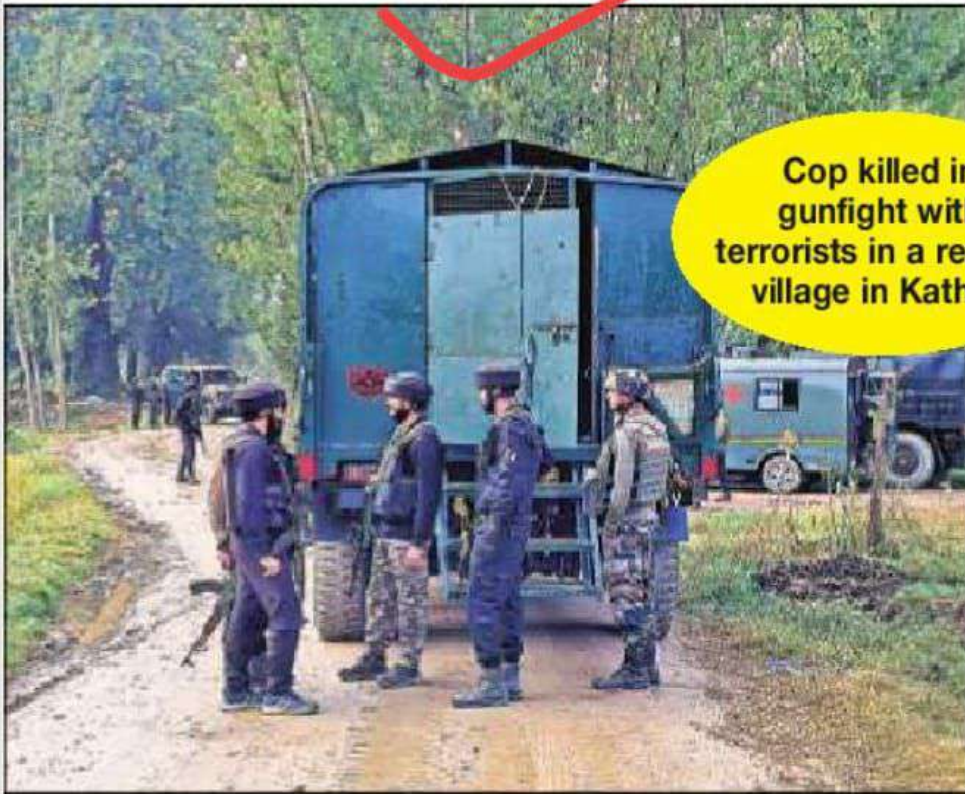


ENCOUNTER IN J&K'S KULGAM

2 terrorists killed, 5 security personnel hurt

SRINAGAR, Sept 28 (IANS)



Cop killed in gunfight with terrorists in a remote village in Kathua

TWO terrorists were killed and five security personnel, including a J&K Police official, injured in an encounter between security forces and the terrorists in J&K's Kulgam district on Saturday. Officials said, the encounter between the security forces and the terrorists was taking place in the Adigam area of Kulgam.

"The identity of the slain terrorists is being ascertained as the firing exchanges are still continuing in the area," an official said. Four soldiers and a senior police officer were injured in the encounter.

"After receiving specific Intelligence inputs about the presence of a group of terrorists in Adigam village of Kulgam, security forces including the Army, police, and the CRPF started a CASO (Cordon & Search Operation) in the area. After carefully approaching the hiding

Security personnel during an encounter with militants at Adigam village in Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday. (PTI)

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Govt exempts non-basmati white rice from export duty, sets floor price at USD 490/tonne

NEW DELHI, Sept 28 (PTI)

WITHDRAWING a blanket ban on overseas shipments of non-basmati white rice, the Government on Saturday imposed a floor price of USD 490 per tonne and exempted the commodity from export duty. Exports of non-basmati white rice have been banned since July 20, 2023 to boost domestic supply.

"The export policy for non-basmati white rice (semi-milled or wholly milled rice, whether or not polished or gazed) ... is amended from prohibited to free, subject to MEP (minimum export price) of USD 490 per tonne with immediate effect and until further orders," the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notifi-



cation. The measures came at a time when the country has ample stock of rice at government godowns and retail prices are also under control.

The Government has exempted non-basmati white rice from export duty, while reducing the levy on parboiled rice to 10 per cent.

The duty cut came within a fortnight of the Government's decision to remove the mini-

mum export price on basmati rice. In a notification issued on Friday, the revenue department under the Finance Ministry said it has also reduced export duty on husked (brown rice), and rice in the form of husk (paddy or rough) to 10 per cent.

The export duty on these varieties of rice as well as non-basmati white rice was 20 per cent so far. These duty changes are effective from September

27, 2024, the notification said. Earlier this month, the Government had scrapped the minimum export price for basmati rice to boost outbound shipments and enhance farmers' income.

The country has exported non-basmati white rice worth USD 189 million during April-July this fiscal. It was USD 852.52 million in 2023-24. Though there was a ban on the exports, the Government was allowing the shipments to friendly nations like Maldives, Mauritius, the UAE and African countries.

The export permission was granted by the Government of India to other countries to meet their food security needs and based on the request of their Governments.

Prevent atrocities against women: President

HYDERABAD, Sept 28 (PTI)

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu on Saturday urged the NALSAR University of Law here, including its alumni, to enlist the support of all stakeholders and help in setting up a nationwide network of women advocates and law students to make efforts to prevent atrocities against women.

The President, who attended the 21st annual convocation of NALSAR University of Law, said, "the network will work with the mandate to make concerted efforts to prevent atrocities against women and deal with cases of such atrocities".

She expressed confidence that the graduating students would utilise their education in NALSAR as an effective instrument of social justice and



President Droupadi Murmu during the 21st convocation of NALSAR University of Law, in Hyderabad on Saturday. (PTI)

development.

Referring to the principle of equality as mentioned in the Constitution, Murmu said the unfair situation of a poor per-

son not getting the same access to justice as a rich person must change for the better.

The ideal of equality, enshrined in the Preamble of

the Constitution and Fundamental Rights, also finds expression in one of the directive principles of State policy concerning delivery of justice, she said.

The directive seeks to provide equal justice and free legal aid. It makes the State responsible "...to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reason of economic or other disabilities." The vision statement of NALSAR also underlines a particular focus on social justice to the marginalised communities. "Unfortunately, a poor person does not get the same access to justice as a rich person. This unfair situation must change for the better. I expect your generation of legal professionals to be the change agents," the President said.

52 killed, millions without power as hurricane Helene hits S-E US

PERRY (US), Sept 28 (AP)

HURRICANE Helene has caused at least 52 deaths and billions of dollars of destruction across a wide swath of the south-east US, and more than 3 million customers were without any power. Scores of people faced a continued threat of floods.

Helene blew ashore in Florida's Big Bend region as a Category 4 hurricane on late Thursday and then quickly moved through Georgia, the Carolinas and Tennessee, uprooting trees, splintering homes and sending creeks and

ivers over their banks and straining dams.

Deaths from the storm have been reported in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia, authorities said. Western North Carolina was essentially cut off because of landslides and flooding that forced the closure of Interstate 40 and other roads. There were hundreds of water rescues, none more dramatic than in rural Unicoi County in East Tennessee, where dozens of patients and staff were plucked by helicopter from the roof of a hospital that was surrounded by water

from a flooded river.

The storm, now a post-tropical cyclone, was expected to hover over the Tennessee Valley on Saturday and Sunday, the National Hurricane Center said. Several flood and flash flood warnings remained in effect in parts of the southern and central Appalachians, while high wind warnings also covered parts of Tennessee and Ohio. Among the at least 52 people killed in the storm were three firefighters, a woman and her 1-month-old twins, and an 89-year-old woman whose house was struck by a falling tree.

New draft guidelines on passive euthanasia

NEW DELHI, Sept 28 (PTI)

DOCTORS should take a "considered decision" on withdrawal of life support in terminally ill patients on the basis of certain conditions including a documented informed refusal by the patient or their kin, according to draft guidelines by Union Health Ministry.

The guidelines laid out four conditions on passive euthanasia for taking a "considered decision in a patient's best interests, to stop or discontinue ongoing life support in a terminally ill disease that is no longer likely to benefit the patient or is likely to harm in terms of causing suffering and loss of dignity."

The conditions are whether

Doctors should take a considered decision to not start a life supporting measure in a terminally ill patient that is unlikely to benefit the patient and is likely to lead to suffering and loss of dignity, according to the guidelines laid by Health Ministry.

the individual has been declared brainstem death, if there is a medical prognostication and considered opinion that the patient's disease condition is advanced and not likely to benefit from aggressive therapeutic interventions, patient/surrogate documented informed refusal, following prognostic awareness, to continue life support and compliance with procedure prescribed by the Supreme Court.

The 'Draft Guidelines for Withdrawal of Life Support in Terminally Ill Patients,' also

state that doctors should take a considered decision to not start a life supporting measure in a terminally ill patient that is unlikely to benefit the patient and is likely to lead to suffering and loss of dignity.

In such a case, three conditions — on whether the individual has been declared brainstem death, if there is a medical prognostication and considered opinion that the patient's disease condition is advanced and not likely to benefit from aggressive therapeutic interventions, patient/sur-

rogate documented informed refusal, following prognostic awareness — has to be taken into account. The Ministry has invited feedback and suggestions from the stakeholders on the draft by October 20.

The draft guidelines have not gone down well among the members of the medical fraternity, with the IMA's national President Dr RV Asokan stating it exposes doctors to legal scrutiny and puts them under stress. "Such clinical decisions have always been taken in good faith by doctors. The patient's

relatives are explained and given all information, taken into confidence in a given case and decision is taken on merit in every single case. Putting it down in sort of guidelines and also alleging that inappropriate decisions have been taken or they have been prolonged is misunderstanding the situation," Dr Asokan said.

"First the perception and assumption that unnecessarily machines are used and lives are prolonged is wrong. It exposes doctors to legal scrutiny. More so what is left of a doctor-patient relationship... Trying to define it in 4 corners of black and white documentation which is legally scrutinised is nothing but exposing doctors to further stress," he said.

India deserves permanent seat at UNSC: Bhutan

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 28 (PTI)

INDIA with its significant economic growth and leadership of the Global South deserves a permanent seat at UNSC, Bhutan's PM Tshering Tobgay has said. He also expressed "deepest" gratitude to India for its "support and friendship" for his country's journey of graduating from the Least Developed Countries (LDC) category.

"The United Nations must evolve to meet the realities of today's world. The Security Council, as it stands, is a relic of the past. We need a Council that reflects the current geopolitical, economic landscape and social realities," Tobgay said in his address to the General Debate of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly on Friday. He said Bhutan has long advocated for reform of the 15-nation Security Council to make it more representative and effective and voiced support for India to sit as a permanent member at the horse-shoe high table.