

Shah meets families of drug-linked victims in Pb

CHANDIGARH: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday met the family of a 40-year-old man in Punjab's Gurdaspur who died in an incident allegedly linked to the drug menace.

Shah arrived in Punjab as part of his day-long visit to Gurdaspur, Sangrur and Mansa to meet the family members of those who died in incidents linked to the state's drug scourge.

After his chopper landed in Batala, Shah went straight to Mari Panwan village, where he met the family of Bikramjit Singh, who was killed on October 15.

Villagers have claimed that Bikramjit was targeted for opposing drug peddling in his area, but police said the murder was the fallout of a scuffle between two **► P11**

Modi lauds RSS's 'century of service' All institutions, parties should unite for national interest: PM

In Ram Rajya, there's no discrimination against anyone and everyone receives justice and equal opportunities

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday reached out to political parties, urging all to join hands in national interest and to fulfil the aspirations of the people, amidst the government's efforts to build consensus for the passage of the delimitation-linked Women's Reservation Bill.

Participating in Vijaya Dashami celebrations in the national capital, Modi also



urged the people to renew a pledge to identify and defeat the enemies of India and asked them to work with the motto of "Nation First".

The prime minister said the forces that inflict harm on the country, the people who divide society and the mindset "that hates our culture, all these are the enemies of the nation".

The prime minister's comments come in the **► P11**

No justification, no dual standards on terrorism: Rajnath Singh at SCO

DUSHANBE: India on Tuesday said that there can be "no justification" for terrorism and "no double standards" in addressing the menace, as it called on the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states to make concerted efforts to "dismantle" the entire "ecosystem of terrorism."

Addressing the 25th Meeting of the Council of Heads of Government of the SCO in Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also said that terrorism radicalises societies and deprives youth of the opportunities they deserve.

"There can be no justification for terrorism, no double standards in addressing it, and no place for those who finance, support, or provide safe havens to terrorists," Singh told the gathering, which included Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar, who was seated at the same table.

Singh underlined that terrorism results in the loss of innocent lives and disrupts investment and commerce.

The minister called upon the SCO members "to make concerted efforts to dismantle the entire ecosystem of terrorism," describing the menace as "one of the gravest threats" to peace and development.

In his address, Singh also recalled the deliberations at the SCO Summit in Bishkek in August-September 2026, when **► P11**



India flags arms tech transfer to terror-link hands

UNITED NATIONS: Voicing concern over the risk of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists, India has called on the global community to remain vigilant about the transfer of sensitive technology, particularly to those with a "record" of proliferation and terror links, a veiled reference to Pakistan.

Delivering India's statement at the UN General Assembly First Committee, which deals with disarmament and international **► P11**

Everlasting traits of “Sanatan” civilization in Farooq Abdullah dominates Dussehra celebration in Jammu

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: Chants of “Jai Shri Ram” reverberated across Jammu city on Tuesday as people celebrated Dussehra with traditional gaiety and religious fervour, burning large effigies of demon king Ravan, his brother Kumbhakarn and son Meghnad to mark the triumph of good over evil.

National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah and Jammu and Kashmir BJP president and MP Sat Sharma attended the main Vijayadashami function at Parade Ground in Jammu, where a grand Ramlila depicting the victory of Lord Ram over Ravan was staged before the burning of the effigies.

The presence of Dr Abdullah showed his secular credentials and everlasting traits of “Sanatan” civilization in former Chief Minister of erstwhile Jammu & Kashmir State.

Speaking at the function, Abdullah recalled the episode of Lord Ram's return after defeating Ravan and said the demon king's downfall was a reminder of the consequences of ego and arrogance.

"I am reminded of the time when Bhagwan Ram returned home. Mother asked him, 'You killed Ravan?' Ram replied, 'Mother, I did not kill Ravan. He was killed by ego and anger.'"

Asserting that anger and



ego consume even godly people, he said, "Ravan was well-versed in all four Vedas. He was a great scholar and also a great devotee of Lord Shiva. But pride and ego entered him, and he believed that he had become invincible. He had to be removed from this world."

He appealed to people to promote love, mutual respect

and family values, and urged parents to impart religious and moral education to their children.

"If we truly want to become good human beings, we must understand our religion. Religion shows us the right path," he said, adding that children should be taught English, mathematics and other subjects while also being introduced to their religious and cultural traditions.

Abdullah expressed hope that Jammu and Kashmir would prosper and move forward, saying people should support one another to achieve progress.

Jammu and Kashmir BJP president and MP Sat Sharma extended **► P11**

When local violence serves bigger design: Guarding against the ‘attempts’ to divide

RECENT ALLEGED ATTACKS ON DELHI–SRINAGAR BOUND BUSES WARRANT A PROBE INTO POSSIBLE PAK LINKS & THEIR MOTIVES

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: The recent alleged stone-pelting incidents involving Delhi–Srinagar passenger buses raise questions that extend beyond the immediate damage to vehicles. They call for a careful assessment of passenger safety, the possibility of commercial rivalry and whether the incidents could be connected. They also invite a broader security question: can an apparently local act of violence be exploited by forces seeking

to deepen mistrust among Indians? That possibility deserves examination, particularly in a region where security concerns and political sensitivities often intersect. But the answer must emerge from investigation rather than speculation.

The first incident occurred near a roadside dhaba in Haryana's Karnal district on October 17, when a dispute over parking reportedly escalated into a confrontation involving a Jammu and Kashmir-registered sleeper

bus. An elderly passenger and a dhaba employee were injured, and the vehicle sustained damage. Haryana Police arrested two men and maintained that their preliminary findings pointed to a parking dispute rather than a communal or anti-Kashmir attack. The following night, unidentified persons allegedly threw stones at another bus operated by the same company near Doraha in Punjab's Ludhiana district. A windowpane was damaged, but none of the approximately 35–40 passengers was injured. Punjab Police registered a case and began examining CCTV footage while coordinating with their counterparts in Haryana **► P11**

MLA Shagun Parihar named as BJYM’s national vice president



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JAMMU: The BJP announced national office-bearers for the party's Yuva Morcha on Tuesday, appointing seven youth leaders as national vice-presidents and three others as national general secretaries.

BJP Yuva Morcha president and Vadodara MP Hemang Joshi announced the names of the newly appointed functionaries of the party's youth wing.

"As per the directive of the Bharatiya Janata Party national president Nitin Nabin, the following members are being appointed as national office-bearers of BJP Yuva Morcha and (given) other responsibilities," Joshi said in a statement. Jammu and Kashmir MLA Shagun **► P11**

Grenade defused in controlled explosion

RAJOURI: A grenade was found abandoned near a temple in Rajouri district on Tuesday, prompting police to rush a bomb disposal squad to the spot, officials said.

The explosive device was noticed by some children playing with construction material near a temple in Chattyar village, the officials said.

They said the village head subsequently informed the local police station, following which a police team, **► P11**

India’s nuclear prog dedicated to “peaceful” purposes: Dr Jitendra



NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has said that India's nuclear programme is dedicated to peaceful purposes and not warfare, reaffirming the vision that has guided the country's nuclear journey since its inception.

In an exclusive conversation on the sidelines of 'Bloomberg Economy Forum 2026', the Minister said nuclear energy would

ONE HAS TO BE INTELLIGENT ENOUGH TO USE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

play an increasingly important role in meeting India's future energy requirements, including the growing demand for reliable electricity to support Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data centres.

Recalling the vision of Dr. Homi Bhabha, the architect of India's **► P11**



Darbar Move: All offices to reopen in Jammu on Nov 2

■ EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government will move to winter capital Jammu in the first week of November as part of the biannual Darbar Move.

"The offices observing five days' week shall close at Srinagar on 30th October, 2026 (Friday) after office hours, and the offices observing six days' week shall close on 31st October, 2026 (Saturday) after office **► P11**

Rubio, Jaishankar discuss energy, defence sectors amid friction in India-US relations

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday held wide-ranging talks largely focusing on cooperation in the energy and defence sectors against the backdrop of continuing friction in bilateral ties.

The Jaishankar-Rubio meeting took place shortly after the top US diplomat landed in Mumbai on a three-day India visit that came nearly five months after his first trip to the country as the Secretary of State.

Before his talks with Jaishankar, Rubio visited the Taj memorial and laid a wreath in honour of the victims of the horrific 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks that included six American citizens.

"In Mumbai, Indian External



Affairs Minister @DrSJaishankar and I discussed energy security and defense cooperation while reaffirming the importance of advancing the U.S.-India strategic partnership," the US Secretary of State said on social media.

The top diplomat also answered questions from the media on the India-US energy ties as well **► P11**

MBBS, BDS intern begin strike in GMC

JAMMU: The MBBS and BDS intern doctors on Monday resumed their indefinite strike at Government Medical College (GMC) in Jammu, demanding an increase in their monthly stipend from Rs 12,300 to Rs 30,000.

The protesting interns, under the banner of the Intern Doctors and Medical Graduates Association, staged a demonstration against the government, seeking fulfilment of their long-pending demand for a stipend hike.

Holding banners and placards in support of their demand, the **► P11**

Regime-change agitations do not resolve fundamental problems: Mohan Bhagwat

NAGPUR: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Tuesday said that regime-change agitations do not resolve fundamental problems, warning that protests could become instruments of political interests and fuel divisions in society rather than delivering solutions.

Addressing the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's annual Vijayadashami Utsav gathering in Nagpur, Bhagwat cited recent upheavals in Bangladesh, Nepal, France, and Albania, asserting that forces pursuing their own interests use regime change as a means to alter political circumstances, rarely achieving intended results.

"They claim that changing a regime will change the situation, but that has never really hap-



pened," he said.

Bhagwat claimed that a stronger India would constrain such forces, making the country a target of attempts to weaken and divide it.

While some global powers want India to develop, they do not want it to become too powerful, as it could challenge their dominance, he added.

Bhagwat performed shastra puja (weapon worship) at RSS' Vijayadashami Utsav in Nagpur.

On protests in a democracy, the RSS chief said their purpose should be to resolve problems rather than deepen social divisions.

"Problems will remain, and protests are inevitable in a democracy. But what should the purpose of protests **► P11**