

You Are India's Past, Be Careful About How You Treat India's Future: Rahul To Modi, Shah

NEW DELHI, JULY 31: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah of threatening Gen Z, and said that the duo is "India's past" and should be careful about how they treat the country's future.

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha also alleged that Modi and Shah are behind the filing of FIRs against student protesters and taking down their social media accounts.

"PM Modi and Amit Shah â€“you cannot threaten Gen Z into silence. First you broke their bones. Now you are filing FIRs and taking down their accounts," Gandhi said on X.

"You are India's past. Be careful about how you treat India's future," the former Congress chief said.

The remarks came after Modi on Thursday said it has become necessary to bring comprehensive reforms in the education system, both at



the Centre and in the states, to tackle the menace of paper leaks, asserting that there would be no mercy shown to gangs playing with the future of children. Newspaper Delivery Service

In a late evening video message on Instagram, shortly after Parliament passed a Bill to amend the anti-paper leak law, the prime minister said that leaks in various examinations have become a major challenge not only for stu-

dents but also for the Centre and many states.

The Centre and many states have been facing the paper leak problem for several years. The menace has threatened the future of children appearing in various examinations.

"Therefore, it had become necessary to bring comprehensive changes to the education system to deal with the problem," the prime minister said.

Referring to the anti-paper

leak Bill, which was passed by the Lok Sabha on Wednesday and the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, Modi said that as promised, a strong law is now in place to tackle the issue.

"We will not spare the paper leak gangs, paper leak mafia and those playing with the future of children," the prime minister said.

Modi also said that a task force has been constituted, fast-track courts are being set up, and suggestions are being taken from states to strengthen the examination process and prevent irregularities.

Parliament on Thursday passed The Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, to amend the 2024 anti-paper leak law by introducing stricter punishments against paper leaks.

The Bill was cleared in the Rajya Sabha with a voice vote amid a walkout by several opposition parties from the INDIA bloc. (Agencies)

PM Modi mourns loss of lives in Bhiwandi building collapse; announces ex gratia relief



NEW DELHI, JUL 31: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday expressed grief over the loss of lives due to the collapse of a building at Bhiwandi in Maharashtra's Thane district, and announced an ex gratia relief of Rs 2 lakh to the next of kin of

those who died and Rs 50,000 to the injured.

At least nine people were killed after a four-storey building collapsed in Bhiwandi on Thursday night.

"Pained to hear about the loss of lives due to the collapse of a building in Thane,

Maharashtra. My thoughts are with the bereaved families in this hour of grief. May the injured recover at the earliest," Modi said in a post on X. The prime minister also announced that an ex gratia relief of Rs 2 lakh from the PM National Relief Fund

would be given to the next of kin of each deceased, while Rs 50,000 would be given to each injured.

The building had been declared "dangerous" by the civic authorities, and repair work was underway on the premises. (Agencies)

If shred of shame left, get Amit Shah to resign: Kharge to PM Modi

NEW DELHI, JULY 31: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday accused the Centre of acting out of a sense of vendetta against students by filing FIRs against them and subjecting them to forced detentions, as he asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to get Home Minister Amit Shah to resign.

Kharge said the youth withdrew their agitation on the condition that no action would be taken against them, but now the BJP governments have reneged on their own word.

"Narendra Modi ji, 10 days ago, your Government cracked down on the youth using lathis, batons and pellet



guns," Kharge said, referring to the crackdown on agitators by security forces during the July 20 'Sansad Chalo'

march led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), and on student demonstrators in other parts of the country

protesting against the NEET paper leak issue. Epaper Subscription Service

"Now that the students have withdrawn their protest, you are acting out of a sense of vendetta by filing FIRs against them and subjecting them to forced detentions," Kharge alleged in a post on X.

"The youth withdrew their agitation on the condition that no action would be taken against them; now, your Governments have reneged on their own word," he said.

Social media accounts of youth are being blocked, and young women are being "doxxed", the Congress president said.

CHANDIGARH, JUL 30 : Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday accused the Congress and INDIA bloc parties of double standards, saying what they project is remarkably different from their actual conduct.

"Hathi ke dant dikhanе ke aur, khaane ke aur (An elephant has different teeth for eating, and showing)" Saini said, asserting the proverb aptly describes the politics of the opposition parties.

Speaking with mediapersons on the sidelines of the concluding ceremony of the 77th state-level Van Mahotsav in Karnal on Thursday, Saini alleged that while the Congress and its allies make lofty promises, their actions tell a different story.

Targeting the AAP-led Punjab government over the paper leak issue, Saini said it was extremely unfortunate, and questioned the "silence" of the Bhagwant Mann dispensation and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. Newspaper Delivery Service

He said Punjab's youth are protesting on the streets over the issue, yet neither the state government nor the Congress has shown any concern.

It has also exposed the AAP government's failure to safeguard students' interests, Saini said, adding that this has not only jeopardised the future of Punjab's youth, but also left young aspirants feeling humiliated and betrayed. In contrast, he said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has demonstrated his commitment to protecting the future of the country's youth by enacting a stringent anti-paper leak law.

Opposition parties in Punjab have been targeting the AAP government alleging multiple examination paper leaks in the past four-and-a-half years following detection of a cheating racket in a recent pharmacy officer recruitment examination. Executive Branch

However, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has stood his ground, asserting that not even a single examination paper has been leaked in the state during his tenure.

Recalling an earlier statement by AAP leader Manish Sisodia, Saini claimed the former Delhi deputy chief minister had publicly declared that if a paper leak occurred under an AAP government, the education minister would be the first to resign. "Today, they are silent," Saini lashed out.

Drawing a comparison between the Congress and BJP governments on the issue of examination reforms, Saini said paper leaks were discussed in the Lok Sabha as early as 1986 during Congress rule, but no law was enacted to address the problem.

In contrast, he said, the BJP-led Centre had enacted a stringent anti-paper leak law in 2024 to eliminate examination malpractices.

He said the Lok Sabha on Wednesday approved a bill to amend the anti-paper leak law, introducing even stricter punishment, and asserted that the Union government is "open to learning from experiences".

Taking a swipe at Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Saini said Rahul Gandhi has no substantial issue to raise against the Centre, and instead spends his time making baseless allegations.

He asserted that a comparison between the Congress' 55 years in power and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 12

years, clearly demonstrates the difference in governance, development and commitment to public welfare.

On the Punjab Assembly polls scheduled to be held early next year, Saini expressed confidence that the BJP would form the next government in Punjab.

He said the promises made by the AAP government remain unfulfilled.

Just as Haryana is witnessing unprecedented development under a "double-engine" government, Punjab too would witness faster development, better governance and greater opportunities for its youth once BJP comes to power, Saini said.

Speaking on environmental conservation, the chief minister said Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign to strengthen environmental protection and promote cleaner air.

The prime minister is leading several transformative initiatives for environmental conservation, while the Haryana government is also implementing effective measures to protect the environment, he asserted. (PTI)

Kanwar Yatra begins amid multi-layered security across states; over 4 cr devotees to arrive in Haridwar

NEW DELHI, JUL 30 : The ushering in of the holy month of Shravan marked the beginning of Kanwar Yatra on Thursday. Over the next fortnight ending August 11, lakhs of devotees shall journey to the banks of the Ganga in Haridwar and adjoining areas, collecting holy water in earthen pots ('kanwars') which they will carry to their native haunts, to offer at local shrines of Lord Shiva.

With the commencement of one of the largest annual pilgrimages in north India, a host of measures have been rolled out in states which are expected to witness pilgrims' movement.

At the centre of it all, Haridwar expects the arrival of more than four crore devotees over the next fortnight. Saffron-clad pilgrims have already started making their way to Ganga ghats here -- the teeming multitudes attributing a pulsating saffron hue to streets while fervent chants of "Bam Bhole" reverberated across the holy city.

The administration has made elaborate arrangements for the convenience and security of devotees in view of the expected heavy influx.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and senior officials have held meetings to review security and coordination has also been established with officials in neighbouring states to ensure smooth conduct of the pilgrimage, officials said.

Haridwar Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Navneet Singh said police forces from other districts have been called in to

strengthen the security grid. In a first, 'Cyber ??Commandos' have been deployed to monitor social media and take immediate action against misleading, fake, and AI-generated content, and coordination has been established with social media platforms and relevant agencies for this purpose.

Extensive traffic management measures have been rolled out to ensure minimum hassle for pilgrims, while several schools have been shut in Haridwar district in view of pilgrim movement, District Magistrate Mayur Dixit said.

The administration is taking all necessary measures to ensure facilities for Kanwar pilgrims, and the food safety department has been instructed to curb sale of adulterated food items, he added.

With lakhs of devotees -- either local or in transit -- expected to pass through Uttar Pradesh, authorities have rolled out extensive security and logistical measures for the Kanwar Yatra, deploying AI-enabled surveillance and additional security personnel, and setting up medical camps and dedicated control rooms to ensure "zero incidents and zero accidents".

On the first day of Shravan, thousands thronged the Kashi Vishwanath temple in Varanasi. Temple authorities said elaborate arrangements had been arranged to handle the heavy rush.

Inspector General (Law and Order) L R Kumar said a dedicated Kanwar control room had been established at the police headquarters in Lucknow for round-the-

clock monitoring of the pilgrimage.

"The control room is monitoring the movement of Kanwariyas and the law-and-order situation through live CCTV feeds, drone surveillance and field inputs from across the state. If any situation develops anywhere, immediate assistance will be coordinated," he told PTI Videos. Geographic Reference

He said integrated command centres had been set up in every district, while quick response teams, anti-sabotage checks and social media monitoring were also part of the security grid to counter rumours and ensure prompt action.

In Muzaffarnagar, one of the busiest transit points for Kanwar pilgrims, around 4,000 police personnel, including Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) and flood units, have been deployed, while extensive traffic curbs are in place to ensure uninterrupted movement of pilgrims.

Muzaffarnagar Chief Medical Officer Dr Sunil Tewatia said 45 medical camps, 78 ambulances and 14 bike ambulances had been stationed along Kanwar routes, while 100 hospital beds had been reserved for pilgrims.

At Bareilly, Chief Secretary S P Goyal and Director General of Police Rajeev Krishna reviewed preparations with senior administrative and police officers from nine districts of the Bareilly and Moradabad divisions.

Krishna said district magistrates and senior superinten-

dents of police presented their security plans, deployment strategies and lessons learnt from previous years.

Calling the Kanwar Yatra one of Uttar Pradesh's largest religious gatherings, he said the administration had reviewed arrangements on routes, including AI-enabled CCTV surveillance, barricading, parking, traffic diversions, drinking water, lighting, medical camps, selfie points and social media monitoring. Calculators & Reference Tools

In Ghaziabad, District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar Mandar said comprehensive arrangements had been made to ensure a safe and orderly pilgrimage.

He said 6,970 streetlights had been installed along Kanwar routes, roads had been repaired, medical camps and ambulance services activated, while food safety teams have been instructed to inspect eateries. Adequate parking, drinking water, toilets and rest areas have also been arranged for pilgrims, he added.

With a large number of Kanwar pilgrims expected to pass through the national capital, Delhi Traffic Police has issued an advisory announcing restrictions on heavy vehicles and closure of key stretches Road during the peak pilgrimage period.

Delhi Police has also stepped up security arrangements across the capital to ensure smooth movement of Kanwariyas. The security grid has been strengthened citywide with additional personnel deployed along major Kanwar routes across Delhi.

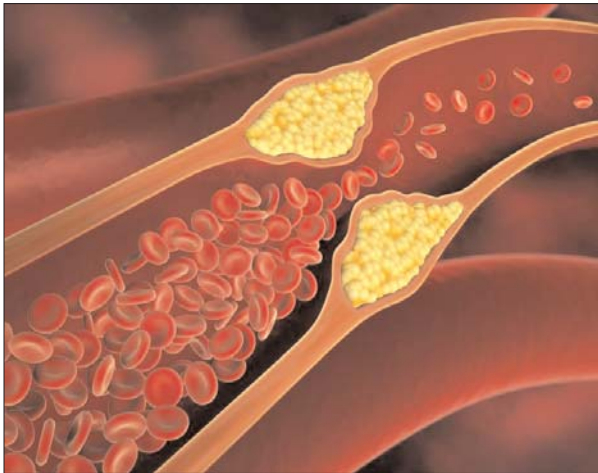
One-Third Of Global 'Bad' Cholesterol Burden Occurred In India, China In 2023: Study

NEW DELHI, JUL 31: In 2023, high LDL or 'bad' cholesterol was responsible for 3.6 million deaths -- 6 per cent of all deaths -- and 90.7 million years of healthy life lost, with one-third of the global LDL-C burden occurring in India and China, according to a study.

Findings published in The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) show that absolute LDL cholesterol (LDL-C) burden has increased since 1990 due to demographic changes and shifted towards middle-sociodemographic countries, with population growth and ageing driving the increasing burden, researchers said.

"Despite declining age-standardised rates, the absolute LDL-C burden has increased since 1990 due to demographic changes and has shifted toward middle-sociodemographic countries," authors forming the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) 2023 LDL Cholesterol Collaborators said.

"In 2023, elevated LDL-C accounted for 3.6 million deaths (6.0 per cent of global mortality) and 90.7 million DALYs (3.2 per cent of



DALYs)," they said. One DALY or disability adjusted life year equates to one year of healthy life lost.

"One-third of the global LDL-C burden occurred in India and China," the team added.

Using data from the GBD 2023, the researchers quantified the burden attributable to high LDL-C among adults aged 25 years or older across 204 countries and territories by age and sex from 1990 to 2023.

1990 and 2023, the number of adults aged 25 or more with LDL-C levels of 54 milligrams per decilitre or greater increased from about

2.5 billion to 4.6 billion, the study estimated.

Age-standardised average of LDL-C in 2023 was found to be lowest in Burkina Faso, Lesotho, Somalia, and Rwanda (under 80 milligrams per decilitre) and highest in Serbia, Slovenia, Russia, Norway, and Austria (over 135 milligrams per decilitre).

High LDL-C was also the second leading driver of cardiovascular disease mortality and a top-10 contributor to the global all-cause burden in 2023.

The same year, high LDL-C accounted for 6.0 per cent of all-cause deaths, 8.1 per cent

of noncommunicable disease deaths, and 18.9 per cent of deaths due to cardiovascular disease, the researchers found.

High LDL-C also contributed to nearly one-third of deaths due to ischaemic heart disease (2.7 million) and 27 per cent of ischaemic stroke deaths (0.87 million). Blood supply to the heart muscle is restricted in ischaemic heart disease.

The researchers said statins remain the cornerstone of LDL-C management, though real-world impact of the drug is constrained by under use, even where available.

Barriers include the asymptomatic nature of hypercholesterolemia, low awareness and costs of testing and treatment, along with inconsistent supply, health system inefficiencies, and concerns about adverse effects, they said.

Addressing the gaps requires a strengthening of primary care systems, improving access to affordable diagnostics and medications, and standardised, guideline-based treatment, the team said. (Agencies)