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This Diwali is special, every district in the country is Naxal-free

For the first time in 47 years no soldier has lost his life:PM Modi



New Delhi (GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that this Diwali is special. This is the first Diwali in which every district in the country has been freed from Naxalism and millions of countrymen have been freed from the influence of left-wing terrorism. He said that for the first time in 47 years, not a single CRPF soldier has lost his life in the line of duty in the last one year.

Prime Minister Modi, as per tradition, visited CRPF soldiers on Sunday on the occasion of Diwali. This time he visited CRPF soldiers in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh.

Addressing the soldiers, the Prime Minister said that only when internal security is strong, the country is able to fight external enemies. Previous governments had considered Naxalism an incurable disease and left it to chance. Such a policy could not be continued. In 2014, with a strong strategy and high spirits, his government overcame the lack of political will and fought a decisive battle against Naxalism. Today, the country is free from Naxalism. The Prime Minister said that his government has worked diligently to transform the lives of people in Naxal-affected areas, and that is why the people affected by Naxalism stand firmly with the government and security forces.

The Prime Minister praised the sacrifice and dedication of the security forces personnel, saying that their efforts made it possible to eliminate Naxalite terror and usher in development. He said that he had come to express his gratitude on behalf of all Indians.

He said, "The security forces engaged in the internal security of the country, every soldier of the CRPF, Cobra, BSF, ITBP, every constable of the SSB, IRB and state police, every special force commando like the Bastar Fighters, women fighters, the country is indebted to you for your service. Prime Minister Modi stated that just as his government fulfilled its resolve to remove Article 370 and free the country from Naxalism, it will also succeed in freeing the country from poverty, drug addiction, and achieving the resolve and goal of a developed and self-reliant India. The Prime Minister once again cautioned that despite the fight against Naxalism, the threat has not been completely averted. He said that even though Naxalites have been wiped out from the forests, the Naxalites have taken over many organizations. They have also infiltrated political parties and organizations. It is important to identify them. These people are inciting people against the Constitution and democracy of the country. Citing a recent World Bank report, the Prime Minister said that according to it, 500 million people in the country have been lifted out of poverty in the last 12 years. He said that the country has accomplished what was not possible with the slogan of "Garibi Hatao" (Remove Poverty) in the last 12 years. Referring to his government's schemes for the welfare of the poor, he said that these schemes are like a rangoli, interwoven together to create a beautiful scene.

Nitin Naveen and Piyush Goyal met Advani on his 99th birthday

New Delhi(GNS): BJP National President Nitin Naveen visited the residence of senior party leader and former Deputy Prime Minister Bharat Ratna LK Advani on Sunday to wish him a happy birthday. Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal was also present with him during the meeting.

After the meeting, Nitin Naveen said on the social media platform X that he visited Advani's residence to extend his heartfelt birthday greetings and best wishes. He said that from the horrors of Partition to the journey of nation-building, Advani's public life exemplified the idea of ??"nation first" and his unwavering dedication to it.

Nitin Naveen said that Advani's life philosophy of "nation first, party next, self last" will always be a source of inspiration for the BJP's organizational culture and workers.



He also prayed to Lord Shri Ram for Advani's good health and long life on the occasion of Diwali.

Assam BJP congratulated Lal Krishna Advani on his 100th birthday

Remembered his contribution in nation building

Guwahati(GNS): Today is the 100th birthday of Bharat Ratna Lal Krishna Advani, former Deputy Prime Minister, founder of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), who ushered in a new era in Indian politics with the concept of Hindu consciousness or Hindutva and established Hindutva as a strong political and cultural form. The BJP, which started its political journey with the victory of only 2 seats in the 1984 Indian general elections, established itself as the largest political party in the world today under the strong leadership of Advani.

Advani, through the historic "Ram Rath Yatra" from Somnath in Gujarat to Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh in 1990, awakened a national consciousness of pride in their religion among Hindus across the country. Under his leadership, millions of Hindus became aware of the need for the liberation of Lord Ram's birthplace, and as a result, the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya became possible, fulfilling the dreams of millions of Indians. Today, on the holy day of Diwali, as LK Advani entered his 100th year of life, devotees gathered at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya to worship Lord



Shri Ram with the light of millions of lamps.

The Assam State BJP extended its congratulations and best wishes to LK Advani on his 99th birthday and his entry into his 100th year. The party remembered his contributions to the formation of the BJP, its organizational expansion, the Ram Temple movement, and the strengthening of nationalist ideology. In a statement issued on Sunday, BJP State spokesperson Pranjal Kalita highlighted Advani's political career and ideological contributions.

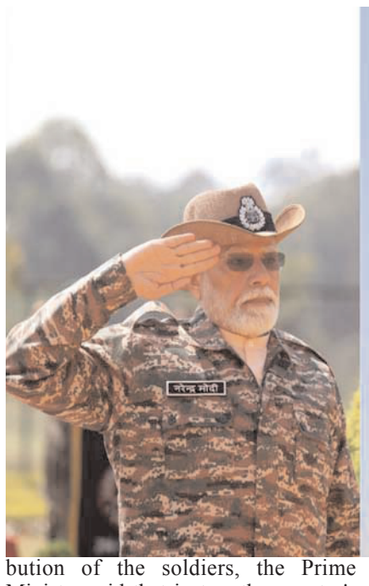
Pranjal Kalita stated that the BJP, which won just two seats in the 1984 Lok Sabha elections, has today become the world's largest political party. Advani's leadership and organizational ability played a crucial role in this party's journey. His historic Ram Rath Yatra, from Somnath in Gujarat to Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh in 1990, gave the Ram Temple movement nationwide recognition and brought issues related to Hindu cultural consciousness to the center of national politics.

The statement said that Advani did not limit the Ram Temple movement to the construction of the temple alone, but described it as a national movement linked to the awakening of cultural self-respect and consciousness. In his ideology, Hindutva was not merely a religious concept, but a symbol of the Indian way of life and cultural identity. He believed that India's national identity was deeply intertwined with its ancient Sanatan culture and traditions. He also advocated for the unification of Hindu society by overcoming caste discrimination and for granting equal rights to Dalits and backward classes at religious sites. BJP State President and Darrang-Udalguri MP Dilip Saikia, while wishing Advani a healthy and long life, said that his contribution to the BJP's rise and the spread of nationalist ideology is incomparable. His life and ideals dedicated to the service of Mother India are a source of inspiration for every party worker. He said that his idealistic politics, organizational skills, and selfless service to the nation have given Advani a unique identity in Indian politics.

PM Modi paid tribute to martyred soldiers at the Amar Jawan Memorial

Jagdalpur (GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Bastar, Chhattisgarh, on Sunday to celebrate Diwali. He visited the CRPF camp in Karanpur, where senior CRPF officers, including Director General GP Singh, welcomed the Prime Minister. As per the scheduled program, Prime Minister Modi paid tribute to the courage of the martyred soldiers at the Amar Jawan Memorial in the Karanpur CRPF camp. He also planted a sapling in the Karanpur CRPF camp's garden, spreading the message of environmental protection.

Prime Minister Modi said that Bastar once faced the threat of Naxalism, but due to the sacrifice and dedication of the security forces, the threat of Naxalism has now ended in the region and a new wave of development has begun. He added that strengthening internal security within the country also strengthens external security. When internal security is weakened, external enemies also begin to raise their heads. Praising the contribution of the soldiers, the Prime Minister said that just as the country's armed forces ensure security on the borders, security personnel also ensure security within the country.





He said, "You have made countless sacrifices for the unity and integrity of the country. You have made huge personal sacrifices. Crores of countrymen are proud of you." He said, "You have made countless sacrifices for the unity and integrity of the country. You have made huge personal sacrifices. Crores of countrymen are proud of you." PM Modi said that he has come to express gratitude on behalf of 1.4 billion countrymen for the sacrifice, dedication, and spirit of service of the soldiers.

Referring to the fight against Naxalism, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that if we look at the data from 2004 to 2013, more brave soldiers of the country were martyred every year than Naxalites. He said that unfortunately, the governments of that time considered Naxalism a disease for which there is no cure. The Prime Minister said that the fight against Maoist terror and Naxalism was not easy. Naxalites had even deprived people of their right to vote. The number of Naxalite attacks reached 2,000 in a single year. He referred to the 2010 attack in Dantewada, in which 76 CRPF personnel were martyred. In another incident in Dantewada that same year, 44 innocent civilians were killed.

BSF jawans celebrated Diwali on the Indo-Pak border, decorating rangoli and lighting lamps

Jaisalmer(GNS): Diwali is being celebrated with great enthusiasm across the country. On this occasion, Border Security Force (BSF) jawans deployed along the India-Pakistan international border in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, also celebrated the festival of lights. The jawans, dedicated to protecting the nation, shared the joy of the festival along with their duties, spreading the message of unity and brotherhood on the border.

While away from home, the jawans deployed at border outposts celebrated Diwali with their comrades. During this time, the jawans decorated rangoli and lit lamps and candles, sharing the joy of the festival. The jawans, hailing from various states, celebrated the festival together as a family.

The BSF is also known as Mini India. Here, jawans from different regions and cultures live together to protect the nation's borders. Soldiers celebrate various festivals and national holidays together, setting an example of mutual unity and cultural diversity.





Let Every Home Have a Lamp and Food on the Table

Kumar Krishnan

Diwali is the festival of lights. Homes are illuminated with earthen lamps, markets are decorated, the fragrance of sweets fills the air, and people exchange warm wishes with one another. However, amidst these celebrations, there is an important question that cannot be ignored. Does the light of this festival reach every home? Do the joys of Diwali also reach families who struggle to arrange two proper meals a day? Does the festival hold any meaning for a family that must worry about feeding its children before thinking about lighting a lamp?

Two lines from a famous ghazal by renowned poet Nida Fazli bring this social contradiction into focus:

Har ek ghar mein diya bhi jale, anaaj bhi ho,\

Agar na ho kahin aisa toh ehtijaj bhi ho.

(Every home should have a lamp burning, and food grains on the table. If there is any home where this is not possible, society must raise its voice in protest.)

These lines contain a broader social vision of how Diwali should be celebrated. Along with the happiness of lighting lamps, they give equal importance to the fundamental necessity of having enough food. The poet does not merely wish for every home to be illuminated; he also wants every household to have sufficient food. If this is not possible, society must raise its voice against such inequality. The Urdu word Ehtijaj expresses protest and resistance. In other words, where hunger and deprivation exist, merely celebrating a festival is not enough. It is equally important to question the system that fails to bring prosperity into everyone's life.

The cultural meaning of Diwali is associated with the victory of light over darkness and truth over falsehood. In Indian tradition, the festival symbolises hope, happiness and new beginnings. However, the significance of any festival cannot be determined merely by its religious beliefs and external decorations. Its true value also depends on how much happiness and hope it brings into the lives of weaker, underprivileged and needy sections of society. If the markets of a city are glowing with millions of decorative lights while families living in its slums struggle to arrange food and basic necessities, a deep social darkness continues to exist beneath that glitter.

The significance of Nida Fazli's ghazal lies in connecting celebration with social responsibility. It demands that prosperity should not remain confined to promises about the future but should become visible in people's lives today. Another line from his ghazal states:

Rahegi vaadon mein kab tak aseer khush-haali,\

Har ek baar hi kal kyun, kabhi toh aaj bhi ho.

(How long will prosperity remain imprisoned in promises? Why must it always be tomorrow? Let it become a reality today.)

This question continues to confront our social and economic life. Numerous promises are made regarding development, poverty eradication and prosperity. Schemes are introduced, announcements are made and statistics highlighting achievements are presented. However, the real measure of their success is how much they actually improve the lives of ordinary people. For a family, prosperity does not simply mean rising economic growth figures.

Editorial

with health standards

Thankfully , the Food Safety Department is increasing its vigilance, otherwise even honey can become infested with insects. During Himachal's festive season, food quality standards plummet, and counterfeit goods are easily in circulation due to demand and supply. If cockroaches are found in kitchen utensils in Mandi city, such negligence should be held accountable year-round. Tourists visit Himachal year-round, so monitoring during just one festival will not suffice. Vegetables, cheese, khoya, yogurt, milk, and ghee should be used according to standards, but inspections are often lacking during periods of increased demand. Food items sold on roadside carts across the state, almost year-round, raise many concerns. These carts should be regularly inspected, not just issued guidelines for the sale of tikkis, samosas, and burgers in the open. The sale of the most popular items, momos and siddus, needs inspection. Now, there is no calculation nor is there any awareness about how many patients fast food is increasing every year, still it should at least be checked that where and in what condition cabbage, capsicum or carrot are being supplied throughout the year. Along with health standards, it is important to ensure that we do not feed any tourist anything that is against health. In many ways, salt and food supplements are also being used carelessly. Fast food has reduced the meaning of cooking to a few minutes. Overheated and quickly prepared tastes are often causing toxicity from the stomach to the intestines.

Of course, the long queues at doctors during this time are solely related to foodborne illnesses. In Himachal, the demand for refined flour, cabbage, capsicum, khoya, paneer, milk, yogurt, chicken, bread, and bakery products is rapidly increasing. On a daily basis, numerous vehicles arrive early in the morning loaded with these supplies, yet there are no inspections in place. Food safety surveillance should operate from night to morning. A shopkeeper's kitchen should be inspected, but the thousands of tons of food arriving from night to morning should also be inspected.

Efforts by the RSS to Restore India's Former Glory Are Being Accelerated

Prahlad Sabnani

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has completed 101 years since its establishment and recently marked the centenary of its founding. The organisation is now entering the next phase of its journey. During its centenary year, several major programmes were successfully organised jointly by the Sangh and society. These programmes received a positive response, with volunteers and members of the public participating enthusiastically. The RSS's 100-year journey has been an extraordinary one, marked by efforts to move forward alongside society and serve it tirelessly. It is now important to look back and assess what the organisation has achieved during these 100 years. A century is certainly a sufficiently long period to evaluate the work and contribution of any organisation.

One of the RSS's major achievements over the past century has been the recognition of its *shakha* system as a distinctive method of nation-building and character development. This can be regarded as a significant success for the organisation. Through the activities conducted at shakhas, a sense of national identity and commitment has been cultivated among millions of young Indians. Volunteers have been trained, and their lives have been shaped through this process. Today, shakhas are held not only in cities and metropolitan areas but also in remote rural regions, with participation from different sections of society. Young people join as volunteers with a sense of patriotism and regularly attend shakhas. Through their participation in these activities, a feeling of national consciousness gradually develops within them. The Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh also conducts shakhas in several other countries. The system and methods followed at these shakhas are broadly similar across the world. In India, the organisation has built a large network of dedicated volunteers. In many families, even the fifth and sixth generations are now participating in the Sangh's activities. Thus, not only individual volunteers but also their family members have remained associated with the organisation with a spirit of dedication to the nation.

The RSS carries out its activities through two broad categories. The first is the organisational category, through which shakhas are conducted and volunteers are trained. The second is the awakening category, through which volunteers work among people to bring about social change. To raise social awareness, the organisation also publishes certain awareness-oriented magazines, which today reach more than 300,000 villages. Similarly, through its outreach department, the Sangh establishes contact with influential and respected members of society and introduces them to its nationalistic ideas. As a result, a considerable section of socially active and constructive citizens has become associated with the organisation.

The RSS has also initiated six major activities: social harmony, environmental protection, integrated village development, cow protection and service, family awareness, and religious awakening. These activities are also intended to bring society closer to the organisation. In addition, the Sangh has undertaken initiatives under the concept of *Panch Parivartan* (Five Transformations), which include awakening a sense of pride in one's own identity, environmental protection, social harmony, family awareness and civic duties. These initiatives aim to bring about changes in people's conduct and social behaviour.

Despite facing various adverse circumstances, the RSS has continued to expand over the past 100 years. One major reason has been the development and implementation of its distinctive shakha-based system. Another has been its emphasis on placing the organisation above individuals. Volunteers have traditionally considered themselves subordinate to the organisation rather than seeking individual prominence. Today, the RSS has developed an extensive organisational structure.

The Sangh's objective is not merely to increase the size of its organisation but to make its presence widespread throughout society. Its larger goal is to strengthen Hindu society and help India once again attain a position of supreme glory. The organisation also seeks to create a socially integrated Indian community. If Indian society becomes completely united and harmonious, one of the fundamental objectives behind the establishment of the RSS will have been fulfilled.

The organisation has successfully completed a long journey of 100 years, but much work remains. In this context, a recent address by RSS Joint General Secretary Atul Limaye outlines the tasks that volunteers should undertake in the coming years. There is an urgent need to accelerate these activities because, from the organisation's perspective, its competition is not with another organisation but with time itself.

There is a pressing need to expand shakhas, which serve as centres for character development and nation-building. At present, shakhas and weekly gatherings are being conducted in approximately 72.42 per cent of localities and 69 per cent of mandals across the country. This means that nearly 30 per cent of localities and 31 per cent of mandals still do not have an active Sangh presence. The first objective, therefore, should be to establish shakhas in these remaining areas as quickly as possible.

During the Ram Temple fund-raising campaign, the organisation had reached approximately 14 crore families. Assuming an average of five members per family, this meant that nearly 70 crore citizens were contacted, directly or indirectly, within just 45 days. This represented approximately half of India's total population. Although volunteers from the RSS were joined by members of other organisations and ordinary citizens during the campaign, the experience demonstrates that the task of establishing shakhas in the remaining localities and mandals can also be accelerated with the cooperation of society.

RSS volunteers have developed a distinct identity in Indian society because of their personal qualities. Simplicity, frugality, integrity, discipline and dedication are among the characteristics associated with them. The organisation's public image is shaped largely through the conduct of its volunteers. Although various media and publicity platforms frequently carry criticism of the RSS, the author argues that such criticism has not had a significant impact on society because the conduct of volunteers tells a different story. The quality activities conducted at shakhas cultivate a sense of national commitment that becomes visible in the behaviour of volunteers. It is important to strengthen this spirit further. Along with expanding shakhas, the organisation must also preserve these qualities among its volunteers.

There is also a pressing need to take the Sangh's ideas to a wider section of society. For this purpose, volunteers will have to engage directly with people and work among different communities. An atmosphere of constructive ideological discussion needs to be developed. If India is to become a country of supreme prosperity and strength, public attitudes must be conducive to that objective. Society must develop faith in the country's own institutions and systems, while awareness of civic responsibilities must be encouraged.

Diwali Should Become the New Light of a Developed and Prosperous India

Lalit Garg

Diwali is not merely a festival celebrating the victory of light over darkness; it is an opportunity to awaken the dormant consciousness within human beings, give direction to lives that have lost their way, and reassess our values at the present stage of civilisation. Today, India is moving rapidly towards its ambitious vision of becoming a developed, prosperous, strong and self-reliant nation. The world is looking at India's economic strength, technological capabilities, cultural heritage and spiritual wisdom with renewed confidence. At such a time, the lamp of Diwali should not illuminate merely the doorsteps of our homes but should also shine across the vast horizon of national consciousness.

A significant question confronts us: When the number of lamps is increasing, why is the light within human beings gradually fading? Homes are illuminated, markets are brightly decorated, metropolitan buildings are covered in electric lights, and technology is filling our lives with conveniences. Yet, why are stress, insecurity, violence, selfishness, intolerance and attachment growing darker within human beings? Is it possible that we have lit countless lamps outside but forgotten to place a wick within ourselves?

The roots of terrorism, violence, war, hatred and hostility do not lie in machines or weapons but in the distorted consciousness of human beings. Therefore, the permanent solution to terrorism cannot be achieved through security arrangements alone. Humanity must resolve to abandon unnecessary violence. As long as the fire of revenge continues to burn within human beings, the lamp of peace cannot be fully illuminated across the world. Non-violence is not merely a principle of Jain philosophy; it is a necessity for the future of human civilisation.

There is a beautiful spiritual anecdote. Darkness once complained to Lord Brahma that the Sun constantly pursued it and wanted to destroy it. The Sun responded that it did not even know darkness, let alone seek to destroy it. It asked that darkness first be brought before it. When darkness was asked to appear before the Sun, it replied, "How can I approach the Sun? The moment I stand before it, my very existence will disappear."

This is equally true of the relationship between righteousness and ignorance. Where the sun of knowledge rises, the darkness of ignorance cannot survive. Where the lamp of compassion is lit, the shadows of violence cannot remain. Where the light of self-restraint shines, the dominance of attachment and delusion gradually begins to collapse.

That is why the true significance of Diwali lies not merely in cleaning our homes but also in purifying our inner consciousness. For months, we remove dust from every corner of our houses, organise old belongings, decorate walls and give our homes a fresh appearance. But have we ever tried to remove the accumulated dust of jealousy from the corners of our minds? Have we cleaned the darkness of anger, removed the cobwebs of ego, or discarded the old baggage of greed and attachment? If we can undertake this inner cleansing during Diwali, the festival will become the greatest celebration of our lives.

The great philosopher and spiritual saint Acharya Shri Mahapragya described introspection as a path towards inner enlightenment. His message was clear: our habit of looking at the external world is deeply ingrained, while the practice of looking within ourselves remains weak. Today, human beings have countless means to observe the world but hardly find time to understand themselves.

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Defence Minister celebrates Diwali with soldiers deployed at Sherethang, Sikkim on the China border

Pays tribute to the brave soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation's security at the war memorial

New Delhi (GNS): Defence Minister Rajnath Singh celebrated Diwali with soldiers deployed at Sherethang, Sikkim on the India-China border and also interacted with them. Encouraging the soldiers, he said that the reason we are able to light Diwali lamps in our homes today is the supreme sacrifice of our brave soldiers. They have protected the nation's security and sovereignty by sacrificing their lives. The Defence Minister also paid tribute to the brave soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice for the nation's security at the Sherethang War Memorial.

The Defence Minister visited Sherethang, Sikkim on the India-China border area today. He landed at the helipad in Sherethang by an Army helicopter. He paid tribute to the valor of the soldiers in defending the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity by laying a wreath at the Sherethang War Memorial. He then interacted with security personnel deployed in the border area and commended their dedication and contribution to safeguarding the nation's borders, even under difficult circumstances. He also visited the Baba Harbhajan Singh Temple and paid his respects.

During his interaction with the soldiers, he said, "Today, as I stand in Sherethang, I feel that each one of you is like a lamp. Your light is not limited to this outpost; it is reaching every home in the country. No matter how advanced technology is today, if a soldier lacks discipline and courage, it is useless. Your discipline is your greatest strength. Your behavior, your uniform, your language, and your restraint at the outpost you are stationed at, create an image of the Army in the minds of the local people. The common people in Sherethang and the surrounding areas have great affection for the Army. It is your responsibility to maintain that affection."



The Defence Minister said, "Just as the Diwali lamp fights the darkness without making any noise, so too is your life. You make no noise, but with your presence you assure the entire nation of security. Even when the country celebrates festivals, you remain vigilant on the borders. Because of you, the citizens of the country sleep peacefully. Because of you, the Diwali lamps seem even brighter. I believe that such memorials shape our collective memory and our collective consciousness. Memorials not only remind us of an event or the sacrifices of the people associated with it, but also play an important role in awakening our national consciousness, that is, the feeling of national pride."

Rajnath Singh also stated that monuments like Sherethang hold a highly significant place in the history of any civilization and culture. This war memorial has forever etched the bravery of our soldiers in history. No matter how many generations pass, this site will continue to acquaint the people of the region with the valor of our soldiers and inspire them. Finally, he commended the soldiers' dedication to national security and wished everyone a Happy Diwali filled with happiness, peace, and prosperity. He concluded his address with the slogan "Bharat Mata Ki Jai." On

the first day of his visit, on November 7th, Defense Minister Singh met with Indian Air Force officers and soldiers at the Bagdogra Air Force Station in West Bengal. He also interacted with Indian Army personnel in Sukna, Siliguri. On the second day of his visit, Defense Minister Singh arrived in Sikkim this morning. He was welcomed by Gangtok District Magistrate Rohan Agwane, Senior Superintendent of Police Dr. Tsering Namgyal Gyatso, Joint Secretary of the Home Department John Gurung, and senior officers of the Indian Army.

Chief Minister calls for lighting a lamp in the name of soldiers and policemen

New Delhi(GNS): Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta extended her heartfelt greetings to all Delhiites on the auspicious occasion of Diwali, wishing them happiness, prosperity, well-being, and a happy life. She said that we are all able to celebrate festivals happily and peacefully with our families because millions of our soldiers are deployed day and night to protect our borders. Their dedication and vigilance allow us to celebrate our festivals in a safe environment. The Chief Minister called for lighting a lamp in the name of soldiers and policemen.



The Chief Minister said that on this auspicious occasion of Diwali, we should also remember the brave soldiers and security personnel who continuously perform their duty to protect the country and society. She urged that while lighting lamps in our homes, we should also light a lamp in the name of the country's soldiers, jawans, and policemen. This lamp will symbolize respect, gratitude, and a sense of belonging for all those who prioritize their duties even during festivals.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister also specifically recognized the contributions of Delhi's sanitation workers. He said that on the occasion of Diwali, when the entire city is immersed in the joy of celebration, our sanitation workers work diligently to keep Delhi clean and beautiful. It is their hard work and dedication that maintains the cleanliness and beauty of the capital.

The Chief Minister extended Diwali greetings to all sanitation workers, expressing his gratitude and stating that their contribution deserves respect and appreciation.

The Chief Minister said that Delhi's Diwali is special for its diversity and cultural unity. People from different states and cultures of the country come together in the capital to celebrate this festival with enthusiasm and zeal. Delhi's cultural diversity and spirit of collective celebration will further strengthen this auspicious occasion of Diwali.

Global markets fluctuated throughout the week, US election results also had an impact

Weekly Global Market Round Up

New Delhi(GNS): Major markets across the world fluctuated this week due to the US midterm election results and the panic in tech stocks. Political uncertainty reduced in the US market (Wall Street) after the opposition party Democrats took control of both houses of the Congress, but the fear of strict rules being implemented regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) scared the investors. Due to this, the biggest tech companies manufacturing chips and semiconductors witnessed the heaviest sell-off in the last 19 months. Due to this selling, the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 51,277.11 points, down 3.44 percent on a weekly basis, the S&P 500 Index closed at 7,376.92 points, down 4.36 percent, and the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite closed at a low of 24,579.43 points, down 5.52 percent.



Amidst this massive decline in the US market, European markets also remained sluggish throughout the week. Germany's DAX Index closed at 25,820.36 points, down 1.92 percent. Similarly, Britain's FTSE Index also declined 108.72 points, closing at 10,673.94 points. Meanwhile, France's CAC Index overcame adverse conditions and managed to close at 8,139 points, with a modest weekly gain of 0.81 percent. This turmoil in foreign markets forced investors to avoid riskier assets, which also impacted Asian markets.

Amid mixed global cues, Asian stock markets also experienced significant volatility and selling pressure this week. Japan's Nikkei 225 index fell 3,643.13 points, or 5.96 percent, to a low of 57,434.77, a massive weekly loss of 5.96 percent, driven by a decline in tech stocks.

South Korea's Kospi index also plunged 5.68 percent to close at 5,059.69 under widespread selling pressure. Similarly, the Taiwan Weighted Index fell 4.72 percent to 39,701.64 points under heavy profit-booking pressure, and Indonesia's Jakarta Composite Index fell 1.93 percent to 5,050.43.

Apart from this, China's Shanghai Composite Index closed at 3,649.18 points with a decline of 1.14 percent, Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index closed at 24,481.86 points with a decline of 1.27 percent and Thailand's SET Composite Index closed at 1,465.70 points with a decline of 1.13 percent, while Singapore's Straits Times Index remained at 5,179.17 with a decline of 2.21 percent.

Amidst these all-round negative Asian signals, the only exception was the GIFT Nifty, which gives early indications for the Indian market. It closed at 25,038.50 points with a gain of 0.19 percent on the back of the fall in US bond yields and heavy buying by foreign institutional investors. This rise in GIFT Nifty can prove to be a strong and positive support for the opening of the domestic market on Monday.

Major Changes to Agnipath 2.0 Scheme Raise Several Questions

What Will Happen to the Goals of Reducing the Army's Average Age, Inducting Talent and Controlling Pension Costs

New Delhi, (EMS). When the Central Government launched the Agnipath scheme in June 2022, it was described as a major and far-reaching reform that would transform the Army's recruitment process. Under the scheme, the government replaced permanent recruitment of soldiers with a four-year service tenure. Only 25 per cent of Agniveers from each batch were to be retained in regular service, while the remaining 75 per cent were to be released after completing four years.



The key objectives were to reduce the average age of soldiers in the armed forces, induct young people skilled in new technologies, control the rising expenditure on defence pensions and create a pool of trained youth who, after four years of military training, could contribute to civilian society and other sectors. However, major changes introduced to the Agnipath scheme in November 2026 have raised questions about all four objectives. Notably, these changes are being made at a time when the tenure of the first batch of Agniveers is nearing completion.

One of the major reasons behind the introduction of the Agnipath scheme in 2022 was to reduce the average age of Army personnel. The government had informed Parliament that the average age of soldiers in the Army at that time was around 32 years. Through the Agnipath scheme, the aim was to bring it down by four to five years. However, the major changes announced now have raised questions about achieving this target. Under the new model, 25 per cent of Agniveers will be immediately inducted as regular soldiers, while the remaining 75 per cent will get an opportunity to join permanent service after two years, depending on their willingness.

Releasing 75 per cent of soldiers, who have undergone four years of training, could have placed an additional burden on the Army's training infrastructure. For this reason, a suggestion had also been made within the armed forces to retain a larger number of personnel who had received specialised technical training in permanent service. The new provision offering all Agniveers an opportunity for permanent service is now being viewed as a possible solution to this problem. It will allow the armed forces to utilise the experience of trained personnel over a longer period.

The changes to the Agnipath scheme also have a political dimension. The decision comes at a time when electoral activities are set to gain importance in states such as Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Punjab. Several regions in these states have a large number of young people preparing for Army recruitment, along with families of serving and retired military personnel. The biggest concern among young people regarding the Agnipath scheme has been uncertainty over employment after four years of service. The provision of retaining only 25 per cent of Agniveers in permanent service had raised concerns among the remaining candidates about their future and the financial security of their families. In this context, the decision to provide all Agniveers an opportunity for permanent service could emerge as a significant political issue among young people and families of former servicemen.

Tushar Gandhi Takes a Dig at Gyanesh Kumar Calls EC's Move an 'Extremely Generous Gesture

New Delhi (GNS):. The controversy surrounding the Election Commission and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls continues to intensify. Tushar Gandhi, great-grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and a social activist, has strongly criticised the Election Commission's new guidelines and targeted the Chief Election Commissioner. He said that impeachment proceedings should be initiated against Gyanesh Kumar before correcting the alleged errors in deleting names from electoral rolls, and that he should apologise for his mistakes.

Tushar Gandhi took a dig at the Election Commission's decision to give people excluded from the draft electoral rolls another opportunity to get their names included. He described the decision as an "extremely generous gesture" by the Election Commission. He also said that if the Commission genuinely intends to correct its mistakes and has honest intentions, impeachment proceedings against the Chief Election Commissioner should be initiated first.

Tushar Gandhi alleged that the Election Commission had deliberately removed a large number of names from the electoral rolls. He said Gyanesh Kumar should first apologise for his mistakes, after which the process of correcting the electoral rolls should move forward. Only then, he said, could the Commission and its decisions be considered for forgiveness.

In fact, under the third phase of the SIR, the Election Commission has given people excluded from electoral rolls in seven states and Union Territories an opportunity to get their names included again. According to the new guidelines, voters whose names were deleted on the grounds of being absent, shifted, deceased or duplicate entries can submit the prescribed forms to establish their eligibility. The process has been implemented in Delhi, Maharashtra, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Telangana and Nagaland. Questions have been raised over the deletion of a large number of names from electoral rolls in these states. The Commission's initiative, ahead of the publication of the final electoral rolls, is being seen as an attempt to provide relief to affected voters. However, Tushar Gandhi has termed the move inadequate and demanded that the Election Commission be held accountable.

Havan at BJP headquarters on Advani's birthday, Nitin Naveen wishes him long life

New Delhi(GNS): On the 99th birthday of senior BJP leader and former Deputy Prime Minister Bharat Ratna LK Advani, a havan was organised at the party's central office on Sunday. Many senior are a source of inspiration for all party workers. He prayed to God for Advani's good health and long life. party leaders including BJP National President Nitin Naveen participated in the programme. Through the havan, wishes were made for Advani's good health and long life. Advani is entering his 100th year of life today.



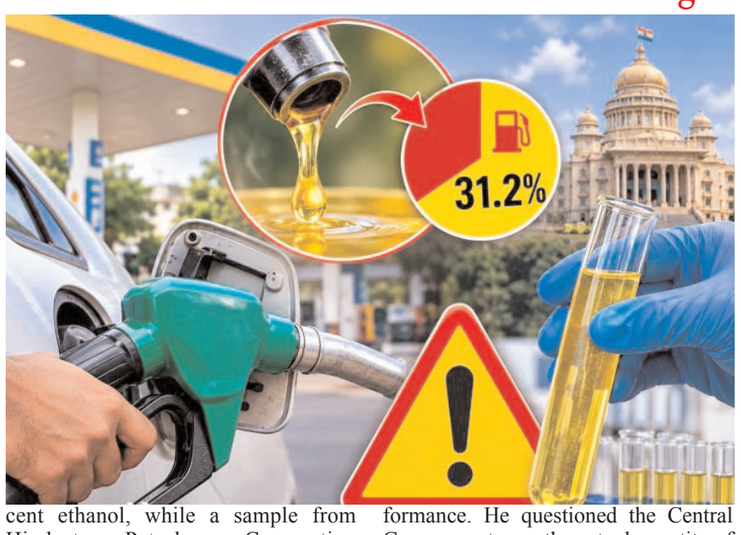
The havan was held from 10 am to 10:30 am in the programme. After this, a video presentation based on Advani's life journey and his important speeches was kept. BJP President Nitin Naveen also addressed the function. Nitin Naveen, while wishing Advani a happy birthday on the social media platform 'X', said that his contribution in expanding the organization from the Jan Sangh to the BJP and spreading the nationalist ideology to the masses is unforgettable. He also recalled Advani's role in transforming the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi movement into a mass movement. The BJP president said that Advani's integrity in public life and his unwavering loyalty to the organization are a source of inspiration for all party workers. He prayed to God for Advani's good health and long life.

Political Row Erupts Over Ethanol Content Exceeding 20% in Petrol

Nishikant Dubey Reminds Rahul Gandhi of Law Enacted During His Party's Government

New Delhi (GNS):. The political dispute between the Congress and the BJP has intensified over allegations that petrol contains ethanol in quantities exceeding the prescribed limit. Congress MP and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has questioned the Central Government, citing tests conducted on petrol samples in Karnataka. BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, meanwhile, has hit back, putting the Congress on the defensive. Referring to a law enacted in 2011 during the tenure of the then Congress-led Manmohan Singh government, Dubey has demanded that the Karnataka Government fix responsibility and take action.

Rahul Gandhi claimed that the Karnataka Government collected 14 petrol samples from seven districts and had them tested at accredited laboratories. The tests reportedly found ethanol content exceeding 20 per cent in 11 samples. According to Rahul Gandhi, one sample from Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) contained 31.2 per



cent ethanol, while a sample from Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) contained 30.5 per cent.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged that ethanol levels exceeding the prescribed limit could adversely affect vehicle mileage and engine performance. He questioned the Central Government over the actual quantity of ethanol being blended into petrol across the country. He also asked when action would be taken against the concerned oil companies if ethanol content was found to exceed the prescribed limit.

Responding to Rahul Gandhi's allegations, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey hit back, saying that the Karnataka Government was responsible for ensuring petrol quality and addressing allegations of adulteration in the state. Dubey advised Rahul Gandhi to seek answers from the Karnataka Chief Minister and ensure action instead of repeatedly questioning the Central Government.

In his statement, BJP MP Dubey referred to the 2011 law. He said the framework for blending ethanol with petrol had been introduced during the Congress regime itself. He argued that Rahul Gandhi should seek answers from his own party's government. The claims surrounding the testing of petrol samples have now triggered a fresh debate over the quality of ethanol blending, prescribed standards and the accountability of oil companies. All eyes are now on the relevant test reports and responses from the Central and Karnataka governments.

BJP Caught Between Upper Castes and Backward Classes Over UGC Rules

New Delhi (GNS):. The Central Government has been forced to reconsider its position amid the political storm surrounding the University Grants Commission's (UGC) 2026 Equity Regulations, aimed at preventing caste-based discrimination in higher educational institutions. Following protests by the upper-caste community, the government informed the Supreme Court that it would constitute a high-level committee to review the regulations.

The earlier 2012 rules provided safeguards only for students belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), whereas the new UGC regulations introduced in 2026 also included Other Backward Classes (OBCs). However, the absence of provisions for action or penalties against those filing false complaints of discrimination became the biggest concern for the upper-caste community. The controversy intensified after members of the community took to the streets in protest over this issue.

With this decision, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has found itself in a major political dilemma just ahead of upcoming Assembly elections, including those in Uttar Pradesh. A senior BJP leader explained the political predicament, saying that nobody had objected to expanding the scope of the rules to include OBCs. However, the absence of provisions for action or penalties against those filing false complaints of discrimination had become the biggest concern for the upper-caste community. He described the issue as a hot potato that the party could neither swallow nor spit out.

The situation is particularly sensitive from the perspective of Uttar Pradesh politics. The state has approximately 22 per cent upper-caste voters, 43 per cent OBC voters and 21 per cent Scheduled Caste voters. The BJP, which returned to power in 2022, can neither afford to alienate upper-caste voters nor lose the OBC community, a key pillar of its social engineering strategy. The party had recently suffered defeats in the Bankipur by-election in Bihar and the Datia Assembly by-election in Madhya Pradesh in August, reportedly due to resentment among upper-caste voters. In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP's tally in Uttar Pradesh also fell from 62 to 33 seats, with the Congress-Samajwadi Party alliance emerging victorious.

BJP leaders fear that the announcement of a review of the regulations could send a message to backward and Dalit communities that the government is weakening their rights. However, Uttar Pradesh BJP in-charge Vinod Tawde clarified on social media that the committee's objective was to ensure that no student from any community faced discrimination or an imbalance of rights.

The response of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the ideological parent of the BJP, has also assumed significance in the controversy. Following an RSS meeting in Indore, its National Publicity Chief Sunil Ambekar openly stated that the organisation considered the UGC circular unbalanced and had brought the matter to the government's attention based on feedback from the ground. Meanwhile, opposition parties have described the government's move as politically motivated and driven by electoral considerations.

Centre Appoints IPS Officer Ajay Kumar Yadav as CRPF Additional Director General

New Delhi (GNS): The Central Government has assigned a key responsibility to senior IPS officer Ajay Kumar Yadav of the Himachal Pradesh cadre by appointing him as Additional Director General (ADG) of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on deputation. According to an order issued by the Union Home Ministry on Friday,

Uttar Pradesh BJP in-charge Vinod Tawde clarified on social media that the committee's objective was to ensure that no student from any community faced discrimination or an imbalance of rights.

the appointment will take effect from the date he assumes charge and will continue until his retirement on September 30, 2030, or until further orders from the ministry. The Home Ministry has written to the Chief Secretary of Himachal Pradesh, requesting that Yadav be relieved immediately so that he can take up his new assignment at the Centre. its National Publicity Chief Sunil Ambekar openly stated that the organisation considered the UGC circular unbalanced and had brought the matter to the government's attention based on feedback from the ground. Meanwhile, opposition parties have described the government's move as politically motivated and driven by electoral considerations



Ajay Kumar Yadav is a 1996-batch directly recruited IPS officer whose home state is Delhi. Before this appointment, he had been serving as Principal Resident Commissioner of the Himachal Pradesh Government in New Delhi since January 8, 2018. It may be noted that the deputation of IPS officers to central forces has been a subject of discussion in the past as well. More than 800 officers from the CRPF, CISF and ITBP have also filed petitions in the Supreme Court over the issue.

From the Spicy Taste of Tandoori Chicken to a Love for Indian Sarees, Sonia Gandhi Embraces Arhar Dal

Sonia Gandhi's Journey from Italy to India

New Delhi (GNS):. The upcoming book by senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sonia Gandhi, Belonging: A Journey of Love, has been drawing attention. Scheduled for release on November 10, the book shares several interesting experiences from her personal life, relationships, family and journey from Italy to India. She describes how Indian food, family traditions and sarees gradually became an important part of her life.

In information shared on social media, Sonia Gandhi has recalled her first meeting with Rajiv Gandhi and her early experiences as a daughter-in-law in India. She said that understanding Indian culture and cuisine was a new experience for her after arriving in the country. Her introduction to Indian food began with the taste of tandoori chicken.

In her memoir, Sonia recalls that after her marriage, when she came to India with Rajiv Gandhi, she tasted tandoori chicken for the first time. Its



deep red colour, roasted flavour and spiciness were completely new to her. She wrote that the chilli made her mouth burn when she first ate the dish. However, she gradually developed a liking for Indian spices and cuisine.

As she became familiar with Indian food, she also fully embraced the country's family dining traditions. Her everyday meals came to include rice, roti, vegetables, and mutton, fish or chicken. Arhar dal became an essential part of her regular meals.

Sonia Gandhi has also described her fascination with Indian sarees. She called the Indian saree one of the most beautiful and graceful garments in the world. However, wearing one herself was initially not easy. For her engagement, she chose a jade-green and pale-yellow outfit, which was held in place with the help of several safety pins.

Her wedding saree was also connected to the history of India's freedom struggle. Sonia Gandhi revealed that the fabric of the saree she wore at her wedding was made from yarn spun by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru with his own hands while he was in prison.

The book traces her journey from her childhood in post-war Italy to her love and marriage with Rajiv Gandhi and her role in Indian public life. In 1965, 19-year-old Sonia met Rajiv Gandhi in Cambridge. The two married on February 25, 1968. The memoir also touches upon difficult and tragic chapters of her life, including the assassinations of Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. The book presents not only her personal experiences but also the story of her emotional connection with India.

Diwali Witnesses Record-Breaking Business, Markets Buzz with Festive Activity

Goods Worth Rs 5 Lakh Crore Expected to Be Sold Across the Country

New Delhi (GNS):. This year's Diwali festive season is bringing major business opportunities for traders in Delhi and across the country. Festive purchases and related services are expected to generate business worth approximately Rs 5 lakh crore nationwide. Meanwhile, traders in Delhi, who have been dealing with protests, demonstrations and rallies over the past month, are pinning high hopes on Diwali shopping. Business worth around Rs 80,000 crore is expected in the national capital. CTI Chairman Brijesh Goyal said that, according to estimates, the Diwali festive season is expected to generate business worth Rs 5 lakh crore across the country. A recent report released by a leading automobile industry organisation showed a massive 55 per cent increase in total retail automobile sales. All vehicle categories recorded substantial growth, with sales of two-wheelers, three-wheelers, commercial vehicles, passenger vehicles and tractors rising by 52 per cent, 110 per cent, 48 per cent, 70 per cent and 58 per cent, respectively. These figures indicate strong business activity expected during the Diwali festive season.



Exchange of 5 Crore Gifts

According to an estimate, nearly five crore gifts of all kinds, ranging from affordable to premium products, are exchanged during the Diwali festive period, making a significant contribution to festive sales. The CTI reached this conclusion after consulting hotel and banquet associations, restaurant and mall associations, cinema associations, shopping centre associations, car dealer associations, makeup and salon associations, tour and travel associations, market associations and industry associations, among others. These organisations believe that business across the country could reach approximately Rs 5 lakh crore during this festive season. Delhi Expected to Generate Business Worth Rs 80,000 Crore

Between October 1 and November 1, rallies, protests and demonstrations resulted in estimated business losses of around Rs 14,000 crore in Delhi. Traders are now hoping that bumper Diwali shopping will help them recover from these losses. Brijesh Goyal said that markets across Delhi, including Chandni Chowk, Dariba Kalan, Maliwara, Sadar Bazaar, Kamla Nagar, Ashok Vihar, Model Town, Shalimar Bagh, Wazirpur, Pitampura, Rajouri Garden, South Extension, Greater Kailash, Green Park, Yusuf Sarai, Lajpat Nagar, Preet Vihar, Shahdara and Laxmi Nagar, are witnessing considerable crowds of shoppers.

Climate Change Threatens India's Food Security; Six States Declare Drought

Food Losses Worth $13 Billion Every Year

New Delhi (GNS):. The growing impact of climate change across the world is now posing a serious challenge to India's agricultural system and food security. Rising temperatures, irregular monsoons, droughts and extreme weather events such as floods are directly affecting crop production. According to a new report, India is suffering annual food losses worth approximately $13 billion. Weak storage, transportation and cold-chain infrastructure are major reasons behind these losses. The report also states that drought has been declared in six states across the country.

According to the report, the impact of climate change is no longer limited to agricultural fields but is affecting the entire food supply chain. This is reducing farmers' incomes and also affecting the availability and prices of food products in the market.

Citing Delhi's Azadpur Mandi as an example, the report stated that in 2024, extreme heat caused a fruit vendor to suffer losses of more than Rs 1 lakh in a single day. Mangoes, which normally remain fresh for two days, spoiled within just one day because of the heat. According to a climate change expert, nearly one-third of the country's fruits and vegetables spoil before reaching consumers. Heat is also affecting milk production and soil quality.

Experts estimate that extreme temperatures affect milk production worth approximately Rs 2,661 crore every year, equivalent to nearly 1.8 million tonnes. Around 40 per cent of the country's live-



stock population is vulnerable to extreme weather conditions. Due to inadequate cold-chain facilities, nearly 40 per cent of fruits and vegetables and 5 to 6 per cent of foodgrains go to waste. Only four per cent of fresh agricultural produce in the country has access to cold-storage facilities.

According to the report, more than 20 million hectares of agricultural land have been affected by floods, droughts and other natural disasters. Meanwhile, the use of chemical fertilisers in agriculture has also increased rapidly. Fertiliser consumption per hectare, which stood at 73.5 kg in 1990, rose to 199 kg in 2023.

Experts believe that weather forecasts alone are not sufficient to tackle this crisis. Farmers need better irrigation facilities, modern storage infrastructure, weather-based insurance and timely assistance. Crop diversification, organic farming, drought-resistant seeds, and soil and water conservation must also be encouraged. According to experts, ensuring food security requires investment in policies and agricultural infrastructure that reduce risks in advance rather than merely compensating for losses after disasters.