

NATO announces formal suspension of Cold War-era security treaty

Treaty was aimed at preventing Cold War rivals from massing forces at or near mutual borders

BRUSSELS, Nov 7 (AP)

NATO on Tuesday announced the formal suspension of a key Cold War-era security treaty in response to Russia's pullout from the deal.

The alliance said its members who signed the treaty are now freezing their participation in the pact. Most of NATO's 31 allies have signed the Treaty of Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, which was aimed at preventing Cold War rivals from massing forces at or near mutual borders. It was signed in November 1990, but not fully ratified until two years later.

NATO said that "a situation whereby Allied State Parties abide by the Treaty, while Russia does not, would be unsustainable". Russia's Foreign Ministry announced earlier on Tuesday that Moscow had finalised its withdrawal.

In response, NATO said, allies who had signed "intend to suspend the operation of the CFE Treaty for as long as necessary, in accordance with their rights under international law. This is a decision fully supported by all NATO Allies". NATO underlined that its members remain committed "to reduce military risk, and prevent misperceptions and conflicts".

Air pollution alarming, stop crop residue burning forthwith: SC

NEW DELHI, Nov 7 (PTI)

AMID a spike in pollution levels in Delhi-NCR, the Supreme Court on Tuesday directed Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan to ensure that crop residue burning was stopped "forthwith".

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia said Delhi can't be made to go through this year after year.

"There cannot be a political battle every time," the bench told the counsel representing the Punjab Government.

The court also directed the Delhi Government to ensure that municipal solid waste was not burnt in the open.

While hearing a matter per-



An anti-smog gun sprays water droplets to curb air pollution in New Delhi on Tuesday. (ANI)

taining to air pollution in the Delhi-NCR, the bench flagged

issues like crop residue burning, vehicular pollution and

burning of waste in the open. It has posted the matter for further hearing on Friday.

Pollution levels in Delhi were recorded in the "very poor" category on Tuesday morning after five consecutive days of severe air quality.

The concentration of PM2.5 - fine particulate matter capable of penetrating deep into the respiratory system and triggering health problems - exceeded the Government-prescribed safe limit of 60 micrograms per cubic metre by seven to eight times in the capital.

It was 30 to 40 times the healthy limit of 15 micrograms per cubic metre set by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

CHEETAH CHETAK

Army to phase out two reliable war horses by 2027

NEW DELHI, Nov 7 (PTI)

THE Army is looking at phasing out its ageing fleet of Cheetah and Chetak choppers starting 2027, and considering induction of the light utility helicopters as the replacement besides exploring the option of leasing, sources said.

The Army Aviation Corps is currently operating around 190 Chetak, Cheetah and Cheetal helicopters, they said. While the Army will be getting around 100 light utility helicopters (LUH), it is also looking at the option of taking choppers on lease to meet its requirement.

“We require around 250 light helicopters for the reconnaissance and surveillance activities. Out of these about 100 plus will be Light Utility Helicopters, and given the
(Contd on page 5)



Cheetah



Chetak

'Little pauses' okay; no ceasefire; indefinite overall security in Gaza, says PM Benjamin Netanyahu (See last page)

Israel kills Hamas attack **MASTERMIND**

TEL AVIV, Nov 7 (IANS)

THE Israel Defence Forces (IDF) on Tuesday announced that it has killed Hamas commander Wael Asafa, one of the masterminds of the October 7 attack. In a post on X, the military said: "The IDF eliminated Wael Asefa, Commander of Hamas' Deiral-Balah Battalion. Asefa aided in the dispatch of thousands of terrorists to assault, abduct and murder Israeli civilians on October 7th."

In a separate statement, the IDF also said that the Hamas militant was

killed in an airstrike on Sunday following proper intelligence received from the Shin Bet internal security service and the military.

According to the Shin Bet, Asafa was imprisoned during 1992 to 1998 for terror activities against Israel.

The IDF's announcement comes after Israel has intensified its ground offensive in Gaza. The Jewish nation claimed that since the offensive was launched on October 27, it has killed several Hamas militants and also dismantled the group's vital critical infrastructure. Over the weekend, the

IDF and the Shin Bet assassinated Mustafa Dalul, commander of Hamas's Sabra Tel al-Hawa Battalion

On November 4, an Israeli drone fired a missile at the house of Hamas' leader Ismail Haniyeh in Gaza

Haniyeh, who is the group's political chief, has been outside the Gaza Strip since 2019, residing between Turkey and Qatar.

Meanwhile, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant has vowed to eliminate Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, who is allegedly hiding in a bunker.

Assembly polls

71.48% vote in Chhattisgarh

77% vote in Mizoram



Voters pose for photos with SVEEP mascot after casting votes at a polling station in Bijapur district.

(PTI)

KANKER/AIZAWL, Nov 7 (ANI)

CHHATTISGARH recorded 71.48 per cent of voters who exercised their franchise in the first phase of polling in 20 Assembly seats in the State. While, Mizoram registered 77 per cent and voters had exercised their franchise by 3 pm in the northeastern State, according to Election Commission data at 5 pm.

Of the 20 Assembly constituencies that voted in Tuesday's polls,

multiple districts are naxal-infested. in Chhattisgarh.

The State, which has a 90-member House is undergoing elections in two phases, with the second phase scheduled for November 17.

Of the 20 constituencies that are witnessing polling in the State, 12 are from the Bastar division.

Voting is being held in constituencies that are Naxal-affected and fall in districts like Bastar, Dantewada, Kanker, Kabeerdham,

and Rajnandgaon. The counting of votes is scheduled for December 3.

In Mizoram polling concludes with 77 pc turnout. Voting ended in State on Tuesday with people casting their ballot to elect their representatives for 40 seats in the State Assembly

The polling to elect a new Assembly started at 7 am and concluded at 4 pm, officials said.

According to poll data, Tuichang
(Contd on page 5)