

Kupwara Encounter: Terrorist gunned down, soldier killed in action

SRINAGAR, July 24 (PTI)

AN UNIDENTIFIED terrorist and a soldier were killed in an overnight encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district, officials said on Wednesday.

The Army and police had launched an anti-terrorist operation in the Lolab area of Kupwara a few days ago following information about possible terrorist movements, the officials said.

The security forces established contact with the hiding terrorists on Tuesday, leading to an encounter, they added.

"Based on specific input regarding presence of terrorists in general area Kowut,

Kupwara, a Joint Search Operation was launched by #IndianArmy and @JmuKmrPolice on days leading up to 23 July 24," the Srinagar-based Chinar Corps posted on X.

It said suspicious movements were noticed on Tuesday and the suspects were challenged by vigilant troops. In response, the terrorists opened indiscriminate fire, leading to a gunbattle.

"In the ensuing fire fight one terrorist has been eliminated and a NCO injured. Operation is in progress," the Army added on the microblogging platform.

The officials said the injured soldier later succumbed to his injuries.

Trump to meet Netanyahu in Florida at residence today

WASHINGTON, July 24 (PTI)

REPUBLICAN presidential candidate and former US president Donald Trump said he would meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at his Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida. Netanyahu is in Washington and will on Wednesday address a joint session of the US Congress, the only foreign leader to do so for a fourth time.

"Looking forward to welcoming Bibi Netanyahu at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Florida, on Thursday (July 25)," Trump said. This would be his first meeting with a foreign head of state after becoming the

Republican presidential nominee on July 18. On July 19, he had a phone call with the Ukrainian President.

"Looking forward to welcoming Bibi Netanyahu at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Florida, on Thursday. During my first term, we had Peace and Stability in the Region, even signing the historic Abraham Accords - And we will have it again," Trump said.

"Just as I have said in discussions with President, my PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH Agenda will demonstrate that these deadly wars and violent conflicts must end. Millions are dying, and Kamala Harris is not capable of stopping it."

India committed to elevating ties with UK: PM Modi after meeting British Foreign Secretary

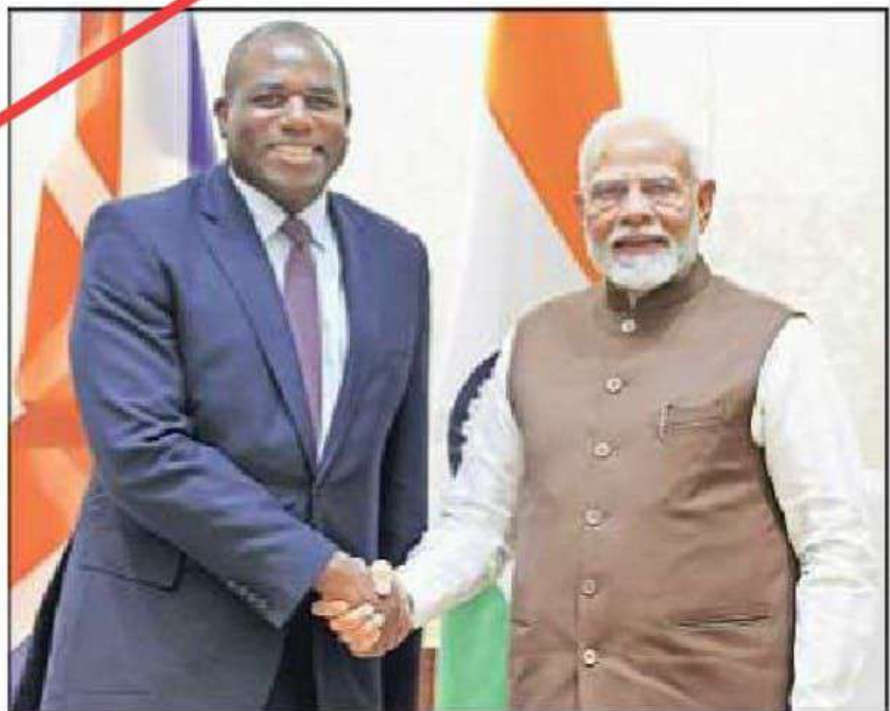
NEW DELHI, July 24 (PTI)

INDIA remains committed to elevating its ties with the UK and welcomes the desire to conclude a mutually beneficial free trade pact, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said after British Foreign Secretary David Lammy met him on Wednesday.

In a post on 'X', Modi also appreciated the priority accorded by British Prime Minister Keir Starmer to broaden and deepen the India-UK comprehensive strategic partnership.

Lammy is on a two-day visit to India to galvanise negotiations for the trade pact and reset the overall bilateral partnership in crucial areas such as clean energy, new technologies and security.

The British foreign secretary's visit to New Delhi is the first high-level engagement between India and the UK after



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy during a meeting, in New Delhi. (PTI)

Prime Minister Starmer's Labour government came to power on July 5.

"A pleasure to meet UK FS @DavidLammy. Appreciate the

priority accorded by PM @Keir_Starmer to broaden and deepen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," Modi said.

India tests ballistic missile defence system

BALASORE, July 24 (PTI)

INDIA on Wednesday successfully flight-tested Phase-II Ballistic Missile Defence System from off the Odisha coast, the Government said in a statement.

The test demonstrated India's indigenous capability to defend against ballistic missiles of 5,000 km class, it said.

"The Target Missile was launched from LC-IV Dhamra at 1620 hrs mimicking adversary Ballistic Missile, which was detected by weapon system radars deployed on land and sea and activated the AD Interceptor system," it said.

"The Phase-II AD Endo-atmospheric missile was launched from LC-III at ITR, Chandipur at 1624 hrs. The flight test fully met all the trial objectives validating complete network centric warfare weapon system consisting of Long Range Sensors, low latency communication system and MCC and Advance Interceptor missiles," the Government added.

Agnipath scrapping, MSP guarantee among PC's 5 demands from govt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Senior Congress leader and former finance minister P Chidambaram on Wednesday cautioned the govt against taking inflation lightly and said every family was hit hard by price rise.

Initiating the discussion on the budget in Rajya Sabha, he raised five demands — that the govt ensure Rs 400 as the daily minimum wage, provide legal guarantee for purchase of farm produce at MSP, waive off unpaid balance of education loans till March 2024, abolish the Agnipath scheme, and allow states to exit from

INDIA bloc slams 'biased Budget'

Slamming the "discriminatory" Budget, INDIA bloc protested at Parliament's 'Makar Dwar'. This seemed to be part of a strategy to put BJP on defensive in poll-bound states of Haryana, Maharashtra & Jharkhand, and those where BJP wants to expand. **P 13**

NEET if they don't wish to be part of the national exam.

During his speech, Chidambaram focused on four themes — jobs, inflation, wages and federalism. "Unemp-

'Pakoda, jalebi for 2 states, zilch for rest'

In both Houses, the Opposition accused govt of giving the lion's share of budgetary allocations to Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. "*Sabki thali khali, sirf do ke thali me pakoda aur jalebi,*" Congress chief Kharge said. INDIA bloc parties staged a walkout. **P 13**

loyment is the biggest problem," he said, citing instances of job seekers far exceeding available openings.

► **People's punishment, P 24**

Kamala rakes in over \$250m in 3 days since Biden's exit

60% Of Funds Have Come From First-Time Donors; Huge Uptick In Volunteers

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: The Kamala Harris presidential campaign has raked in more than \$250 million in political contributions in the three days since Prez Joe Biden bowed out of the race, a staggering spike that is confounding pundits who thought she would be a weak candidate and Trump would trump her on the money front.

Explanations for the windfall in political funding, including over \$100 million in the 24 hours since Biden bequeathed the nomination to her, include pent-up energy and money from donors who wanted Biden to bow out. Many Democrat donors dismayed with Biden's debate debacle had held back contributions — in what was dubbed a "Dembargo" — to pressure the prez into quitting the race. His exit appears to have uncorked the money spigot.

While big donors from Hollywood and Silicon Valley account for a large portion of the windfall, the Harris campaign is also thrilled that 60% of the contributions have come from first-time donors, an indica-



Harris boards Air Force Two to travel to Indianapolis for a keynote speech

tion that a new cohort of voters who did not give to Biden have emerged from the political base. The Harris campaign also reported a surge in volunteer sign-ups, enrolling 58,000 since she replaced the prez at the top of the ticket, a sign-up rate that one report said is 232 times larger than Biden campaign's daily average. This would suggest that many youngsters who had distanced themselves from the battle of geriatrics are now enthused by the much younger Harris, who is 59, and are "dri-

vin' up the jiving".

Harris also appears to have staunched the money flow to the Trump campaign from Silicon Valley, previously a Democratic redoubt where some principals like Elon Musk decamped to the Republican side expressing dismay over liberal wokism. On Tuesday, Musk dialed back Trump's claim that he (Musk) was going to contribute \$45 million a month to his campaign, saying, he doesn't subscribe to "a cult of personality". Other Silicon Valley hon-

chos said they are now opening their chequebooks after holding back for weeks because of the uncertainty over whether Biden would continue.

One Google executive who plans to hold a fundraiser for Harris — who was born in and grew up in Oakland in California's Bay Area — told Washington Post that a lot of people in the tech world were "paralysed in the last few weeks" and "now we are seeing the floodgates have opened". But Trump campaign officials maintain it is just a brief bump arising from Harris' elevation, and the industry's mistrust of govt and regulations will be hard to overcome.

Incidentally, while California and New York fork out much of the campaign lolly, most of it will be spend — on ads, maintaining campaign offices, voter outreach etc. — in the so-called battleground states that will determine the poll outcome. They include "Blue Wall" states — Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania — and the "Sun Belt" stretch — Arizona, Nevada, Georgia and North Carolina, all of which Trump and Harris will be traversing soon.

25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas



Tricolour flying high at the Kargil War Memorial at Drass on Wednesday, days ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Kargil War Memorial to mark the 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 26. (ANI)

SRINAGAR, July 24 (ANI)

STAGE has been set for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Ladakh's Drass to mark the 25th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas on July 26 when the Prime Minister will address the nation and Army soldiers on a historic day from the Kargil War Memorial in Drass.

The Prime Minister Modi after addressing the nation, will inaugurate several projects and pay tribute to the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives for the country during the Kargil War.

Speaking to ANI, Siddharth Dave, husband of a retired Army officer, said, "Me and my wife, Captain Meera Siddharth Dave, have travelled all the way, covering 2,500 kilometres from Gujarat and reached Drass seeking inspiration from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who celebrates

his birthday, and all festivals with the jawans."

"We are from the Sena family; my wife is an Army officer, and my father was from the Indian Air Force. It is a very important day for us; it has been 25 years since the Kargil War. We have travelled all the way in our car covering 2,500 kms and come to pay tributes to the brave hearts and mark the 25th anniversary of the Kargil Vijay Diwas," he said.

"We have called this Kargil Vijay Gyan Yatra. A stage has been set for Prime Minister Narendra Modi for him to celebrate the historic day with us," added Siddharth Dave.

Retired Captain Meera Siddharth Dave said, "Taking inspiration from PM Modi, we call our travel to Drass the 'Kargil Vijay Gyan Yatra to pay tribute to the brave hearts on this important milestone."