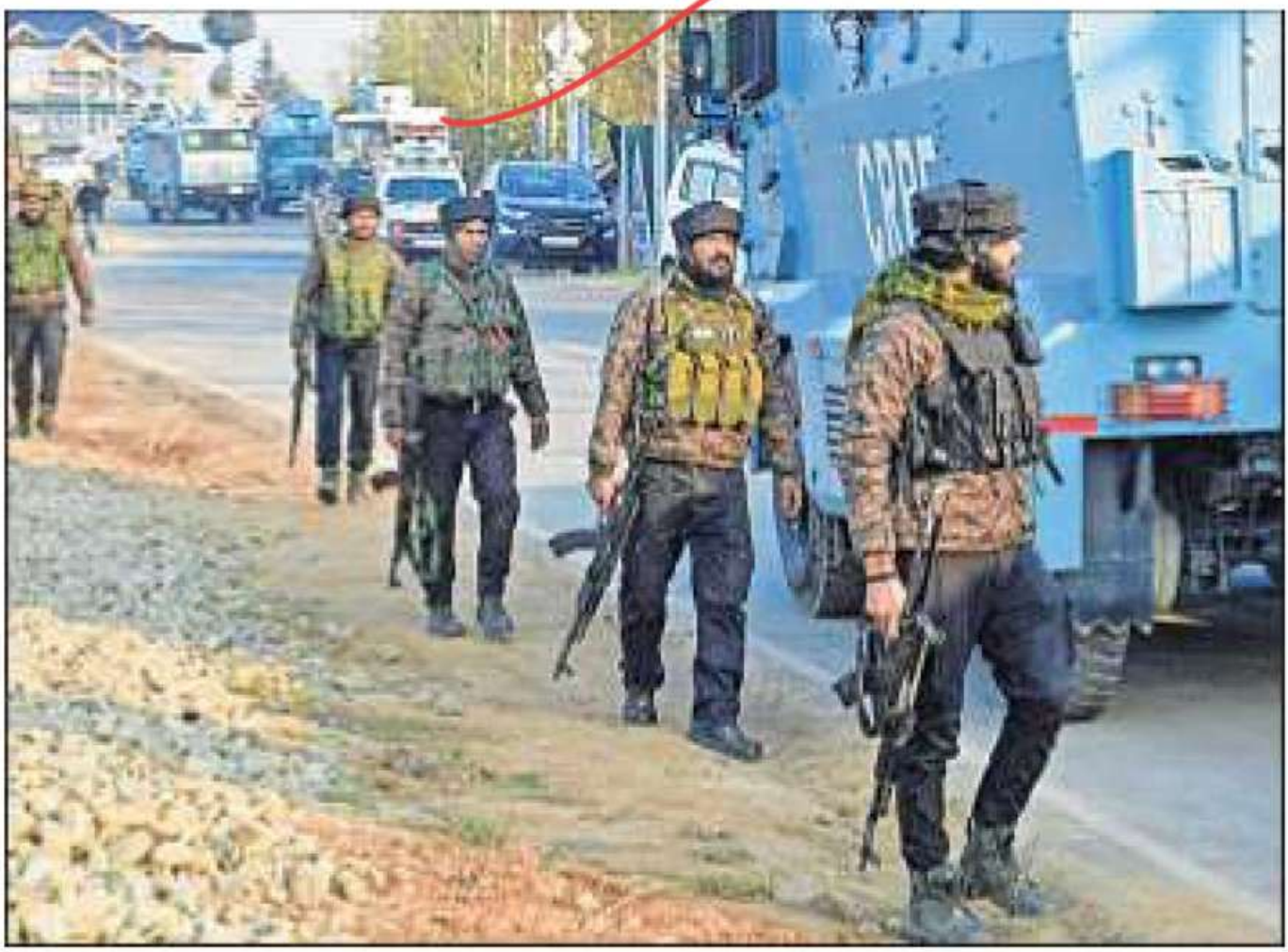
Ultra killed, 2nd trapped; Army encounter on in J&K



SRINAGAR, Nov 16 (PTI)

A TERRORIST was killed while another was trapped in an encounter with security forces in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district where three CRPF personnel were injured in an attack last week, police said on Monday.

"Encounter with terrorists started in Kulgam," the Kashmir Zone Police said in a post on X.

The police said the whole area has been cordoned off with the help of the Army and other security forces. Officials identified the trapped terrorists as Lateef Bhatt and Umar. While the body of one terrorist was visible, efforts were on to neutralise the second terrorist. The two terrorists were involved in the attack on a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) post in the same district last week.

All the nearby units of the Army and elite Special Operation Group of the J&K Police were involved in the encounter.

India, Egypt target $12 bn in trade

NEW DELHI, Nov 16 (IANS)

INDIA and Egypt have agreed to work towards raising bilateral trade to $12 billion and will establish a joint working group to explore the terms for a preferential trade agreement or free trade agreement, an official statement said on Monday.

The agreement was reached during the seventh session of the India–Egypt Joint Trade Committee (JTC) in Egypt's New Administrative Capital on Monday, co-chaired by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Egypt's Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade, Dr Mohamed Farid Saleh.

The Joint Working Group will explore the Terms of Reference for a Preferential Trade Agreement or Free Trade Agreement to facilitate stronger bilateral trade, improve access to both markets and promote investment linkages between the two countries, the statement said.



Union Minister Piyush Goyal with Egypt's Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade Mohamed Farid Saleh during the India-Egypt Business Forum in Egypt. (PTI)

The meeting marked the first occasion of the bilateral institutional mechanism convening at the ministerial level, underscoring the government's commitment to strengthening the economic dimension of the India–Egypt Strategic Partnership.

The meeting was preceded by bilateral discussions between the two ministers on expanding trade, facilitating investments and developing long-term industrial and commercial linkages. The JTC provided an opportunity to review existing trade ties, assess challenges faced by businesses and identify new areas for closer collaboration.

The committee reviewed the growth in India–Egypt trade, rising 35 per cent to $6.5 billion in FY26. Trade during April-September 2026 grew 65 per cent YoY to $5.04 billion, reflecting stronger commercial exchanges and the potential for further diversification of the trade basket.

Indian diaspora hails PM Modi's Philippines visit

MANILA, Nov 16 (IANS)

MEMBERS of the Indian diaspora in the Philippines on Monday expressed their excitement over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Manila, saying that his leadership has raised India's standing on the global stage and that countries partnering with India will grow along with it.

Speaking to IANS, an Indian diaspora member said, "I think PM Modi is doing a great job. Everybody knows about him. And I think what he's doing right now is good for the economy as it will help everyone within the country and around the country. Whoever is partnering with India will grow with it as well."

Lauding PM Modi's dedication, Lachman Daswani, a member of the Indian diaspora, said, "He has been the best Prime Minister so far. I have not seen anyone who has really wholeheartedly dedicated himself to the nation and the whole world."

Expressing optimism about the outcome of the visit, Daswani said, "The fruits of this meeting will be very, very remarkable. All the Asian - ASEAN countries will get together and exchange and bring a better economy to everybody."

Businessman Tikam Chellani said that the value of Indians living in the Philippines has increased since PM Modi took office.

Highlighting the growth in business ties, Chellani said, "Earlier in the Philippines, India wasn't as well-known, but now trade and business with India have increased."

Quad leaders to meet in Manila on sidelines of ASEAN Summit

WASHINGTON, Nov 16 (ANI)

THE White House itinerary confirmed that US President Donald Trump will participate in a multilateral meeting with Quad leaders in Manila on Tuesday, November 17, marking the first in-person Quad leaders' summit in two years, on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit.

Following his arrival at Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport, US President Donald Trump is scheduled to welcome the Quad leaders for an official photo opportunity, which will be immediately followed by the high-level multilateral meeting.

The strategic alignment comes as the regional grouping recalibrates its footprint. The Quad was formed in 2007 but became largely inactive the following year amid concerns about provoking China. Donald Trump revived the grouping in 2017 to address growing concerns over China's increasing economic, diplomatic and military influence in the Indo-Pacific, although he did not hold a leaders' summit during his earlier term. The Manila meeting will be the first Quad leaders' meeting during his current term as US President, following five ministerial-level sessions since Trump began his second term on January 20, 2025.

PM Modi arrives in Manila for ASEAN, East Asia summits

MANILA, Nov 16 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi arrived in the Philippines on Monday to attend two key regional summits, aiming to strengthen ties with Southeast Asian and East Asian nations and discuss regional and global challenges.

Modi will participate in the 23rd ASEAN-India Summit and the 21st East Asia Summit on Tuesday. He is visiting the country at the invitation of Philippine President Ferdinand R Marcos Jr.

"PM @narendramodi arrived in Manila, Republic of the Philippines, to participate in the 23rd ASEAN-India Summit and the 21st East Asia Summit. On arrival, [the] PM was received by Mr. Robert Joseph 'Jay' Montes de Claro, Secretary of the Department of Information and Communications Technology, Philippines," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) posted on X. It added: "The visit reaffirms India's partnership with ASEAN as a cornerstone to its Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific Vision."

India's relationship with ASEAN countries is at the heart of its Act East Policy and occupies a central place in its MAHASAGAR vision, Modi said on Monday before embarking for Manila. MAHASAGAR, which translates to Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions, is India's expanded global maritime doctrine.

In his departure statement, Modi said he looked forward to working with "fellow leaders to build on the progress of our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and give further momentum to our shared aspirations for growth, connectivity and prosperity."

He expressed confidence that the visit would impart new energy to India's partnership with ASEAN and reinforce the collective commitment to a peaceful, prosperous and resilient Indo-Pacific. India and several other countries, including the US, China, Japan and Australia, are its dialogue partners.



PM Modi being welcomed by Philippines Department of Information and Communications Technology Secretary Robert Joseph 'Jay' Montes de Claro on his arrival, at Manila International Airport in Philippines. (PTI)

Ahead of QUAD: India, 9 nations sign deal for super intelligence supply chains

WASHINGTON DC, Nov 16 (ANI)



THE United States and nine partner countries, including India, have signed the San Francisco Declaration on the Secure Foundations of Enduring Prosperity, committing to strengthen co-operation on sensitive technologies, critical infrastructure and supply chain security underpinning the emerging Super Intelligence (SI) era.

The US Department of State, in a press release, said the declaration was signed on November 15 during the Pax Silica Founders Retreat in San Francisco, convened by US Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs Jacob Helberg.

The signatories include the United States, Australia, India, Israel, Japan, the Republic

(Contd on page 5)