disallowed during the budget session held in March-April this year. "The information sought comes under the exemption clause in terms of Section 8 (1) (c) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, which applies to the non-disclosure of information whose disclosure would breach the privilege of the Parliament or State Legislature,"

cited Section 8(1)(c) of the transparency law to deny details of the questions disallowed by the Speaker during the budget session held in March-April this year. "The information sought comes under the exemption clause in terms of Section 8 (1) (c) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, which applies to the non-disclosure of information whose disclosure would breach the privilege of the Parliament or State Legislature,"

J&K reports around 2,200 dengue cases so far this year

GY CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, OCT 20
Jammu and Kashmir has reported a surge in dengue cases this year, with nearly 2,200 infections recorded so far, health officials said on Monday. They urged people to take preventive steps to stop further spread of the mosquito-borne disease. According to official data accessed by the news agency, 2,168 dengue cases

Veteran Bollywood actor Govardhan Asrani passes away at 84

MUMBAI, OCT 20
Veteran actor Govardhan Asrani passed away at the age of 84 after a prolonged illness, on Monday. His last rites were performed at Santacruz Crematorium. Just a few hours before his death, the actor had posted a Diwali post wishing his fans on the occasion, on his social media account. He was one of Indian cinema's most enduring comic actors. In a career spanning over five decades, he worked in more than 350 films. He



trained at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, where he honed his craft before entering

CM Omar Abdullah extends warm greetings on Diwali

GY CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, OCT 20
Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and to all those celebrating the festival of Diwali across the country and beyond. In his message, the Chief Minister said that Diwali, the festival of lights, signifies the triumph of good over evil and the victory of truth and righteousness. He noted that the festival is a celebration of hope and harmony,