

Swayamsevaks leading India to ultimate glory with 'nation first' motto: Nitin Nabin

NEW DELHI, OCT 20: BJP president Nitin Nabin on Tuesday congratulated all volunteers of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on its foundation day, saying they are steadfastly working with "complete dedication and commitment" to organise society and lead India to its ultimate glory, holding the "Nation First" motto supreme.

The service activities undertaken by the swayamsevaks (volunteers) across the country are strengthening the values of "service, cooperation and social responsibility" in society, Nabin said in a post on X.

"This glorious tradition of service, discipline, and patriotism will continue to infuse new energy into the resolve



for nation-building by empowering the sentiments of national service and selfless dedication in future generations," the BJP chief added. Kesav Baliram Hedgewar, a doctor by education, founded the RSS on September 27, 1925, on Vijayadashmi in Nagpur. Extending "heartfelt best wishes" to all swayamsevaks

on the RSS foundation day, Nabin said on X, "With the motto 'Nation First' held supreme, the Sangh's swayamsevaks are steadfastly working with complete dedication and commitment to organise society and lead India to its ultimate glory."

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"This glorious tradition of service, discipline, and patriotism will continue to infuse new energy into the resolve for nation-building by empowering the sentiments of national service and selfless dedication in future generations," Nabin added. (PTI)

Alberta voters reject push toward separation from Canada



EDMONTON, OCT 20: Voters in Canada's oil-rich Alberta province have overwhelmingly rejected a proposal to begin the legal process that could eventually lead to a referendum on separation from Canada, delivering a major victory for Prime Minister Mark Carney and supporters of national unity.

Unofficial results from Elections Alberta showed about 76% of voters chose for Alberta to remain a province of Canada, while nearly 24% backed starting the constitutional process for a future binding referendum on separation. More than 1.5 million votes had been counted by Tuesday. The official results are due on October 29.

The October 19 vote was not itself a referendum on independence. Under the question approved for the ballot, Albertans were asked whether the province should remain in Canada or whether the Alberta government should begin the legal process required under the Canadian Constitution to hold a future binding referendum on separation. The result of the question was non-binding.

The decisive result gives Carney a political boost as he seeks to strengthen Canadian unity amid an ongoing trade dispute with the United States and President Donald Trump's repeated rhetoric about Canada, including his suggestion that it could become the 51st US state.

"Albertans made a clear choice. They chose unity, to build together, and to take care of each other," Carney said after the results emerged. He had urged Albertans to reject the separation proposal during a campaign stop in Edmonton, warning that breaking away would bring years of uncertainty.

some campaigners had identified as important benchmarks for demonstrating that the movement had become a major political force.

Supporters of separation argued that Alberta's economic strength, particularly its energy resources, would allow it to prosper outside Canada.

Dustin Degenhardt, a voter in Wainwright, said Albertans had long been mistreated by Ottawa.

"Alberta has essentially been treated as, you know, a colony," he said after voting.

Taylor MacIsaac, another Wainwright voter who supported separation, said she believed Alberta would benefit from becoming independent.

Others argued that the separation debate was taking place at the wrong time, particularly as Canada faces pressure from Washington.

Dave Malka, 59, of Edmonton, criticised the cost of what he described as a "referendum on a referendum", arguing that money could instead have been spent on health care.

"With Trump threatening Canada, it seems to be happening at the absolute worst time when we should be united; instead we're fighting among ourselves," he said.

Jake Graham, 35, of Calgary, attended a Carney rally wearing maple leaf pants and a Canada hockey jacket. He said he hoped the result

would put the issue to rest.

"I hope this squashes this for a long time to come and that it's clear and decisive, that these grumblings disappear for a while and we can be a united Canada," he said.

The vote was held against the backdrop of Trump's trade war with Canada and his repeated comments about annexing the country. The issue allowed Carney, who grew up in Edmonton, to frame the Alberta vote as part of a wider debate about Canada's place in North America.

The referendum also included nine other non-binding questions dealing with issues including immigration, eligibility for provincially funded services, voting requirements and constitutional powers. Those questions were separate from the separation issue and their results were still being counted.

Despite the defeat, Alberta's separatist movement is unlikely to disappear immediately. Separatist leaders have argued that the campaign itself succeeded in bringing the issue into mainstream political debate, while continuing to point to grievances over federal energy policy and the distribution of Canada's economic resources.

For now, however, the result is clear: Albertans have rejected the first step towards a future separation referendum and voted overwhelmingly to remain part of Canada.

The outcome represents a significant victory for Carney's unity campaign and leaves Smith facing the challenge of balancing demands for greater provincial autonomy with the clear preference expressed by voters to remain within Confederation.

South Korea to withdraw some Kyiv embassy staff as row over POW transfer deepens

SEOUL, OCT 20: South Korea said Tuesday it will withdraw some staff from its embassy in Kyiv, deepening a diplomatic row over Ukraine's announcement last month of a transfer of two North Korean prisoners of war that Seoul says was meant to be secret.

The diplomatic dispute between the countries began after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy disclosed the prisoners' transfer during a Sept. 23 speech at the United Nations. South Korea has accused Ukraine of violating a nondisclosure agreement, but Ukraine denies the countries reached such a deal, further angering Seoul.

South Korea recalled its ambassador to Ukraine earlier this month in protest. Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Heorhii Tykhyi told local media at the time that Kyiv remains open to "constructive dialogue" and that "diplomacy must prevail over emotions."

South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesperson Park Doosoon said Tuesday that the withdrawal of additional embassy staff was due to Ukraine's "lack of constructive steps" to address Seoul's grievances as well as concerns about safety amid intensifying Russian attacks.



Park did not specify how many staff members would withdraw or when. He said South Korea would keep its charge d'affaires and essential personnel in Kyiv to maintain contact with Ukrainian authorities and assist South Korean citizens. "We are still maintaining communication, and, as I mentioned earlier, our goal is to seek an amicable resolution through close consultation with the Ukrainian side," Park said. "We conveyed our clear position and requests over the pending issues between the two countries through various channels. It's now up to the Ukrainian side to provide a response or take appropriate action on those matters." The two soldiers Ukraine

handed over to South Korea were among thousands of North Korean troops deployed to support Russia's war against Ukraine. Captured in early 2025, they said in media interviews that they hoped to resettle in South Korea, fearing persecution if they were returned to the North.

South Korea, which in its constitution claims to be the legitimate government of the entire Korean Peninsula, has long accepted and financially supported North Korean defectors.

South Korean officials said the nondisclosure agreement was intended to protect the soldiers and their relatives in North Korea, although some experts say President Lee Jae Myung's liberal government

Manipur: 48-hour strike over killing of 3 Meitei people hits normal life in valley districts

IMPHAL, OCT 20: Normal life was disrupted across five valley districts of Manipur on Tuesday as markets, educational institutions and business establishments remained closed during a 48-hour statewide shutdown called to protest the killing of three Meitei civilians by suspected militants.

The shutdown, called by the Native People's Committee Manipur (NPCM), began at midnight on Monday and is scheduled to continue through Wednesday. Public transport remained off the roads, although a limited number of private vehicles were seen operating.

The shutdown affected Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur, Thoubal and Kakching districts, with most shops, markets, schools and business establishments remaining closed.

The protest followed Monday's attack on a group of Meitei villagers who had gone to the Sunurok hills near the Imphal East-Kangpokpi border to collect firewood. According to police, unidentified armed men opened fire on the group,



killing three people and injuring three others. Security forces subsequently launched search operations in the area using drones, sniffer dogs and other surveillance equipment.

The deceased have been identified as Lairenlakpam Inaobi, 57, Arubam Ronin, 35, and Kshetrimayum Susil, 32. The injured were taken to a hospital in Imphal for treatment.

The killings triggered angry protests in Imphal on Monday, with residents carrying the bodies of two victims to the official residence of Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh. Police later used tear gas to disperse protesters and shifted the

Khourai Lamlong in Imphal East on Monday night.

Security has been strengthened across Imphal and other vulnerable areas following the latest violence. Chief Minister Khemchand has directed authorities to intensify security measures, while security forces continue search operations for those responsible for the attack.

The latest violence has raised fresh concerns over a possible escalation in Manipur, where an ethnic conflict between the valley-based Meitei and hill-based Kuki communities erupted in May 2023.

The conflict has claimed at least 306 lives and left 49 people missing, according to the figures cited in the latest reports, while thousands have been displaced from their homes. Recent violence has also involved tensions between Kuki and Naga communities.

The situation remained tense on Tuesday, with authorities maintaining a heightened security presence as the shutdown continued across the valley districts.

Gwyneth Paltrow to star in Netflix's drama series 'The Apology'

OS ANGELES, Oct 20: Hollywood star Gwyneth Paltrow is teaming with "Another Round" Oscar-winner Thomas Vinterberg for her first-ever lead television role with "The Apology", which has received a two-season order at Netflix.

The A24 drama series, will feature the "Shakespeare in Love" star, an Oscar winner, as Evelyn Amspoker, whose son was murdered 18 years ago in a cold case that gripped the nation.

"When a stranger suddenly appears and confesses, justice finally seems possible until Evelyn and her husband, Caleb, learn the killer may get off with a reduced sentence. Faced with that



unbearable truth, Evelyn and Caleb decide to take matters into their own hands." The show hails from creator, showrunner and writer Joe Murtagh of "The Woman in the Wall" fame and Vinterberg. Joe Hippos of Cut To executive produces alongside Murtagh, Vinterberg and Paltrow, reported Variety.

Paltrow is known for her work in movies such as "Emma", "Shakespeare in

Love", "The Talented Mr. Ripley", "Iron Man" and "Marty Supreme".

On TV, Paltrow had a five-episode arc on "Glee" as Holly Holiday and a supporting role in Ryan Murphy's Netflix series "The Politician."

This is the first time that she is leading a project on small screen.

The announcement for the project comes at a time when Netflix has been in the headlines for a major shake-up at the company, which saw chief content officer Bela Bajaria ousted and replaced with Peter Rice. Head of film Dan Lin has also left the company which is laying off about 1,000 people. (PTI)

Death toll rises to 60 in Houthi strike on Yemen training camp in deadliest attack in months

CAIRO, OCT 20 (AP): The death toll from a Houthi missile strike on a government military camp in southern Yemen rose to 60 people, primarily new recruits, making it the deadliest strike since fighting in the country began escalating three months ago, Yemeni officials said Tuesday.

At least a dozen people were still missing a day after the Iranian-backed rebels hit the al-Alam training camp in the southern province of Shabwa with ballistic

missiles, three officials said.

Monday's strike was part of a recent surge of fighting in Yemen, which started when forces from the internationally-recognised government and Saudi-led coalition launched airstrikes on Houthi-held Sanaa International Airport in July, shattering a 2022 ceasefire deal that largely stopped fighting in the country's civil war.

The Houthis have also fired missiles and drones on Saudi Arabia, which has struggled to counter the Houthi attacks, even

with far superior US-supplied arms.

The strike on the al-Alam camp hit while recruits were lining up in formation for a training session. Videos from the area circulated online and were analysed by The Associated Press and showed many motionless bodies lying on the sandy ground of the camp.

More than 200 other recruits were also wounded, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to brief the media.

One of the officials, from the local government, said several suffered serious injuries and were transferred to hospitals in other provinces in life-threatening condition. He said at least 15 of the recruits killed were from a single Yemeni tribe.

In televised comments aired by the Saudi-owned Al Arabiya satellite news television, Shabwa governor Awad Ibn al-Wazir said the dead were new recruits from across Shabwa being trained to provide security in the province

and not combat operations.

"These recruits have never before participated in any mobilisation or on any front," he said. "They have no connection to the front lines... they were (part of) a non-offensive security force."

The Shabwa provincial government said in a statement Monday that the Houthis fired three ballistic missiles on the camp. The Houthis claimed the attack, saying they had killed and wounded dozens but did not provide further details.

The camp, which was previously used by a militia backed by the United Arab Emirates, is located in the Jordan district, north of the provincial capital of Ataq. It sits on a crucial supply line connecting to the government-controlled province of Marib.

Shabwa and Marib, along with neighbouring Hadramawt province, contain what has been dubbed the Yemeni government's "triangle of power," a strategic area in which the country's oil and gas production is located.

On Tuesday, authorities in Saudi Arabia issued an attack warning for the capital area in the late morning, followed by the sound of an explosion in northern Riyadh where the King Khalid International Airport is located. The airport has come under repeated Houthi attacks this month, forcing the facility to suspend its operations.

The all-clear was given a short time later, and Saudi Arabia said a ballistic missile fired by the Houthis had been intercepted.