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

Referring to the success of 'Operation Sindoor', PM Modi said, "When the enemy is in front and war is imminent, the side that possesses the strength to fight independently always holds the advantage."

"The fear instilled by the Indian Navy, the extraordinary skill demonstrated by the Indian Air Force, and the bravery of the Indian Army, along with the exceptional coordination among all three services, brought Pakistan on its knees swiftly during Operation Sindoor," he said, adding that the armed forces deserved a special salute for their actions. "For the armed forces to be strong, self-reliance is essential," he said, asserting that over the years India's forces have steadily advanced towards self-reliance.

"Missiles such as Brahmos and Akash have proven their capabilities during Operation Sindoor. Several countries around the world are now interested in purchasing these missiles," PM Modi said. He said that the armed forces have identified thousands of items that will no longer be imported, resulting in most essential military equipment now being manufactured domestically.

He said that in the last 11 years, the defence production has more than tripled, crossing Rs 1.5 lakh crore last year. Since 2014, Indian shipsyards have delivered over 40 indigenous warships and submarines to the Navy, PM Modi said, adding that on an average a submarine or warship produced domestically is being inducted every 40 days. He said India was building the capacity to export weapons and equipment for all three armed forces.

"India's goal is to be counted among the world's top defence exporters," Modi said, adding that over the past decade, the country's defence exports have increased more than 30-fold. He credited this success significantly to the contributions of defence start-ups and indigenous defence units.

The Prime Minister also commended the Indian Coast Guard for their vital role in national defence and noted their continuous coordination with the Navy to secure India's coastline day and night. He recalled the moment when INS Vikrant was handed over to the nation, and said the warship was grand, immense, panoramic, unique and exceptional.

"Vikrant is not merely a warship; it is a testament to 21st-century India's hard work, talent, impact, and commitment," PM Modi said.

"On the very day the nation received the indigenously built INS Vikrant, the Indian Navy resounded a major symbol of colonial legacy," he said.

PM Modi highlighted that inspired by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the Navy adopted a new flag.

INS Vikrant, India's first home-built aircraft carrier, was commissioned in 2022 to strengthen the country's naval presence.

Described as a city on the move, INS Vikrant is the largest warship to be built in India and also India's second operational aircraft carrier after INS Vikramaditya, which was built on a Russian platform.

PM Modi arrived here on Sunday evening and boarded the home-built aircraft carrier off the coast of Goa. While onboard INS Vikrant, the prime minister went to the flightdeck, surrounded by MiG 29K fighter aircraft.

He witnessed the take-off and landing of MiG 29K fighter jets on a short runway of the aircraft carrier, both during the day and in the dark night.

PM Modi also witnessed a vibrant cultural programme where the officers and sailors of the Indian Navy sang various patriotic songs, including a song specially written by them to commemorate the success of Indian Armed Forces in Operation Sindoor.

PM Modi had dinner with the extended family of naval personnel during the Bana Khana.

On Monday morning, Modi joined a Yoga Session on the deck of INS Vikrant and also witnessed a spectacular steamship of warships and flypast by aircraft.

The warships which took part in the steamship included INS Vikrant, INS Vikramaditya, INS Surat, INS Mormugao, INS Chennai, INS Imphal, INS Kolkata, INS Tushi, INS Tabar, INS Teg, INS Betwa, INS Deepak and INS Aditya.

The flypast included Chetak, with flag and naval ensign, MH 60 R Seaking, Kamov 31, Dornier and P8I and MiG 29K.

"Last night spent onboard INS Vikrant is hard to put into words. I saw the immense energy and enthusiasm you all were filled with. When I saw you singing patriotic songs yesterday, and the way you described Operation Sindoor in your songs, no words can ever fully convey the experience that a javan feels standing on a battlefield," PM Modi said.

"My Diwali has been special as it was spent amongst you," he said.

The Prime Minister has been celebrating Diwali with the armed forces since 2014.

PM Modi to kickstart BJP's Bihar poll campaign on October 24 with twin

legacy to reach out to backward caste voters while simultaneously projecting development and governance themes that appeal to the broader electorate. The twin events are expected to give BJP's campaign a powerful launchpad ahead of the two-phase elections scheduled for November 6 and 11, with counting on November 14.

The NDA, comprising the BJP and its ally Janata Dal (United) led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, faces a formidable challenge from the opposition coalition led by the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Congress. The opposition has intensified its attacks on the ruling alliance over issues of unemployment, migration, and alleged irregularities in voter registration. The RJD has already announced its list of 143 candidates, including 24 women, signaling an early start to its own campaign.

Political observers note that by choosing Samastipur and Begusarai for his first campaign appearances, Modi is sending a clear political message — that the BJP intends to broaden its reach beyond its traditional upper-caste support base and make deeper inroads among the OBCs and EBCs. The decision to begin at Karpooi Gram is being seen as a deliberate attempt to evoke the memory of a revered leader known for championing the rights of the backward and marginalized classes.

The BJP's Bihar unit has been preparing intensively for the Prime Minister's visit, mobilizing local party workers, finalizing logistics, and coordinating with central leaders to ensure massive turnout at both venues. Senior BJP and JD(U) leaders are expected to share the stage with Modi, highlighting the unity within the NDA despite earlier reports of friction between the two parties.

The election will test the strength of this alliance as Nitish Kumar, who has switched sides multiple times in recent years, seeks another term as Chief Minister. The BJP, meanwhile, is focusing its campaign on Modi's leadership, central welfare schemes, and promises of accelerated development in Bihar. Recently, Modi announced a ₹62,000 crore package targeting youth through the PM-SETU initiative, a move widely interpreted as a pre-election push to address the state's employment concerns.

However, challenges remain for the NDA. Unemployment, rising prices, and disenchantment among young voters continue to dominate public discourse. Opposition parties are banking on anti-incumbency sentiment and are attempting to portray the BJP-JD(U) government as disconnected from ground realities. A recent Reuters report highlighted growing frustration among voters over joblessness and migration, which could play a decisive role in

the polls.

Political analysts suggest that Modi's rallies will set the tone for the campaign narrative. While the BJP hopes to project a vision of progress and stability, the opposition will likely counter with messages centered on economic distress and social justice. The NDA's emphasis on caste inclusivity and development-oriented governance will be put to the test in a state known for its complex social fabric and deeply entrenched caste loyalties.

Folled by the 24 rallies, Modi is expected to address several more gatherings in Muzaffarpur, Chhapra, and Gaya before polling day. The BJP's strategy appears to focus on maintaining high visibility and momentum, ensuring that Modi remains the centerpiece of its outreach.

As the Bihar election battle intensifies, Modi's campaign launch will mark the start of a fierce contest between the NDA's development narrative and the opposition's promises of social justice and employment. With symbolism, strategy, and political stakes converging, Bihar is set to witness one of the most closely fought elections in recent years — and Modi's October 24 rallies will likely define its opening act.

Holy relics of Lord Buddha brought home from Russia

of the relics. "Holy relics of Lord Buddha are back home after week-long exposition at Kalmykia, Russia. The exposition underscored our commitment to foster mutual understanding, build trust and cooperation and create lasting connections through shared spiritual experiences," he wrote.

Sinha, who represented India at several official and cultural events during his stay, described the exposition as an extraordinary occasion that brought together faith, peace, and fraternity. "Exposition of holy relics has deepened spiritual connect and mindfulness will always serve as a source of peace, ideals and inspiration for future generations. Holy relics are back home but Buddha's enduring presence in Kalmykia will continue to guide seekers for their own awakening," the Lieutenant Governor said.

According to officials accompanying the delegation, the week-long event in Elista witnessed a remarkable response from the Buddhist community and the people of Kalmykia, which is known for its deep-rooted Buddhist traditions. The relics were displayed at the central Buddhist temple, where devotees offered prayers and participated in discourses centered on Buddha's teachings of compassion, peace, and non-violence. During the exposition, cultural performances, meditation sessions, and interfaith dialogues were also organized to highlight the universal relevance of Buddha's message.

Several dignitaries from Russia and other nations attended the events, emphasizing the shared spiritual values that bind humanity across borders.

The relics, considered among the most sacred symbols of Buddhism, were originally preserved at India's National Museum and were taken to Kalmykia with great reverence under strict security and ceremonial protocol. Their display in Russia was widely covered by international media and hailed as a gesture of cultural diplomacy that reflects India's role as the custodian of Buddha's legacy.

Officials accompanying the Lieutenant Governor said the successful exposition reinforced India's commitment to promoting global peace and harmony through the teachings of Buddha. The visit also strengthened bilateral cultural ties between India and Russia, especially with the Republic of Kalmykia, which has a large Buddhist population and has maintained long-standing relations with Indian Buddhist institutions.

On his return, Sinha reiterated that the event was not merely a religious exposition but a celebration of humanity's collective pursuit of wisdom and enlightenment. "The relics have returned to their home soil, but the spirit of the Buddha will continue to illuminate hearts in Kalmykia and across the world," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor's visit and the exposition are being seen as a continuation of India's efforts to enhance people-to-people ties through shared cultural and spiritual heritage. The relics will now be placed back in the National Museum with traditional rituals, marking the end of an important spiritual journey that, as Sinha put it, "reaffirmed the timeless relevance of Buddha's teachings in today's world."

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

on Sunday, according to official data.

According to the SAMEER app developed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), four monitoring stations were already in the 'severe' category with AQI levels above 400 — Dwarka (417), Ashok Vihar (404), Wazirpur (423) and Anand Vihar (404).

Around 30 monitoring stations reported 'very poor' air, with AQI levels above 300. The CPCB categorised AQI between 301 and 500 as 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'. Transport emissions contributed 15.6% to Delhi's air pollution on Monday, while other factors, including industries, accounted for 21.3%, data from the Decision Support System (DSS) showed.

On Sunday, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) invoked Stage II of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) across Delhi-NCR.

The move followed a review of the sub-committee on GRAP on Saturday and forecasts by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM).

On October 15, the Supreme Court allowed the sale and burning of green firecrackers in Delhi-NCR between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. and again from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Diwali eve and the day of the festival.

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

of its limited voter base and ground support in the Jammu region.

The move also reflects broader dynamics within the Congress-NC alliance. Congress has expressed dissatisfaction with NC over previous seat allocations, and the Nagrota bypoll offered an opportunity to assert its negotiating position. By declining to contest, Congress preserves resources, avoids potential electoral embarrassment, and signals selective engagement in constituencies where it has realistic prospects.

For NC, the decision reduces friction with Congress while still allowing the party to contest the seat independently or mobilize support without the complications of a multi-front contest. The outcome of the bypoll will test the strength of anti-BJP consolidation and indicate how alliance strategies will shape electoral contests in Jammu and Kashmir ahead of future polls.

Observers note that while the public narrative emphasizes alliance unity and strategic cooperation, the absence of a strong Congress candidate in the Nagrota bypoll suggests the alliance may serve as a measure of BJP's hold in the constituency, the efficacy of NC's grassroots mobilization, and Congress's ability to maintain relevance in a region where it remains a distant third in voter preference.

The Nagrota bypoll thus encapsulates the balancing act for regional and national parties in J&K — managing alliances,

candidate strengths, and resource allocation while striving to counter the dominant BJP.

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

at Police Station Ramnagar alleging that the accused had outraged the modesty of her minor daughter while she was plucking peens in the fields. The FIR, initially registered under sections 354 IPC and 8 POCSO Act, was later altered to include Section 376-AB IPC and Sections 3/4/5(m)/6 POCSO Act after investigation revealed aggravated sexual assault.

During the trial, the prosecution produced multiple witnesses, including the victim (whose identity is withheld), her family members, and medical officers. The victim narrated before the court that the accused forcibly took peens from her lap and sexually assaulted her. Medical reports confirmed her age as 11 years at the time of the incident.

The Court carefully examined the testimonies, medical evidence, and circumstantial details. While the medical examination did not reveal signs of complete intercourse, the testimony of the child victim and corroborating witnesses established the offence beyond reasonable doubt.

The prosecution sought the maximum sentence, stressing the brutal nature of the act against a child. However, the defence argued that the accused was a first-time offender, a family member, and had no prior criminal record.

In his judgment, Principal Sessions Judge Virinder Singh Bhau after hearing Public Prosecutors Himanshu Parkash and Vijay Sharma for the UT whereas Adv. Ranjeet Dubey for the defence, observed that though the act was heinous, the accused caused severe trauma to the child, the circumstances did not warrant imprisonment for life. Emphasising both deterrence and reformation, the Court awarded the minimum statutory punishment of 20 years rigorous imprisonment under Section 376-AB IPC.

Court further directed the J&K State Legal Services Authority to extend statutory compensation to the victim under the Victim Compensation Scheme.

The convict has been apprised of his right to appeal before the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. He has also been sent to District Jail Udhampur to serve his sentence. (JN)

33 candidates file nomination papers for two seats

NC candidate Aja Syed Mehmood was accompanied by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, several MLAs, and senior party leaders when he submitted his nomination papers. Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate Aja Syed Mehmood was joined by Waheed-ul-Rehman Parra during the filing of his nomination.

Similarly, BJP candidate Aja Syed Mohsin was accompanied by the Leader of Opposition (LoP) and MLA Padder-Nagseni, Sunil Sharma.

For the Nagrota seat, BJP's Devyani Rana, Panthers Party's Harshdeep Singh, and National Conference's Shamim Begum are among the 13 candidates who have filed nomination papers.

The election for the Budgam and Nagrota seats is scheduled for November 11, with counting to take place on November 14. The by-poll for the Budgam seat was necessitated after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah vacated it, opting to retain his training and leadership in Ganderal following his dual victory in the 2024 Assembly elections. The Nagrota seat fell vacant due to the demise of BJP leader Devinder Singh Rana in October last year.

NC finalises Shamim Begum for Nagrota after Congress refusal

Amid widening fissures between the ruling alliance partners in Jammu & Kashmir, the Congress has turned down the National Conference's offer to contest the Nagrota seat, stating that it has decided to leave the seat to its ally, the National Conference, in order to defeat the Bharatiya Janata Party. In a late-night development, the Congress decided against contesting the seat, "keeping in view the larger interests and the goal of defeating the BJP".

"After the Congress said 'no' to the Congress said," the Congress leadership in Jammu and Kashmir, Pradesh Congress Committee, and taking into account various factors - including the fact that in the last Assembly elections in 2024, which were contested by Congress and NC on a friendly basis, the National Conference had secured second position in the final election results of the said constituency - the central leadership of the INC has decided to leave the seat to its ally, the National Conference, in furtherance of the broader principles and goals of the coalition to defeat the BJP," the Congress said.

The ties between the National Conference and Congress have taken a hit after the former refused to offer the latter a safe seat in the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections, scheduled for October 24. The NC had offered Congress the fourth, relatively riskier seat, which the latter declined to contest.

The Congress leadership in Jammu and Kashmir, as well as in New Delhi, is miffed over the National Conference's 'reneging' on its commitment to offer a 'safe' seat to the party in the Rajya Sabha polls.

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

in Jammu and other IB and LoC areas. Night patrolling and monitoring continued in all sectors while the candles were arranged along the fences, they said.

"BSF teams are deployed around the clock to monitor cross-border movements and respond to any unusual activity," the officials said, adding that night patrols were intensified in key areas along both the IB and LoC, including north Kashmir and the Jammu division.

After a meeting that coordination with the BSF has been increased to maintain joint patrolling and observation posts in strategic locations. Surveillance continues to ensure prompt response capability in case of incidents.

They said that with the latest technology, including drones and vehicles, security forces are monitoring the border around the clock to foil any infiltration, cross-border terrorism, or other activity from the enemy side.

A BSF officer posted on the LoC said teams are deployed throughout the night to observe any unusual activity. "Our operations continue while we mark the festival in this way. Our mission is to ensure the safety of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said. "National security is our Diwali. While citizens celebrate the festival, our focus is on maintaining vigilance along the IB and the LoC."

In addition to lighting candles along the fences, BSF and Army personnel at forward posts exchanged sweets among themselves.

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

Aja Syed Muntazir Mehdi was accompanied by MLA Waheed Rehman Parra. Meanwhile, BJP candidate Aja Syed Mohsin also filed his nomination today. He was accompanied by Leader of Opposition (LoP) and MLA Padder-Nagseni, Sunil Sharma.

The Budgam by-election will be held on November 11, while counting of votes will take place on November 14. The by-election was necessitated after Chief Minister Omar Abdullah vacated the Budgam seat, retaining traditional stronghold Ganderal following the 2024 Assembly elections

CM Omar Abdullah extends warm greetings on Diwali

symbolizing the enduring values of compassion, unity and mutual respect that enrich India's diverse cultural heritage. Omar Abdullah expressed hope that the festival would bring joy, peace and prosperity to every home.

"May this Diwali usher in a new era of happiness, peace, and progress for Jammu and Kashmir and the entire country," the Chief Minister said.

Veteran Bollywood actor Govardhan Asrani passes away at 84

the Hindi film industry in the mid-1960s.

Though he started with serious and supporting roles, Asrani's true flair for comedy soon shone through. He became a staple of Hindi cinema in the 1970s and 1980s, often playing the lovable fool, the flustered clerk, or the witty sidekick. His impeccable timing and expressive face made him a director's favourite.

His roles in classic films like 'Sholay', 'Chupke Chupke' and many others made him a prominent figure in the field of acting.

One of his most iconic performances came in the landmark film of Hindi cinema, 'Sholay' as the bumbling jailor parodying Hitler, a role that became an immortal part of Indian pop-culture.

Asrani also proved his versatility by working across genres and languages, including Gujarati and Rajasthani films, and even ventured into direction with a few Hindi and Gujarati movies. He formed memorable comic partnerships with actors like Mehmod, Rajesh Khanna, and later Govinda, bridging generations of comedy in Bollywood.

Beyond humor, Asrani occasionally showcased his dramatic range in films like Aaj Ki Taaza Khabar and Chala Murali Hero Banne, where he also took up the director's chair. His contribution to Indian cinema lies not just in laughter but in consistency - the mark of a true entertainer who evolved with time yet stayed rooted in charm and simplicity. Further details with regards to the actor's demise are awaited.

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

have been confirmed across the Union Territory till date. Among these, Jammu district reported the highest number of cases (860), followed by Kathua (579), Samba (139), and Udhampur (257).

Other districts with reported infections included Reasi (42), Rajouri (52), Poonch (25), Doda (24), Ramban (29), and Kishtwar (7). Additionally, 23 cases have been reported from Kashmir division and 41 from outside states.

An official told that a total of 20,277 tests have been conducted this year. "Out of the confirmed cases, only 45 patients required hospitalisation, while nine are still under treatment. One resident of J&K succumbed to the disease at DMCLudhiana," he said.

He cautioned that with no specific vaccine or antiviral treatment available for dengue, prevention remains the most effective strategy. "People must adopt preemptive measures to combat this painful infection by destroying mosquito breeding sites and maintaining clean surroundings," he added.

Health experts said that dengue, caused by the Aedes aegypti mosquito, continues to pose a major public health challenge in the region.

The Aedes mosquitoes breed in stagnant water found in flower pots, buckets, discarded tyres, and even bottle caps. Eliminating these water sources is the first line of defense," they said, adding that people should regularly clean water containers, use mosquito repellents, and wear full-sleeved clothes to minimize exposure.

The doctors advised that dengue-carrying mosquitoes are most active during early morning and late afternoon hours, and people should use mosquito nets or screens while sleeping, even during the day.

They said the common symptoms of dengue include high fever, severe headache, pain behind the eyes, muscle and joint pain, nausea, vomiting, and rashes. "Warning signs of severe dengue include abdominal pain, persistent vomiting, bleeding gums or nose, blood in vomit or stools, fatigue, or restlessness. Such cases require immediate medical attention," they warned.

J&K has witnessed fluctuating dengue patterns in recent years. The Union Territory reported around 7,000 cases in 2024, 6,403 in 2023, and the highest-ever 8,269 cases in 2022, which also saw 18 deaths. In contrast, dengue was almost negligible a decade ago, with only two cases reported in 2009 and none in 2010.

Health authorities have once again urged citizens to join hands in combating dengue by ensuring cleanliness and removing stagnant water from their surroundings.

Privilege over transparency?

the the Assembly Secretariat stated in its response. It further explained that the exemption is intended to shield the Assembly's proceedings from external interference.

"This exemption ensures that the legislative process remains its proceedings without external interference by preventing the disclosure of information protected by legislative privilege," said the Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) of the Assembly Secretariat, citing inputs from the Question Branch. The application was filed by Syed Asim, an activist from Central Kashmir's Ganderal district. He had sought details of the questions that were disallowed, along with the names of the MLAs who had submitted them and the reasons for their disallowance.

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

practitioners of AYUSH in government hospitals and clinics. In an order delivered on October 17, the bench said "there is divergence of opinion" on whether doctors of the system can be treated equally for service benefits and hence, the issue required an authoritative pronouncement.

The term 'allopathy' was coined by the founder of homeopathy, Samuel Hahnemann, who used it to disparage the mainstream medicine system prevalent then.

The court noted that earlier decisions had taken divergent stands on whether AYUSH doctors could claim the same retirement benefits and pay scales as allopathic doctors.

"We cannot ignore the submission of the States that enhancement of the retirement age (of allopathic doctors) was only to ensure that there are sufficient experienced medical practitioners available to treat the public."

"The dearth of medical practitioners as occurring in allopathy does not exist in the indigenous systems of medicine especially when critical life-saving therapeutic interventions and surgical care is not carried out by the practitioners of indigenous systems of medicine."

"We are of the opinion that there should be an authoritative pronouncement on the issue and we hence refer the matter to a larger Bench. The Registry is directed to place the matter before the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of India on the administrative side," the order read.

Pending the larger bench's decision, the court allowed states and authorities the option to continue AYUSH practitioners beyond their current age of superannuation, up to the retirement age applicable to allopathic doctors, on a temporary basis, but without regular pay and allowances.

If the larger bench ultimately rules in favour of AYUSH doctors, they will be entitled to full pay and allowances for the extended period, the court said.