

India, Australia discuss ways to counter radicalisation



STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE New Delhi, 30 October

India and Australia discussed the emerging domestic, regional and international terrorism landscape and exchanged views on a wide range of areas of cooperation in counter

terrorism, law enforcement, judicial cooperation and maritime security.

Both the countries condemned the heinous terrorist attack in Pahalgam on 22 April, and the Australian side reiterated its support and solidarity with India.

The two sides reaffirmed

commitment to strengthening cooperation in the multilateral fora, including the UN, GCTF, FATF, IORA, ARF, NMFT and with QUAD partners, to combat global terrorism, during the 15th meeting of the India-Australia Joint Working Group (JWG) on Counter Terrorism was held on 29-30

THE INDIAN DELEGATION ALSO MET OFFICIALS OF THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE COUNTER TERRORISM UNIT, NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY, AND MARITIME BORDER COMMAND; AND VISITED THE AUSTRALIAN WATCH OFFICE AND THE CRISIS CENTRE.

October in Canberra, Australia.

"The meeting was co-chaired by Dr. Vinod Bahade, Joint Secretary (Counter Terrorism) in the Ministry of External Affairs, and Ms. Gemma Huggins, Australia's Ambassador for Counter-Terrorism," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement on Thursday.

"Recognising the need for enhancing cooperation for effectively countering the challenges in countering terrorism, the two sides underlined strengthening cooperation in timely information sharing and concerted actions to counter the use of new and

emerging technology for terrorist purposes, and discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in countering radicalisation and violent extremism conducive to terrorism," the MEA said.

The Indian delegation also met officials of the Australian Federal Police Counter Terrorism Unit, National Emergency Management Agency, and Maritime Border Command; and visited the Australian Watch Office and the Crisis Centre.

"Both sides agreed to hold the next meeting of the Joint Working Group in Delhi on a mutually convenient date," the statement added.

Uttar Pradesh voters need not provide any documents during SIR drive: ECI

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE Lucknow, 30 October

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Thursday clarified that voters are not required to provide any documents during the distribution and collection of the enumeration form during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in UP.

After filling out the counting form, one copy of the self-signed form or signed by an adult relative will be given to the Booth Level Officer, and the other copy, signed by the Booth Level Officer, will be given to the voter/adult relative as a receipt.

However, all voters whose names could not be matched/linked with the voter list of the last special intensive revision will be issued a notice for a hearing by the Electoral Registration Officer of the respective Assembly constituency. These details were disclosed by UP Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Navdeep Rinwa on Thursday. BLOs will begin reaching out to voters in the state from 4 November, and the drive will continue until 4 December.

The CEO said that during the Special Intensive Revision process, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will contact all voters

in their respective polling areas and provide each voter with two copies of the enumeration form. BLOs will visit each voter's home at least three times to distribute and collect the counting forms.

"The counting form will contain the voter's name, EPIC number, Part Number, Serial Number, Assembly Constituency, and State entries, and their photo will also be pre-printed. The voter may also affix their latest passport-size photograph to the enumeration form," he said.

Details from the electoral roll of the last SIR conducted in 2003 will also be entered by the voter in the enumeration form.

Bahraich boat capsizes: Rescue operations continue in search of missing people

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE Bahraich, 30 October



Intensive rescue operations are still underway in the Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh after a boat carrying 22 people capsized in the Kaudiyala River on Wednesday evening. One woman has been confirmed dead, while eight people, including several children, remain missing, officials confirmed on Thursday.

The tragic incident occurred near Bharatpur village under the Sujauli police station area when villagers were returning home from a local market. The boat overturned after hitting a tree branch amid a strong river current.

Soon after the mishap, local villagers managed to rescue 13 passengers safely. The body of a woman identified as Majei (60) was recovered. However, despite continuous efforts through the night, eight people are still missing.

A joint rescue operation involving teams from the Sasra Seema Bal (SSB), State Disaster Response Force

(SDRF), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and local divers is in full swing. Nearly 50 personnel are searching along a 5-kilometre stretch of the river, focusing on areas where the current is particularly strong.

Devi Patan Division Commissioner Shashi Bhusan Lal and Inspector General of Police Amit Pathak visited the site to monitor the operation late Wednesday night. District Magistrate Akshay Tripathi and Superintendent of Police Ramnayan Singh are also camping at the spot to supervise the rescue efforts.

Sonapati, one of the survivors, said that the boat lost balance after striking a tree branch in the fast-flowing river. "The current was very strong. The boat overturned suddenly. Four children of my family are still missing," she said.

INDI Alliance will form govt in Bihar, predicts Akhilesh Yadav

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE Ghazipur, 30 October

Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav predicted that the INDIA bloc would form a government in Bihar as the people of the state want a change.

Speaking to the media here on Thursday, Akhilesh Yadav said: "Bihar wants to embark on the path of prosperity and progress and the INDIA Alliance government will be formed in Bihar under the leadership of Tejashwi Yadav."

"We all stand with Tejashwi Yadav, who will take Bihar forward. He will bring development and will provide employment to the youth," he said. Akhilesh Yadav, who, along with his uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav, arrived here to attend a private function, said that the BJP has conspired against Nitish Kumar.

He said: "The people of Bihar and all the leaders know that the BJP is using Nitish Kumar only for elections. The BJP is a deceitful party, they are not anyone's friend. It had betrayed the people of Bihar and now are with the INDIA Alliance."

On the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter list to be implemented in UP, Akhilesh Yadav said that the BJP wants to commit a fraud. "No BLOs are from the PDA anywhere in Uttar Pradesh. The state has the highest number of PDA voters, but they have no BLOs. The BJP government has appointed BLOs based on caste and religion. Discrimination exists in the posting of officials during elections. The BJP, fearing the PDA, is hatching all kinds of conspiracies," he said.

The SP president further said that it is the Election Commission's responsibility to maintain accurate voter lists and ensure that the votes of all eligible voters are included in the voter list. "All voters may cast their votes, but the Election Commission does not conduct impartial proceedings. Look at any by-election or assembly election in UP, and the Election Commission discriminates," he alleged.

Meghalaya cabinet approves GHADC election preparations

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA Shillong, 30 October

The Meghalaya cabinet has approved the schedule for the preparation of rolls for the conduct of elections for the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC), slated to be held next year.

Cabinet minister and government spokesperson Wailadmiki Shylla today said the process to update and finalise the rolls has officially begun, even though the exact election date is yet to be fixed.

He said the preparatory phase includes publishing draft rolls, inviting claims and objections, and finalising the electoral lists before the polls.

Shylla said the early start was necessary to ensure a smooth and timely conduct of the GHADC elections.

On the contentious issue of non-tribals voting in the GHADC elections, Commissioner and Secretary District Council Affairs, C.V.D. Diengdoh said that the Assam and Meghalaya Autonomous Districts (Constitution of District Councils) Rules 1951 will be followed.

Non-Garos are allowed to vote and contest the GHADC election, which has been a periodic sticking point for pressure groups in Garo Hills.

The Deputy Commissioners will supervise the exercise and that the system of claims and objections will remain open to all those entitled to vote under the rules, Diengdoh said.

Under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, Meghalaya has three district councils—for the Khasi, Jaintia and Garo Hills—having powers on myriad issues.

ED seizes assets worth ₹250 cr of Lala Jugal Kishore Ltd in Lucknow

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE Lucknow, 30 October

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has carried out a major operation in Uttar Pradesh's capital, Lucknow, seizing assets worth around Rs 250 crore belonging to Lala Jugal Kishore Limited.

The properties were allegedly purchased in collusion with the Rohtas Group, which is accused of defrauding thousands of investors of their hard-earned money.

According to ED officials on Thursday, the seized assets include five prime land parcels located on Sultanpur Road, Sitapur Road, and Barabanki Road in Lucknow. One of these plots has partially constructed flats on it. Investigators revealed that

THE PROPERTIES WERE ALLEGEDLY PURCHASED IN COLLUSION WITH THE ROHTAS GROUP, WHICH IS ACCUSED OF DEFAUDING THOUSANDS OF INVESTORS OF THEIR HARD-EARNED MONEY.

just before the Gangster Act proceedings started against the Rohtas Group in 2019, the group sold these properties to Lala Jugal Kishore Limited for merely Rs 18-20 crore, even though the market value at the time was around Rs 125-150 crore.

The probe further uncovered that over Rs 100 crore was paid in cash as part of the transaction — a serious violation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Following the ED's action, the current estimated value of the seized assets has risen to over Rs 250 crore.

Sources said that the

collaboration between Rohtas Group and Lala Jugal Kishore Limited led to large-scale financial irregularities. The ED has now formally attached these properties and is in the process of identifying more assets linked to the case.

Additionally, the company may face separate charges related to stamp duty evasion. In September, the ED had also raided multiple premises linked to the Rohtas Group, uncovering evidence of a Rs 248 crore financial scam. The group's directors—Piyush Rastogi, Paresh Rastogi, and Deepak Rastogi—are currently absconding.

Allahabad HC give relief to another accused in Bareilly violence case

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE Prayagraj, 30 October

The Allahabad High Court on Thursday gave relief to another accused in the Bareilly violence by staying his arrest. With this three accused have been granted relief. Yesterday, the court stayed the arrest of two brothers, accused of the Bareilly violence. A double bench of Justice Siddharth Verma and Justice Achal Sachdev stayed the arrest of Mohammad Sajid alias Sajid Sakalani. An FIR was lodged against him at the Baradari police station in Bareilly.

Sajid Sakalani is absconding after the violence and the Bareilly Police had announced a reward of Rs 15,000 on information leading to his arrest.

Raja Raghuvanshi murder case: Meghalaya Police to file supplementary chargesheet naming 3 more

AGENCIES Shillong, 30 October

Meghalaya Police are set to file a supplementary chargesheet in the high-profile murder case of Indore-based businessman Raja Raghuvanshi, naming three additional individuals accused of destroying or concealing key evidence, officials confirmed on Thursday.

East Khasi Hills Superintendent of Police (SP) Vivek Syiem said the supplementary chargesheet will name Silome James, Lokendra Singh Tomar, and Balbir Ahirwar as persons allegedly involved in tampering with crucial materials linked to the investigation.

"The upcoming chargesheet will not be extensive; it mainly pertains to the destruction

GOVIND RAGHUVANSHI, BROTHER OF THE PRIME ACCUSED SONAM RAGHUVANSHI, SAID THE FAMILY HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO ENGAGE A PRIVATE LAWYER.

of evidence. The main chargesheet has already been filed," Syiem said.

Earlier, the police had submitted a comprehensive 790-page main chargesheet, copies of which were handed over to the legal aid defence counsel on 28 October. The primary chargesheet names five key accused — Sonam Raghuvanshi, Raj Kushwah, Vishal Chauhan, Anand Kurmi, and Akash Rajput — under sections related to murder, criminal conspiracy, and destruction of evidence.

All the five accused are currently in judicial custody, and their bail plea, moved on 17 October, was rejected by the court. Officials confirmed that none of the families of the accused have so far appointed private legal representatives, with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) providing legal aid as mandated under law. Copies of the chargesheet have already been shared with the court-appointed defence counsel.

Govind Raghuvanshi, brother of the prime accused Sonam Raghuvanshi, said the family has not yet decided whether to engage a private lawyer. "We will review the chargesheet and decide our next course of action. There has been no communication with Sonam since her arrest," he said.

Security forces recover arms, arrest drug traffickers in Manipur

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA Imphal, 30 October

Security forces and Manipur Police carried out a series of coordinated operations across Manipur, leading to the recovery of arms and ammunition and the arrest of several suspects, including three drug traffickers.

Security forces recovered a large quantity of arms and equipment from the Ngairangbam Maning Loukon area in Imphal West district. The recovered items included one modified .303 rifle with a magazine, two locally made single-barrel guns, one pistol, two hand grenades without detonators, 97 blank .303 cartridges, three BAOFENG hand-held sets with chargers, three bulletproof vests, six

IN ANOTHER OPERATION, MANIPUR POLICE APPREHENDED A PERSON FROM WANGKHEI ANDRO PARKING, IMPHAL EAST DISTRICT, FOR ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES. THE SUSPECT, A RESIDENT OF HIYANGLAM AWANG LEIKAI IN KAKCHING DISTRICT, WAS FOUND IN POSSESSION OF A MOBILE PHONE AND AN AADHAAR CARD.

suspected BP plates, one camouflage helmet, 17 signal 16mm cartridges, and three bags.

In another operation, Manipur Police apprehended a person from Wangkhei Andro Parking, Imphal East district, for alleged involvement in unlawful activities. The suspect, a resident of Hiyanglam Awang Leikai in Kakching district, was found in possession of a mobile phone and an Aadhaar card. Further investigation into the person's activities is underway.

Security forces apprehended three drug traffickers at the 7 AR check post in Behiang, under Behiang Police Station, Churachandpur district.

From their possession, the forces seized approximately 11 kg of opium, two two-wheelers used in trafficking, and two mobile phones.

Authorities have launched further investigations to trace the wider network behind the trafficking operation and to identify the source and destination of the seized contraband.

TENDER

Advertisement for EAST COAST RAILWAY tenders, including details for repair and improvement work on damaged level crossing between Deogan Road (DFR)-TITLAGARH (TIG) SECTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION.

Advertisement for EAST COAST RAILWAY tenders, including details for supply, transportation, trenching, laying, installation, testing and commissioning of optical fiber cable as communication backbone for Kavach & LTE in Jharsuguda Road (RD)-SINGAPUR ROAD (RD) JN. (EX), LAKHOLI (EX)-TITLAGARH AND SAMBALPUR JN.-KEREJANGA (EX) SECTION OF SAMBALPUR DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.

Advertisement for EAST COAST RAILWAY tenders, including details for EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR EMPANELMENT OF DIAGNOSTIC CENTRES/HOSPITALS FOR RADIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS.

Advertisement for Rajasthan State Road Development and Construction Corporation Ltd. JAIPUR tenders, including details for Selection of Bidder for Collection of User Fee on the basis of competitive bidding through e-procurement basis on Following BOT Roads.

Sugarcane farmers meet CM Yogi on Gopashtami, express gratitude for record price hike

Lucknow: Overwhelmed by the historic decision to raise sugarcane prices of Rs 30 per quintal for the 2025-26 crushing season, sugarcane farmers from across Uttar Pradesh met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at his residence on Thursday to express their gratitude. The Chief Minister warmly interacted with the farmers and highlighted the government's continued commitment to their welfare. The Chief Minister stated that since the Modi government came to power in 2014, agriculture and farmers' welfare have been brought to the forefront of national priorities. "No one earlier cared about the health of the soil that feeds us, but Prime Minister Modi introduced the Soil Health Card scheme. The PM Kisan Samman Nidhi has freed farmers from the grip of moneylenders," he said. Recalling his government's first major decision in 2017, the Chief Minister noted: "On the very first day of forming our government, we fulfilled our promise of loan waiver for 86 lakh farmers. In the past eight and a half years, irrigation has been expanded to an additional 23 lakh hectares." He said that earlier, farmers toiled hard but middlemen reaped the profits. "We ended that exploitative system. Today, payments for farmers' produce go directly into their bank accounts," he added.