

02 Youth killed over dispute; family demands justice

03 Constitutional reforms usher a new era of growth, development in J&K: RSS

10 Dharilerote Club Girls bag Rajouri Volleyball trophy

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No talks with Pak, Assembly polls in J&K after electoral rolls are published: Amit Shah

Inaugurates, lays foundation stones of 240 dev projects worth Rs 2,000 Cr in Srinagar



(Lto R) Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressing a public gathering at Baramulla and inaugurating developmental projects in presence of LG Manoj Sinha, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and others on Wednesday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BARAMULLA: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said assembly polls will be held with "full transparency" in Jammu and Kashmir after the Election Commission publishes the revised electoral rolls and asserted that the Modi government will wipe out terrorism from the Union territory.

Shah lashed out at those advocating dialogue with Pakistan.

At his first public rally in the Valley after the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, Shah, in his 27-minute speech at Showkat Ali stadium in Baramulla district, trained his guns at leaders from opposition parties NC, PDP and Congress with frequent references to the "three families", "Mufti and company" and "Abdullah and sons".

Shah lashed out at those advocating dialogue with

Pakistan. "I don't want to talk to Pakistan but I want to talk to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, he said. Urging the youths to shun the path of violence, Shah said terrorism has claimed 42,000 lives in Jammu and Kashmir since the 1990s and asked whether it has ever benefited anyone. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has almost ended the ecosystem of terrorism in J-

K, Shah said, adding the Modi government does not tolerate terrorism and wants to wipe it out. We want to make Jammu and Kashmir the most peaceful place in the country, he said. Shah said due to the improved security situation, 22 lakhs tourists have visited Jammu and Kashmir this year so far. Earlier it was a terrorist hotspot but today it is a

tourist hotspot. Imagine how many people have benefited from this, he said. He blamed the families of the Abdullahs (National Conference), Muftis (PDP) and Nehru-Gandhi (Congress) for the "lack of development" in Jammu and Kashmir as they ruled the erstwhile state for most of the years since the country's independence. There are some people who have ruled for the last 70

years and are advising me to talk to Pakistan but I have a clear mandate that I don't want to talk to Pakistan, but I want to talk to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, he said. On holding assembly polls, Shah said a political process has started in this regard. I want to assure you that once the work of publishing electoral rolls by the Election Commission is

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Amit Shah pauses speech after hearing 'Azaan', starts with Bharat Mata Ki Jai

BARAMULLA: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday briefly stopped his speech during a rally in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir as 'Azaan' or Muslim call to prayer was going on from a nearby mosque. Five minutes into his about half-an-hour speech at Showkat Ali stadium in this North Kashmir district, the senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader paused and asked those on the stage "if something was going on at a mosque"? When someone on the stage told him that 'Azaan' was going on, Shah stopped his speech, attracting a huge round of applause and chanting of slogans in

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Thousands throng rally, welcome announcement on reservation

BARAMULLA: Long queues with people jostling to enter through two narrow gates and excitement writ large on their faces, thousands flocked the Showkat Ali Stadium where Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a rally on Wednesday. The highest turnout was from Baramulla, Kupwara and Bandipora districts in north Kashmir. People walked up to the venue as vehicles were stopped at a distance from the stadium due to security considerations. It was a long wait for the people to get in as the security personnel made sure to thoroughly frisk them. At the venue, BJP supporters were seen dancing to the sounds of beating drums and blowing flutes. In between, army helicopters made sorties and the crowd cheered. "We are very excited to welcome the Home Minister to Baramulla. There is a lot of

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Shah visits Chatti Patshahi Gurdwara in Srinagar



Union Home Minister Amit Shah paying obeisance at Gurdwara Chatti Patshahi in Rainawari.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited the Gurdwara Chatti Patshahi in Rainawari area here on Wednesday, officials

said. After the public rally in Baramulla, Shah returned to Srinagar and attended a function at the Raj Bhavan here, the officials said.

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Some corporators taking bribes to facilitate illegal constructions: SMC Mayor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Mayor Junaid Azim Mattoo has alleged that some corporators were involved in corruption and taking bribes to facilitate illegal constructions in the city.

"Lakhs of rupees in bribes have been found to be deposited electronically into the bank account of an elected representative in SMC over the course of the last two years.

The amount is roughly 1.4 crores with individual transactions running into lakhs," Mattoo said in a series of tweets late on Tuesday.

He said multiple witnesses have come forward, narrating "horrific tales" of extortion and brazen corruption. Three citizens have recorded statements before the officials in this regard, he added. "A @JKACB investigation is underway and

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Amit Shah visits family of martyred policeman in Uri

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

URI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday visited the family of policeman Mudasir Sheikh who was martyred in an encounter in Baramulla district earlier this year, officials said.

They said Shah along with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and MoS PMO Jitendra Singh went to Sheikh's residence in Uri, 100 kms from Srinagar. Shah met Sheikh's family and interacted with them.

The officials said the Union Home Minister took the mountainous terrain to reach



Union Home Minister Amit Shah meeting family of martyred policeman Mudasir Sheikh at Uri.

the slain special officer's residence.

"He had the route changed and went all the way through the tough route to meet the

martyred family," the officials added.

Later, the Union Home Minister visited

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Bhagwat calls for comprehensive population policy for all

'Community-based 'population imbalance' shouldn't be ignored'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NAGPUR: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat said on Wednesday India should frame a well thought out, comprehensive population control policy applicable to all social groups equally and flagged the issue of demographic "imbalance" as he also asserted there was no danger to minorities.

Speaking at the annual RSS Dussehra rally at the Reshimbagh Ground in Nagpur, Bhagwat called for women empowerment and covered a wide range of issues, from "Hindu Rashtra", education, self-reliance to India's help to crisis-hit Sri Lanka and the ongoing Ukraine-Russia con-

flict during his more than 60-minute-long address.

He said community-based "population imbalance" is an important subject and should not be ignored.

Population imbalances lead to changes in geographical boundaries, he said.

"Seventy five years ago, we experienced this in our country. In the 21st century, three new countries that have come into existence - East Timor, South Sudan and Kosovo they have been the results of population imbalance in certain territories of Indonesia, Sudan and Serbia," he said.

The new population policy should be applicable to all communities equally to strike a balance, he said. There has to be a balance among the



communities in this country, he added.

"Alongside the differences in birth rate, conversions by force, lure or greed and infiltration are also big reasons. All these factors have to be muddled over," he said.

Bhagwat emphasised on the use of mother tongue and

Dussehra celebrated with fervour in Jammu

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dussehra marking the victory of good over evil was celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety in Jammu on Wednesday.

In this connection, a grand function was organized at Parade Ground here, this evening in which the effigies of demon King Ravana, his brother Kumbhakar and son Meghnath were torched to commemorate the victory of Lord Rama over Ravana.

A large number of people drawn from Jammu city and its outskirts had gathered in the Parade Ground to witness the function.

The function was organized by Sanatan Dharam Sabha



Effigy of Ravana in flames during Dussehra celebrations in Jammu on Wednesday. (More pics on pg-3)

(SDS), Jammu in coordination with Dharmarth Trust J&K.

Effigy of the demon King

was set ablaze after performing traditional Pooja Archana.

Earlier, the traditional

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DG Prisons H K Lohia cremated with full honours



Senior Police Officers carrying coffin of DG Prisons H K Lohia at DPL Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Director General (Prisons) Hemant K Lohia was cremated with full state honours on Wednesday, two days after he was found murdered by a domestic helper. Lohia, a 1992-batch IPS officer, was found dead with his throat slit at his friend's

house on the outskirts of Jammu City late Monday night.

The accused, 23-year-old Yasir Lohar domestic help at the house, was arrested from a field in Kanhachak on Tuesday following a major manhunt.

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WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 33.7°C Min: 19.6°C

Humidity
Max: 66 Min: 57

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 28.2°C Min: 9.2°C

Humidity
Max: 64 Min: 39

Sunset : 18:13 Hours
Sunrise : 06:28 Hours