Terrorists fire at jawans in J&K

Three CRPF personnel injured in attack from close range at a Kulgam checkpoint; one in critical condition; condemning the attack as a 'cowardly act', Lieutenant-Governor says security forces have been given 'free hand' to crack down on terrorists

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Three CRPF personnel were injured in a terrorist attack at Kulgam in south Kashmir on Wednesday, a day when Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha was scheduled to attend an event in the district.

The attack took place around 2.15 p.m. when terrorists opened fire from close range at CRPF personnel who were part of a checkpoint in Kulgam, officials said.

Officials said security agencies were investigating whether the terrorists came on a motorcycle or in any other vehicle to the attack spot. The area surrounding the attack site is being searched for clues to track the attackers.

Security was further heightened in south Kashmir after the attack.

The three CRPF personnel who suffered bullet injuries were from 46 Battalion and have been identified as constable Rakesh Dass, a resident of Assam; constable Santosh Chandru, a resident of West Bengal; and head constable Somveer Singh, a resident of Madhya Pradesh. They were shifted to a hospital in nearby Anantnag district.

Officials said one of the critically injured was then airlifted to Srinagar's Badamibagh Army Hospital for specialised treatment.

Mr. Sinha, who visited the injured jawan in Srinagar, condemned the attack and said it was a cowardly act of terror.

Security review

He assured the people that those responsible will be hunted down and brought to justice. The security forces have been given a free hand to crack down on terrorists, he said. Mr. Sinha reviewed the security situation with senior officials at Lok Bhavan, Srinagar.

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On high alert

Security has been heightened in south Kashmir after the terrorist attack which came on the same day **J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha was scheduled to attend a function in Kulgam district**



Rapid response: Security personnel stationed near the CRPF checkpoint in Kulgam after the terrorist attack on the jawans on Wednesday. ANI



*The CRPF jawans were manning a street in **Kulgam district,** about **75 km from Srinagar,** when the attack took place around **2.15 p.m.***

- Injured CRPF Personnel were from the **46 Battalion**
- Search on for **clues to track** the attackers
- Agencies looking into **how terrorists reached the attack spot**
- The injured were identified as **Head Constable Somveer Singh** from Madhya Pradesh, **Constable Rakesh Dass** from Assam, and **Constable Santosh Chandru** from West Bengal
- **One jawan airlifted to Srinagar's Badamibagh Army Hospital** for specialised treatment of critical injury

The area has witnessed multiple terror incidents recently, including the killing of two migrant labourers in Kulgam and the shooting of a police constable in neighbouring Anantnag, both in July this year

SHAILAYA SSB TRG (8368104523)

Protests in Ladakh barred ahead of polls

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Ladakh on Wednesday prohibited protests within the municipal limits of Leh and Kargil ahead of local body elections to be held between November 21 and December 4.

The order citing the Model Code of Conduct came even as civil society groups threatened to resume agitations to push a slew of demands including the resumption of talks with the Centre and the postponement of hill council elections till next year.

The order by the CEO of the Union Territory said the restrictions will remain in force until the completion of the election process for the municipal committees of Leh and Kargil this month. "The Model Code requires maintenance of an atmosphere conducive to free, fair and peaceful elections, and no activity should be permitted which may create intimidation, fear or undue influence among electors," said the order.

It said organising political dharnas, protests, demonstrations, sit-ins, rallies, or similar collective activities during this period would have the potential to intimidate voters, disturb public order, and vitiate the atmosphere for free and fair elections.

It directed all political parties, candidates, and their agents to strictly adhere to the provisions of the Model Code of Conduct and ensure no activity is undertaken that may intimidate, coerce, or unduly influence electors.

The District Election Officers, or Deputy Commissioners, of Leh and Kargil and the Superintendents of Police of the districts were directed "to ensure strict compliance of the order".

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SHAUKAT SSB TRG (8368104529)

Protests in Ladakh barred ahead of polls

"Any violation will be dealt with firmly in accordance with law, including proceedings under relevant provisions and the Model Code of Conduct," it added.

Call for agitation

The order came a day after Leh Apex Body (LAB) called for an agitation, with a sit-in from November 12, to press their demands on a slew of issues, including resumption of talks between the Centre and Ladakh bodies, making public the status of the judicial inquiry report into the 2025 violence that left four people dead, and the postponement of hill council elections till next year.

Members of the LAB, including co-chairman Tsering Dorjey Lakrook and activist Sonam Wangchuk, on Wednesday made a video appeal to President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi "to intervene before people of Ladakh are forced to start peaceful but intense agitations to demonstrate our pain".

"While the judicial inquiry commission report on the September 24 [2025] incidents in Leh moves at a snail's pace even after a year of the incident, and the talks on restoration of democracy have broken down, the U.T. administration is moving at rocket speed to conduct some kind of council elections here, apparently to have people of their choice installed to negotiate on democracy and safeguards here," said Mr. Wangchuk.

SHAURYA GSR TRG (8881944129)

‘Postpone elections’

Ladakh, which was carved out as a Union Territory in 2019 from the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, will hold multi-tier elections to panchayats, municipalities, and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) between November 21 and December 4.

The LAB leaders demanded postponement of hill council elections, saying these elections were being held “in spite of December and January being the coldest and snowiest months with temperatures dipping below minus 30 degrees Celsius in many places and [when] close to half the population migrates out of Ladakh for education, vacation, pilgrimage, etc”.

“People in every region of Ladakh are protesting against the type of councils and manner of conduct of these elections,” said Mr. Wangchuk.

Ladakh MP Haji Haneefa also opposed holding the elections at the given time, citing harsh winter conditions, seasonal migration, and inadequate time for revision of electoral rolls.

SUJOY A GSB THG (8369104529)

Karnataka files plea against quashing of SC/ST quota hike

The Special Leave Petition challenges the HC decision, which ruled that the enhancement of reservation for SCs to 17% and STs to 7% breached the 50% cap imposed by the top court in 1992

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) in the Supreme Court challenging the Karnataka High Court's decision to quash the increase in reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) from 15% to 17% and Scheduled Tribes (STs) from 3% to 7%.

The State government, through a Government Order dated October 27, approved filing of the SLP.

On October 12, the High Court quashed the higher quota for SCs and STs, ruling that the enhancement was "constitutionally impermissible" as it took Karnataka's total reservation to 56%, breaching the 50% cap imposed by the Supreme Court in 1992.

The State's reservation matrix provides 15% to SCs, 3% to STs, and 32% to OBCs, taking the total to 50%. The enhancement was brought through the Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Act, 2022, following a recommendation by a commission headed by retired judge H.N. Nagamohan Das. The High Court held the legislation as *ultra vires* and struck down Sections 3 and 4 of the Act.

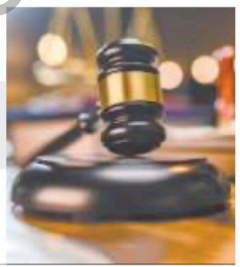
A note from the Chief Minister's Office on Wednesday said that the Congress government would continue to pursue the matter with the Centre to have the legislation included in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution.

It said that when the government allowed recruitment for 56,432 posts in February, 2026, it protected the 6% reservation for SC/STs under the backlog. On December 18, 2025, a resolution was moved in the legislature to urge the Centre to insert the legislation in the 9th Schedule, it added.

Quota row

Karnataka has filed a plea in the Supreme Court challenging the HC decision to quash the increase in SC/ST reservation

- The increase in the quota to 17% for SCs and 7% for STs was introduced through the Karnataka SC and ST Act, 2022
- The High Court struck down the enhancement as it took the total reservation in the State to 56%
- The CMO said the government would urge the Centre to include the legislation in the Constitution's 9th Schedule



SHAURYA ESS TRG (8368104529)

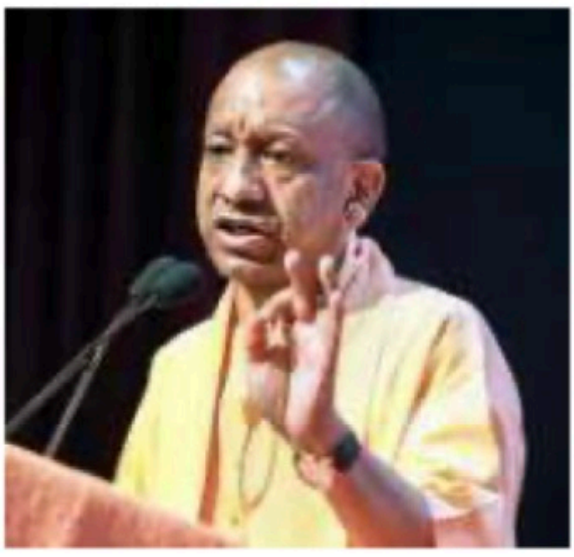
Adityanath dismisses pollution concerns in U.P. after Deepavali

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday defended the bursting of firecrackers during Deepavali, saying people should be allowed to celebrate the festival without restrictions, even as several locations continued to record high air quality index (AQI) levels, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Speaking at a government programme in Lucknow where appointment letters were distributed to junior assistants selected for various departments, Mr. Adityanath dismissed concerns over pollution caused by firecrackers, arguing that it could be addressed while accusing critics of overlooking pollution caused by graft.

"Nobody says anything to those who polluted the entire system with their corrupt misdeeds. But if the public bursts crackers for one day, it creates pollution. If pollution occurred, it would be mitigated as well. It is good that people celebrated Deepavali with pomp and burst crackers. We decided not to impose any prohibitions. I, too, was in the middle of celebrating with fireworks in Ayodhya. When someone celebrates a festival, people speak up about pollution, but not when someone does anything wrong," he said.



CM Yogi Adityanath

Mr. Adityanath reiterated that the BJP government in the State had decided against imposing any unnecessary restrictions on Deepavali celebrations.

"On the occasion of Dhanteras, markets across the State were bustling with activity. You may have also witnessed the grand Deepavali festival in Ayodhya. People across the State celebrated Deepavali with great enthusiasm and pomp. We had already made it clear that no unnecessary restrictions would be imposed on the celebrations in the State," he said.

Pollution levels

The CPCB's 24-hour average readings at 4 p.m. on Wednesday showed that Khurja recorded the highest AQI at 299, followed by Ghaziabad (297), Noida (291), Khoda (287), Baghpat (285), Bulandshahr (273), Meerut (270) and Modinagar (265) – all in western Uttar Pradesh.

Other locations with relatively high readings included Anpara (271), Greater Noida (257), Fatehpur Sikri (253), Hapur (216) and Muzaffarnagar (210). The lowest reading of 67 was recorded in Jhansi.

SHAURYA SSB TPC (8360104529)

Defence Ministry seals ₹498-crore *INS Betwa* refit deal

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Defence Ministry on Wednesday sealed a ₹498-crore contract with state-run Cochin Shipyard Ltd. for "refit and re-powering" of Indian Navy's guided-missile frigate *INS Betwa*.

Under the contract, *INS Betwa*, a Brahmaputra-class frigate, will undergo a transformation of its propulsion system involving the replacement of its existing steam-based propulsion with a diesel engine-based propulsion system, according to the Ministry.

The refit will also include the upgrading of its combat capabilities through the installation of a modern weapon suite aimed at enhancing the ship's operational effectiveness. "The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract worth ₹498.58 crore with Cochin Shipyard Limited for the normal refit and re-powering of Indian Naval Ship, Betwa," an official statement said.

The Ministry said the project will further strengthen indigenous capabilities in the ship repair and maintenance ecosystem, particularly in undertaking complex propulsion system transformation and modernisation of naval platforms.

"The project is expected to involve more than 50 MSMEs and generate significant employment opportunities across the Indian shipbuilding & ancillary industries," it said. "This project will provide a major impetus to the government's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' while reinforcing indigenous naval ship repair and maintenance capabilities," it added.

SHAURYA SSB TRG (8368104509)

Climate crisis is 'outrunning us', UN chief warns COP31

Reuters
ANTALYA



Antonio Guterres

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told world leaders at the COP31 summit in Turkiye on Wednesday that the slow international response to climate change had placed the world on a path to destruction, and that fast action is needed to avert it.

His comments set the tone for two days of rapid-fire speeches by world leaders at the UN conference on Turkiye's Mediterranean coast. The summit opened on Monday.

"The brutal truth is that the climate crisis is outrunning us. This is the path to mutually assured destruction," Mr. Guterres said, pointing to rising emissions, global temperatures and worsening climate-driven disasters.

"But science is not telling us to surrender. It is telling us to fight harder," he said. "Fossil fuels must go the way of the dinosaurs."

SHAURYA ASSE TR (8368104529)

World leaders urge stronger and faster action at UN climate talks

Associated Press
Antalya, November 11

WORLD LEADERS called for urgent and decisive action on global warming Wednesday as formal talks began at the United Nations climate conference in Turkey, saying the crisis is disproportionately harming some of the world's most vulnerable countries.

"You might as well bomb us. That might have been easier than watching climate change tear apart our homes piece by piece," said Surangel Whipps Jr., president of the island nation of Palau.

"We are at war with a crisis we did not create. A war no peace treaty can end, only urgent action can."

The annual summit follows a year of deadly floods, heat waves and other disasters. Leaders said geopolitical conflicts had diverted attention from climate change.Leaders of the world's three biggest polluting nations — China, the United States and India, which together account for more than half of global carbon dioxide emissions — skipped the summit at COP31.

Their absence left a handful of national leaders and U.N. officials to press for action as a new report warned of a widening gap between countries' climate pledges and actual emissions cuts.

"We know the truth. Now we must act on it because climate action is more than a fight over a number or a thermometer," U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres said in an opening speech.

Guterres outlined a framework for climate negotiations, saying they must prioritize ending fossil fuel reliance, adapting to a warmer world, increasing financial support for poorer countries bearing the brunt of climate change, and promoting cooperation over conflict.

SHALBY RCSD TRC (6368101529)



The museum will be developed through the adaptive reuse of the historic North and South Block buildings. FILE

Rs 3,230-crore Yuge Yugeen museum with world's largest display area gets Cabinet nod

Divya A
New Delhi, November 11

THE UNION Cabinet on Wednesday approved transforming the 100-year-old North and South Block complex buildings into Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum at Rs 3,230 crore. The project was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 18, 2023.

The project will be implemented in a phased manner over the next five years with a tentative completion deadline of 2030-31, and the first gallery of the museum, titled 'Adornment', will open to the public in about a year, officials said.

The content and collection analysis for the museum is underway, and around 1.8 million objects have been identified from the existing National Museum and other Ministry of Culture museums, 52 ASI site museums, and various other state museums and private collections. Other galleries are being developed on themes such as 'Architecture and Cityscapes', 'Mathematics and Astronomy', 'Languages and Scripts', 'Faith and Spirituality', and 'Bharat Connects — Trade and Ideas', among others.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the development of the museum after it was appraised by the Public Investment Board (PIB) in July.

As reported by *The Indian Express*, Los Angeles-based architect and designer Kulapat Yantrasast has been signed up by the Ministry of Culture as principal architect for the museum after a public tender last year. The museum will be developed through the adaptive reuse of the historic North and South Block buildings, spread over 1.78 lakh square metres, preserving their architectural character and heritage significance while transforming them into a public cultural institution.

Benchmarked against major international museums, Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum will have the largest display area in the world, said a statement by the Culture Ministry on Wednesday. The museum will present India's civilisational journey through curated thematic galleries, exhibitions and interpretation of its diverse cultural traditions, knowledge systems, artistic practices and heritage.

The project encompasses collection storage and conservation facilities, visitor amenities and associated infrastructure. The estimated project cost is based on detailed architectural and exhibition design, engineering, and museum planning requirements, including technical assessments undertaken by the concerned agencies. It is being equipped to handle over one crore visitors a year.

SHAURYA SSB TRG (8560104520)

Chinese university bought Nvidia H200 chips despite US ban

Eduardo Baptista
Beijing, November 11

A CHINESE university with deep ties to the People's Liberation Army bought Nvidia's powerful H200 AI chips last month despite being on a US export blacklist, procurement records show, highlighting gaps in Washington's efforts to curb China's access to advanced technology.

The findings come as Nvidia and its CEO Jensen Huang face mounting scrutiny in Washington over his lobbying for looser restrictions on sales of AI chips to China, following reports alleging he was targeted by a Chinese spying operation.

Northwestern Polytechnical University bought two H200 chips last month for $123,000, according to an October 21 procurement record on its website.

Northwestern is a member of the "Seven Sons of National Defence" group of Chinese universities under US sanctions and with a history of conducting defence-related research for Beijing.

The chips were purchased for its management school from Shaanxi Bosuan Network Technology rather than directly from Nvidia, the record shows.

The H200 is among Nvidia's most capable chips for training and running advanced AI systems and is subject to US export licence approvals, which are normally denied for blacklisted institutions such as Northwestern Polytechnical.

The Polytechnical also bought access this year to H200 chips and other powerful Nvidia AI processors through five contracts for rented computing capacity from Chinese companies, procurement records show. REUTERS

China's Wang Yi talks to Rubio

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Wednesday held "positive and constructive" call with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, state news agency Xinhua reported, with Beijing expressing willingness to strengthen communication and cooperation with Washington.

The talks come roughly a week ahead of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in China's Shenzhen where Presidents Xi Jinping and Donald Trump are expected to meet.

SHAURYA SSB TRG (8368104529)

‘Iran won’t allow enriched uranium to leave country’

Reuters
DUBAI

Iran will not allow even a single particle of enriched nuclear material to leave the country and there will be consequences in the event of any new U.S. strikes on the Islamic Republic, Iranian security chief Mohsen Rezaei said in televised remarks.

Mr. Rezaei was speaking to Lebanon’s pro-Iranian *Al Mayadeen TV* after U.S. officials downplayed the need for additional military action against Iran, with analysts noting U.S. President Donald Trump’s more conciliatory tone since the Republicans’ defeat in the November 3 midterm elections.

Mr. Rezaei has said there are currently no negotiations taking place between Tehran and Washington.



Mohsen Rezaei

“Any new U.S. attacks will also be met with targeting U.S. bases far away,” he said.

Iran’s Supreme Leader has issued a directive that the country’s near-weapons-grade uranium should not be sent abroad, two senior Iranian sources said in May.

The IAEA estimates that Iran had 440.9 kg of uranium enriched to 60% – a level far higher than needed for civilian use – when Israel and the U.S. attacked Iranian nuclear facilities in June 2025. How much of that has survived is unclear.

Israel, the United States and other Western countries have long accused Iran of seeking nuclear weapons. Iran denies the accusation.

Washington has said nuclear issues must be part of any initial negotiations with Iran aimed at ending the war between the two countries.

Iran has sent the United States a nuclear proposal via Qatar, to be discussed only after Washington meets seven demands which Tehran has presented, a senior Iranian official told Reuters last week.

SHAURYAASSB - (3368104129)

SECRETARY OF WAR DEFENDS HIS RECORD AT RARE PENTAGON BRIEFING

US House rejects Hegseth impeachment resolution

Trump celebrates vote result: 'Effort failed miserably'

Phil Stewart & Patricia Zengerle
Washington, November 11

THE US House of Representatives blocked an effort on Tuesday to impeach Secretary of war Pete Hegseth, winning a reprieve for the polarizing Pentagon chief before Democrats take control of Congress next year and possibly try again.

The vote on a procedural motion came just hours after Hegseth blasted efforts to impeach him as a farce and delivered a defiant defence of his record at the helm of the US military, winning praise from President Donald Trump.

The chamber voted 211 to 204 in favour of a motion to refer eight articles of impeachment to the Republican-led House Judiciary Committee, a move that the sponsor of the impeachment push, US Representative Thomas Massie, warned would kill it.



A protestor holds a placard reading 'Arrest Hegseth' near the US Capitol in Washington on Wednesday. REUTERS

Massie, an outgoing Kentucky Republican, had hoped to draw votes from Republicans upset with Hegseth's policies and wary of the unpopularity of the Iran war, but no other Republicans joined him. Democrats had voiced strong support for the impeachment effort. But 11 Democrats, including former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California, did not vote.

If eight of them had, the procedural measure would have been defeated, paving the way for a full House impeachment vote. Pelosi's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment on why she missed the vote.

Trump cheered the results in a social media post, saying the effort to impeach Hegseth "has miserably FAILED!"

In a sign that the impeachment episode may have drawn Trump and Hegseth closer together, Trump added that Hegseth's performance on Iran, Venezuela and other issues "led to the EXONERATION of a Great American Patriot."

Hegseth would have been the first US defence secretary to be impeached. The last time any civilian leader of the US military was impeached was in 1876, when William Belknap held the title "secretary of war."

Hegseth calls himself secretary of war, part of his effort to rebrand a military he said was too weak and "woke" when he took office last year. Trump cannot change the name of the Defence Department without approval from Congress.

Voter anger over the Iran war, which has settled into an effective stalemate focused on securing the Strait of Hormuz, helped Democrats win control of Congress in last week's midterm elections.

"History will judge the Iran war quite differently than the conventional wisdom right now," Hegseth said on Tuesday at his first Pentagon briefing in six months. REUTERS

SHAURYA SSP TRG (8368104529)

Russia, Ukraine agree to exchange prisoners as peace talks conclude

The two sides remain far apart on central issues needed for a peace settlement; U.S. envoys to travel to Moscow to meet Putin and to Dublin to meet Zelenskyy; key hurdles for negotiators include postwar security guarantees for both countries

Associated Press
ABU DHABI

Russia and Ukraine agreed to a large exchange of prisoners of war, both sides said on Wednesday as two days of U.S.-mediated talks concluded, but they announced no major breakthrough on ending the conflict that began after Moscow's full-scale invasion nearly five years ago.

Hopes had been low for any significant development in the first meeting in nine months between the delegations.

Russia and Ukraine have from time to time swapped POWs but have remained far apart in their demands for accepting a peace settlement.



U.S. envoy Jared Kushner speaks at a briefing during U.S.-mediated talks between Russia and Ukraine, in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday. AP

U.S. officials say they are determined to revive Washington's peace efforts that so far have failed to deliver significant results.

As well as postwar security guarantees for both countries, other key hurdles for negotiators are the fate of Russian-occupied Ukrainian territory and what role European countries will play in an eventual settlement.

The session was the first such meeting since February on Russia's invasion, which analysts and humanitarian organisations say has killed hundreds of thousands of soldiers and thousands of civilians.

The talks lasted just under two hours on Wednesday, after a four-hour session the previous day.

"One of the positives is we agreed that we're going to have the biggest humanitarian release of prisoners, which we're going to finalise the numbers tomorrow," said Jared Kushner, U.S. President Donald Trump's son-in-law, after the talks in Abu Dhabi ended.

Vladimir Medinsky, the head of the Russian delegation, and Rustem Umerov, who led Kyiv's contingent, confirmed the planned POW exchange, although Mr. Medinsky noted that the agreement was "in principle".

Mr. Kushner said he and U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff will travel to Moscow on Thursday to meet with President Vladimir Putin, then fly to Dublin, Ireland, to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

SHAMRYA (8508104519)