

500 kg crystal meth seized in joint India-Lanka naval operation

NEW DELHI, Nov 26 (PTI)

AROUND 500 kg of crystal methamphetamine narcotics were seized from two fishing vessels in the Arabian Sea in a joint operation by the navies of India and Sri Lanka.

The joint operation came after Indian Navy's long-range maritime patrol aircraft and drones carried out



a surveillance mission in the critical sea lanes based on inputs from the Sri Lankan Navy, officials said.

The narcotics were seized on November 25, they added. The two boats, along with the crew and seized narcotics, are being handed over to Sri Lankan authorities for further legal action, the Indian Navy said on Friday.

The Indian Navy's Gurugram-based Information Fusion Centre (IFC) that has emerged as a key hub in tracking movements of ships and other developments in the Indian Ocean region also provided certain details for the operation, the officials said.

"Based on information received from the Sri Lankan Navy regarding probable narcotics smuggling by Sri Lankan flagged fishing vessels in the Arabian Sea, the Indian Navy responded swiftly through a coordinated operation to intercept the boats," the Indian Navy said. It said two boats were identified based on continuous inputs from the Sri Lankan Navy and aerial surveillance by the Indian naval aircraft.

India re-elected to UN Peacebuilding Commission

NEW YORK, Nov 29 (PTI)

INDIA has been re-elected to the UN Peacebuilding Commission for 2025-2026.

India's current term on the Commission was expiring on December 31.

"India has been re-elected to the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) for 2025-2026. As a founding member and major contributor to @UNPeacekeeping, India is committed to continuing its engagement with the PBC to work towards global peace and stability," the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations said

in a post on X on Thursday.

The Peacebuilding Commission is an intergovernmental advisory body that supports peace efforts in conflict-affected countries and is a key addition to the capacity of the International Community in the broad peace agenda, according to its website.

The PBC is composed of 31 Member States, elected from the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council.

The top financial contributing countries and the top troop-

contributing countries to the United Nations system are also members.

The Commission is mandated to bring together all relevant actors to marshal resources and to advise on and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery; to focus attention on the reconstruction and institution-building efforts necessary for recovery from conflict and to support the development of integrated strategies in order to lay the foundation for sustainable development.



United Nations
Peacebuilding

India ranks 2nd on national index score among 29 countries: Report

NEW DELHI, Nov 29 (IANS)

INDIA has been placed second on the national index score among 29 countries in November 2024, according to a report on Friday.

The LSEG-Ipsos Primary Consumer Sentiment Index India report maps consumer sentiment based on current conditions, expectations, investments, and jobs. It is based on a monthly survey of more than 21,000 adults under the age of 75 from 29 countries between October 25 and November 8. The report showed that Indonesia

(64.3) holds the highest National Index score, among the 29 countries, followed by India. Indonesia and India (61.0) are the only countries with a National Index score of 60 or higher. Countries above the 50-point mark include Mexico (59.5), Malaysia (56.9), Singapore (56.7), the US (55.7), Thailand (54.8), Sweden (53.6), the Netherlands (52.7), and Brazil (51.9). Those below the 40-point mark are Japan (37.8), Hungary (33.9), and Türkiye (29.8).

“While India continues to figure among the most optimistic markets on national index score,

consumer sentiment has shown a significant downward slide in November. Festivities and Diwali shopping have led to the post-festival gloom as citizens tend to splurge during Diwali a lot - for clothes, sweets, eats, and the purchase of big-ticket items,” said Amit Adarkar, CEO of Ipsos. The survey results should be viewed as reflecting the views of the more “connected” segment of their populations. India’s sample represents a large subset of its urban population -- social economic classes A/B/C in metros and tier 1-3 town classes across all 4 zones.

India, UK ink pact on future warships

NEW DELHI, Nov 29 (PTI)

INDIA and the UK have sealed a framework agreement to co-design and co-produce electric propulsion systems to be used in futuristic warships in sync with their aim to broad-base cooperation in the strategic domain.

A Statement of Intent (SoI) was inked for the proposed plan by the defence ministries of the two countries in Portsmouth on Thursday, an Indian read-out of the development said.

The SoI would serve as a broader framework intended for cooperation in the co-design, co-creation and co-production of electric propulsion capability for future naval ships, it said. "The landing platform docks, planned to be built at an Indian shipyard, are envisaged to have a full electric propulsion system," the Defence Ministry said.

From the Indian side, the SoI was signed by Joint Secretary (naval systems) Rajeev Prakash. Director of Ships Operations and Capability Integration in the UK's defence ministry Rear Admiral Steve McCarthy inked it from the British side.

Cyclonic storm 'Fengal' to make landfall near Puducherry



A fisherman uses a net to catch fish despite an advisory issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) not to venture into the sea as a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal is expected to intensify into cyclone 'Fengal', in Chennai, on Friday. (PTI)

CHENNAI, Nov 29 (PTI)

CYCLONIC storm 'Fengal' over Bay of Bengal is likely to make a landfall on November 30 afternoon, close to Puducherry, with wind speed upto 90 kmph, the India Meteorological

Department said on Friday.

Under its influence, heavy to very heavy rainfall at a few places and extremely heavy rainfall at isolated places is expected in north Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Earlier in the day, the IMD said the deep depression inten-

sified into cyclonic storm

With Fengal (pronounced as Feinjal) all set to cross coast, the Tamil Nadu Government appealed to people to stay indoors and declared November 30 a holiday for educational institutions and IT companies were requested to allow employees to work from home. Public transport has been suspended on the East Coast Road and Old Mahabalipuram Road here, which is close to the shoreline, on Saturday afternoon.

Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management KKSSR Ramachandran held a meet at the state emergency operations centre here with senior officials to review preparatory and relief measures.

An official release said: "Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority urges the general public to avoid visiting beaches, amusement parks and attending recreational events. The general public are requested to cooperate fully with the disaster prevention measures taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu."