

PM Modi Thanks Trump for Diwali Greetings, Emphasises Joint Fight Against Terrorism

■ PM Modi's remark assumes significance amid the US' growing proximity with Pakistan, a country known for exporting terror.

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has expressed gratitude to US President Donald Trump for his Diwali greetings and highlighted the importance of joint efforts to combat terrorism. Modi's message, posted online, read: "Thank you, President Trump, for your phone call and warm Diwali greetings. On this festival of lights, may our two great democracies continue to illuminate the world with hope and stand united against terrorism in all its forms." The remarks come at a time when India has been closely monitoring the US' growing engagement with Pakistan, a country often criticised for providing safe havens to terrorist groups. Modi's



message underscores India's continued focus on regional security and anti-terror cooperation. Trump, meanwhile, hosted a Diwali celebration at the White House, where he lit a lamp and conveyed his "warmest wishes" to the people of India. Speaking to reporters, he described Modi as a "great friend" and highlighted ongoing discussions on trade, regional peace, and energy. He reiterated his claims that India had

assured a reduction in Russian oil imports and that he had helped prevent conflict between India and Pakistan in May, claims that New Delhi later clarified were inaccurate. At the White House event, Trump called Diwali a "symbol of faith" and celebrated the festival as a reminder of the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. "During Diwali, revellers recall

ancient stories of enemies defeated, obstacles removed, and captives freed. The glow of the diya flame reminds us to seek the path of wisdom and to work with diligence and always give thanks for our many blessings," he said. The celebration was attended by Indian Ambassador Vinay Kwatra, FBI chief Kash Patel, intelligence head Tulsi Gabbard, newly appointed US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor, and prominent Indian American business leaders. Kwatra lauded the event as a showcase of America's diversity, while Patel said Indian Americans across the globe were thrilled to see such a recognition of their culture.



350 or Over 1,000? Decoding Delhi's Post-Diwali Air Quality Index

■ Both CPCB and IQAir follow different methods of calculating air quality index, resulting in different numbers.

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality plunged sharply a day after Diwali, leaving the city shrouded in haze and making it one of the world's most polluted major cities. Residents reported difficulty in breathing, itchy eyes, and general discomfort. While Swiss-based air-quality platform IQAir recorded the city's AQI at a staggering 1,121, India's Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) reported a much lower figure of 351. Both readings, however, are correct within their respective frameworks. Understanding AQI The Air Quality Index (AQI) is a tool designed to communicate air pollution levels in simple terms, helping the public understand associated health risks. CPCB calculates AQI based on eight pollutants: PM10, PM2.5, ozone (O3), sulfur dioxide (SO2), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb), and ammonia (NH3). Mohan George, consultant at the Centre for Science and Environment, explains, "AQI uses color-coded ranges to

indicate whether the air is good, satisfactory, or very poor, guiding citizens on necessary precautions." For instance, an AQI above 400 falls in the "severe" category, hazardous even for healthy individuals. CPCB vs IQAir. The key difference lies in methodology and scale. CPCB's AQI scale is capped at 500, with six categories ranging from 'good' (0-50) to 'severe' (401-500). IQAir, however, has a tighter scale, labeling anything above 301 as "hazardous." Both platforms identify the dominant pollutant usually PM2.5 in Northern India during winter but their calculation methods differ, leading to varying AQI values. Data Sources and Calculation CPCB relies on government-operated, reference-grade monitoring stations, including DPCC, IMD, and IIT Madras. IQAir incorporates data from these stations as well as additional sensor-based monitors from embassies, companies, and individuals.

Indian, Chinese Soldiers Exchange Diwali Sweets Along LAC In Gesture Of Goodwill

■ Earlier on March 25, the 33rd meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs was held in Beijing.

New Delhi: Indian and Chinese troops exchanged sweets along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on Diwali, reflecting a gesture of goodwill and warmth between the two sides amid ongoing efforts to maintain peace along the border. The exchange took place



at several border points, symbolizing a mutual desire to sustain friendly engagement and uphold tranquillity in the region. The Chinese Embassy in India

confirmed the exchange, noting that it represented a positive step toward strengthening confidence-building measures between the neighbouring nations. The development follows a series of diplomatic and military-level interactions between India and

China aimed at easing tensions and improving communication along the LAC. Earlier this year, on March 25, the 33rd meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) was held in Beijing.

Opposition Slams Lokpal's Rs 5-Crore BMW Order, Questions Use of Public Funds

■ Citing official data on Lokpal's performance, Singhvi questioned the logic behind such extravagant spending.

New Delhi: The Lokpal's reported plan to purchase seven BMW cars, each costing around ₹70 lakh, has drawn sharp criticism from Congress leaders, who called the move a "tragic irony" for an institution meant to uphold integrity and fight corruption. Senior Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who chaired the Parliamentary Committee on Lokpal, condemned the expenditure, saying



it contradicts the very spirit of the anti-corruption body. "Dr. L M Singhvi first conceived the idea of Lokpal in the early 1960s. To see this anti-corruption body now ordering BMWs for its members is tragic irony the guardians of integrity chasing luxury over legitimacy," Singhvi wrote on X.

Yogi Adityanath Says 'Political Islam' Overlooked in History, Praises RSS Role in Ram Temple Movement

■ Yogi Adityanath said that warriors like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Guru Gobind Singh, Maharana Pratap, and Maharana Sanga waged battles against "political Islam".

New Delhi: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Tuesday that while the impact of British and French colonialism is often highlighted in history, the influence of what he called "political Islam" on India's civilisation and faith has largely been ignored. Speaking at an event in Gorakhpur marking the centenary celebrations of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), he claimed that this ideological force had



dealt one of the strongest blows to Sanatan Dharma.

Addressing the 'Vichar Parivar Kutumb Sneh Milan' and 'Deepotsav Se Rashtrotsav' programmes, the Chief Minister said that great warriors like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Guru Gobind Singh, Maharana Pratap,

and Maharana Sanga fought significant battles against "political Islam". He remarked that while colonial resistance is widely discussed, the struggles waged by these leaders are often overlooked in mainstream historical narratives. Highlighting the RSS' century-long journey, Adityanath lauded its contribution to the Ram Temple movement in Ayodhya. "During the Ram Temple struggle, the Sangh faced restrictions, lathi charges, and even

bullets, yet its volunteers remained resolute. The grand temple in Ayodhya today stands as a symbol of that determination," he said. Adityanath also alleged that activities promoting "political Islam" continue to operate under various guises and referred to his government's recent decision to ban the sale of Halal-certified products in Uttar Pradesh. He claimed that profits from such products were being diverted for conversion, love jihad, and terrorism.