

# NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

## His Visionary Leadership Will Guide Us Forever: Cong Pays Tributes To Nehru On Death Anniversary



**NEW DELHI, MAY 27:** The Congress on Wednesday paid rich tributes to Jawaharlal Nehru on his death anniversary, with Rahul Gandhi saying that India's first prime minister's visionary leadership will continue to "guide us forever".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Rahul Gandhi paid floral tributes to Nehru at his memorial at Shanti Van here.

In a post in Hindi on X, Gandhi said, "A humble trib-

ute to the country's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, on his death anniversary. Laying the strong foundations of modern India, he dedicated his entire life to building an inclusive, harmonious, and progressive nation."

"His visionary leadership rooted in liberty, democratic principles, constitutional rights, social justice, and a scientific temper will continue to guide us forever," the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said, paying trib-

utes to his great grandfather. In a post on X, Kharge said the enduring legacy of Nehru continues to guide the spirit of India, reflecting the ideals he devoted his life to freedom, democracy, secularism and scientific temper.

"His visionary leadership still inspires our collective conscience and strengthens our commitment to an inclusive and progressive nation," the Congress chief said.

Remembering and paying heartfelt tribute to India's first Prime Minister – 'Hind

Ke Jawahar' – our inspiration, who upheld the values of truth, unity and peace throughout his life," Kharge said. The Congress, from its official handle, said, "Humble tributes to the death anniversary of India's first Prime Minister and 'Bharat Ratna', Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Today, the entire nation remembers the architect of modern India."

India's first and longest-serving prime minister, Nehru, died in office in 1964. (AGENCIES)

## ED Raids Ex-Kerala CM's House, Others In CMRL-Linked Money Laundering Case

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, May 27:** The Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday conducted searches at the residences of former Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his family members as part of its money laundering probe linked to the CMRL case involving his daughter, officials said.

A total of 10 premises in the capital city, Ernakulam, Kannur and Bengaluru (Karnataka) were covered under the raids that began around 7 am accompanied by a security escort provided by CAPF personnel.

The searched premises included the rental house of the 81-year-old former chief minister located at the Bakery Junction area here, the Kozhikode residence of his son-in-law and former minister P A Mohammed Riyas, a Vijayan family house in Kannur and other locations linked to "key persons" of Cochin Minerals And Rutile Ltd (CMRL), a private entity.

The action was taken under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the officials said.

Vijayan's house has been searched as the probe involves his daughter Veena Vijayan, they said. The former CM was at his house during the searches. The officials added that documents related to investments and fixed deposits were recovered during the searches.

As the ED team was leaving Vijayan's residence, violence broke out. Suspected CPI(M) workers gathered outside his Bakery Junction residence who were protesting the raid. The situation escalated as some protesters allegedly blocked the vehicle



carrying ED officials and threw stones at it. Police and central security personnel struggled to control the crowd. The vehicle, which also had women officials on board, was allegedly targeted during the incident. The windshield of a vehicle was also broken in the incident.

ED officials said they would lodge a police complaint regarding the "attack" on their teams. The veteran CPI(M) leader later alleged that the searches at his premises were part of a targeted crackdown on opposition leaders across the country.

Speaking to reporters after ED officials left, Vijayan said such actions would not weaken him or the CPI(M). "This is only a beginning. Nobody should harbour the illusion that such actions can intimidate or weaken us," he said. Vijayan was unseated from power after the Congress-led UDF won the Assembly elections in Kerala last month. The two-term former chief minister (2016-2026) has now been nomi-

nated for the position of leader of the opposition in the Kerala Assembly by his party.

The ED probe pertains to an allegation that CMRL made fraudulent payments worth Rs 2.78 crore to Veena's company Exalogic Solutions Private Limited under the guise of IT Consultancy Services.

Another company named Empower India Capital Investment Private Limited (EICPL), operated by CMRL MD Sasidharan Kartha, also extended Rs 50 lakh worth of loans to Exalogic despite the company (Exalogic) failing to make timely repayments, according to the ED.

The agency claims that the management of CMRL (led by Kartha) and Veena generated "proceeds of crime" in this process. The central agency launched the action after the Kerala High Court on Tuesday dismissed a writ petition filed by CMRL seeking to quash the ED proceedings in the case. The court held that the initiation of the PMLA investigation is valid

saying the SFIO prosecution complaint was the predicate offence for starting ED proceedings. The agency filed the PMLA case based on the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) prosecution complaint filed before a court in Ernakulam in April 2025. The SFIO is the investigation arm of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

CMRL drew the attention of central probe agencies after it was raided by the Income Tax Department in January 2019 during which certain alleged fake expenses to the extent of about Rs 130 crore were identified.

Officials said these "fake" expenses were admitted by CMRL before the Income Tax Settlement Commission and later a complaint was made to the SFIO.

The SFIO said in its prosecution complaint that fictitious cash expenses of Rs 182 crore were made in CMRL over a span of 15 years and that it paid Rs 91 crore towards transport services to the companies owned by the Kartha family. (Agencies)

## Rs 1,150 Cr Cocaine Seized Off Gujarat Coast In International Drug Bust; 3 Foreigners Held

**AHMEDABAD, MAY 27:** In a major drug haul, the Gujarat ATS and the Indian Coast Guard have busted an international trafficking network, seizing 115 kg of cocaine valued at nearly Rs 1,150 crore from a vessel off Mundra port, and apprehended three foreign nationals, officials said on Wednesday.

The consignment travelled through Latin America, Mexico, the United States and Karachi (in Pakistan) before the cargo vessel 'Europe' anchored near Mundra port in Kutch district, Gujarat's Director General of Police KLN Rao said at a press conference here.

According to one of the accused, the contraband was loaded onto the vessel in Brazil and secretly hidden in the motor room in November last year without the knowledge of other crew members, the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) said.

While a Tanzanian national named Juma Nasir Omar was arrested from the boat, the Gujarat ATS, with help from Delhi police, apprehended from the national capital's Dwarka area two other foreign nationals who were supposed to take the delivery, he said.

Search was on for another suspect, also a Tanzanian national, who jumped into the sea during the operation, the DGP added.

GPS devices, satellite communication equipment and AirTags were also seized from the consignment bags, indicating the contraband may have been electronically tracked during transit, officials said.

The Anti-Terrorist Squad and the Coast Guard jointly carried out the operation following specific intelligence inputs gathered by an ATS officer about a large consignment of cocaine being smuggled from Brazil via the maritime route, Rao said.

Acting on the intelligence, ATS officers rushed to Mundra on the night of May 25 and coordinated with the Coast Guard for a joint operation.

"In the early hours of May



26, the joint team intercepted the vessel 'Europe' at the outer anchorage and initiated a search operation," Rao said.

During the operation, the team learned that six bags containing narcotics had been concealed aboard the ship. As the Coast Guard vessel approached, two crew members on deck allegedly threw several heavy bags into the sea.

Officials said five floating bags were successfully recovered from the water despite poor visibility, while one bag could not be traced. Preliminary testing of samples using a drug detection kit confirmed the substance to be cocaine, they said.

A total of around 115 packets weighing nearly 115 kg were recovered from the five bags, the officials said. The estimated value of the seized cocaine is around Rs 1,150 crore, calculated at roughly Rs 10 crore per kg in the international market, they said.

The ATS team also recovered four Apple AirTags from the seized bags, indicating the narcotics consignment may have been electronically tracked during transit, Rao said.

Two Tanzanian nationals aboard the vessel, identified as Ngingite Nassoro Jumanne and Juma Nasir Omar, were allegedly trans-

ported the cocaine shipment, the DGP said.

The contraband was meant to be handed over at sea and delivered further to two Delhi-based persons — Kelvin Chukwuama and Bairunge James — who are Nigerian and Ugandan nationals, respectively, an ATS release said.

"Currently, three accused are in police custody — one apprehended from the vessel and the two intended receivers detained from Delhi," Rao said. The ATS teams, with assistance from Delhi Police, caught two suspects from the Dwarka area of Delhi and were bringing them to Gujarat for further investigation, he said.

One of the crew members working in the vessel's steam motor room, who had allegedly hidden the cocaine consignment inside the ship, jumped into the sea after spotting the ATS and Coast Guard teams, the DGP said.

Search operations involving the Coast Guard are still underway to trace the missing suspect, Tanzanian national Jumanne, he added.

During interrogation, Omar disclosed that the cocaine had been loaded onto the vessel in Brazil and secretly concealed in the motor room in November 2025 without the knowledge of the other crew members, the ATS release said Omar fur-

ther told that he was supposed to deliver the consignment as instructed by his handler, it said.

On questions about the narcotics' final destination after Delhi and whether the drugs were intended for distribution within India or abroad, Rao said further details would emerge only after sustained interrogation of the accused. Officials also recovered GPS and satellite communication devices concealed inside the boat's steering room during searches carried out after boarding the vessel.

The seized contraband and related electronic equipment have been taken into custody and further investigation under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act is underway.

The operation also involved personnel from the Special Operations Group (SOG) in Kutch-Bhuj, Coastal Police, Marine Police and the Mundra Port Authority. Officials described the seizure as a major success against international maritime drug smuggling and an example of close coordination between multiple security and enforcement agencies. This was the 15th successful anti-narcotics operation jointly conducted by the ICG and ATS Gujarat in the last five years, they added. (Agencies)

## Climate change linked with rise in antibiotic resistance in salmonella: Analysis

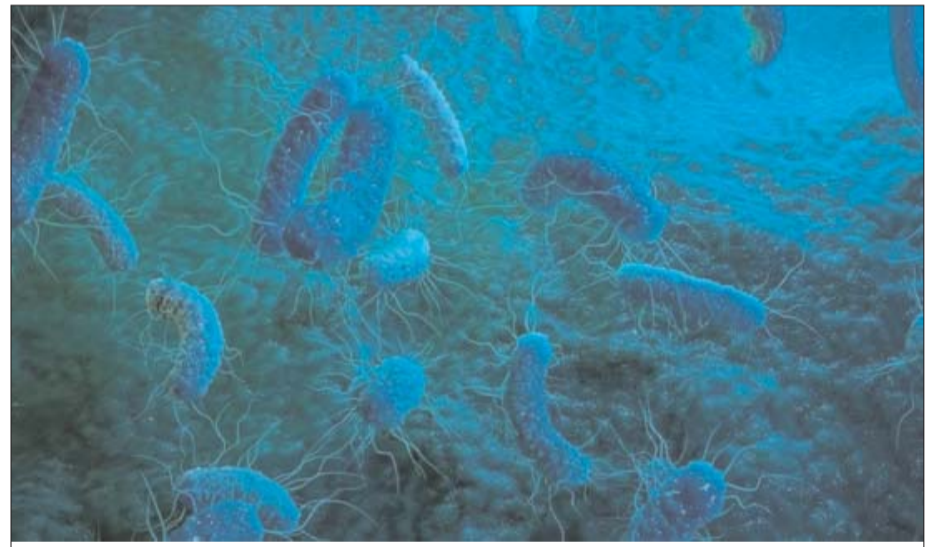
**NEW DELHI, MAY 27:** An analysis has found that climate change is associated with a 10 per cent increase in antibiotic resistance genes in salmonella bacteria.

Findings published in The Lancet Planetary Health journal show that 82 per cent of the countries studied saw increases in antibiotic resistance genes in salmonella, an enteric bacteria that can cause food poisoning and typhoid fever, with the strongest climate-associated increases occurring in the Middle East and North Africa, followed by South Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Bacteria develop antibiotic, or antimicrobial, resistance when they become immune to the very drugs designed to kill them.

Researchers, including those from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, also found that antimicrobial resistance, or AMR, does not just increase steadily with rising temperatures, but that the number of resistance genes changes over time in a more complicated way depending on both temperature and rainfall.

The result suggests that environmental changes can



speed up how bacteria adapt to antibiotics, they said.

The analysis of more than 480,000 samples of salmonella genomes collected between 1940 and 2023 from 139 countries and regions also showed that the global average abundance of antibiotic resistance genes in Salmonella has increased by 38 per cent during the study period.

"Climate change is associated with a 10 per cent global rise in the abundance of salmonella ARGs (antimicrobial resistance genes), with increases observed in 82 (82 per cent) of 100 countries,"

the authors wrote.

Studies have shown a link between how an intensifying climate change can fuel antibiotic resistance, suggesting that increasing temperatures and more frequent extreme weather events can increase prevalence of infectious diseases and the need for antibiotics and antimicrobials for treatment.

The study also modelled how antibiotic resistance genes in salmonella change by 2100 under varied climate emissions scenario.

Results suggested that if countries meet low-emission climate targets and

strengthen efforts to use antibiotics responsibly, levels of resistance genes could be 24 per cent lower, compared to the highest-emission scenario.

The authors said the findings highlight the need to consider climate change when monitoring and addressing AMR.

They added that a stronger climate action, alongside responsible antibiotic use and an improved disease surveillance across humans, animals, and the environment, will be important in limiting the future spread of AMR. (AGENCIES)

## Prolonged fever, weakness and anaemia may indicate blood cancer: Doctors

**JAIPUR, May 27:** Doctors have cautioned that symptoms such as recurrent fever, weakness and anaemia that persist despite treatment should not be ignored as they may indicate blood cancer.

Ahead of World Blood Cancer Day, experts from Bhagwan Mahaveer Cancer Hospital said early detec-

tion and timely treatment can help patients recover fully and lead normal lives.

Blood cancer and bone marrow transplant specialist Dr Prakash Singh Shekhawat said early diagnosis plays a key role in successful treatment, adding that modern therapies have improved recovery rates significantly.

Paediatric haematologist Dr Shivani Mathur said children with blood cancer can be completely cured if treatment starts on time, adding that many treated patients are now living healthy and active lives.

Doctors also highlighted that advanced treatments such as immune-based

therapy and bone marrow transplant are being used to treat serious blood-related diseases. They stressed that lack of awareness often delays diagnosis and advised people to consult a specialist if symptoms like prolonged fever, weakness or unusual lumps persist despite treatment. (Agencies)