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# 'Gupkar Gang' wants to take J&K back to era of terror: Amit Shah

## Sharp reactions from Cong, NC, PDP

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR: The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration is an "unholy global alliance" that along with the Congress wants to return to the era of terror and turmoil, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday, days ahead of local body elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

The statement evoked angry reactions from the Congress as well as the National Conference and PDP, which hit out at the minister to say his remarks reflected the BJP's frustration on finding a unified political group fighting elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a series of tweets, Shah also described the PAGD, a newly formed conglomerate of political parties, as the "Gupkar Gang" that is going global and wants foreign forces to intervene in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Congress and the Gupkar Gang want to take JK back to the era of terror and turmoil. They want to take away rights of Dalits, women and tribals that we have ensured by removing Article 370. This is why they're being rejected by the people everywhere," he said.

Shah's comments came ahead of the first phase of District Development Council elections on November 28, the first political exercise since the Centre



revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status under Article 370 on August 5 last year and bifurcated the state into the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. The Congress and the PAGD have a seat sharing arrangement in some places.

The minister said Jammu and Kashmir was, is and will always be an integral part of India and the people of the country will no longer tolerate an "unholy global gathbandhan" against India's national interest.

"Either the Gupkar Gang swims along with the national mood or else the people will sink it," he said.

The home minister also questioned Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi on whether they support

the PAGD. "The Gupkar Gang also insults India's tricolour. Do Sonia Ji and Rahul Ji support such moves of the Gupkar Gang? They should make their stand crystal clear to the people of India," he said.

Hitting back, the Congress said it strongly refutes his "concocted and baseless" assertions. In a two-page statement posted on Twitter, its chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala accused Shah of making mischievous statements on Jammu and Kashmir.

The Congress was never in favour of international intervention on Kashmir issue and was committed to the country's integrity, sovereignty and the tricolour, he said.

"Maybe Amit Shah and the Modi government need a new lesson on nationalism because their parental organisation, RSS, did not hoist the tricolour for 52 years after independence at its headquarters," he said.

According to Surjewala, the BJP is criticising the Mehbooba Mufti-led PDP without realising that they shared power after 2014.

The Congress leader also asked Shah who was responsible for the release of Jaish-e-Mohammed founder Masood Azhar, released along with two others in exchange for the passengers of hijacked Indian Airlines plane IC-814 in Kandahar

Not part of Gupkar Alliance, contesting DDC polls to expose BJP: Congress

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The Congress on Tuesday asserted that it was not a part of the Gupkar alliance and was contesting the district development council elections in Jammu and Kashmir to "expose" the BJP through democratic means.

Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said in a statement that the party was against any foreign intervention in the internal affairs of India, including

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## 7.5 Kg poppy seized in Samba, 1 held

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A suspected drug peddler was arrested after 7.5 kg of poppy was allegedly recovered from him in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district, police said.

A tractor-trailer was intercepted during a check on a highway in Mansar. A total of 7.5 kg of poppy was recovered, according to police.

The driver, Jagsir Singh, has been arrested and the contraband was also seized. A case has been registered at the Samba police station and an investigation is on, police said.

# BRICS adopts new counter-terror strategy; Modi says nations supporting terrorists should be held guilty

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The five-nation grouping BRICS on Tuesday adopted a new counter-terrorism strategy to effectively deal with the menace, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted that there is a need to ensure that countries supporting terrorists are held guilty, a call backed by Russian president Vladimir Putin, who dubbed such nations "black sheep of the family".

Modi, while addressing the 12th BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) summit, held virtually, said terrorism is the "biggest problem" the world is facing, and needed to be dealt with in an organised manner.

At the summit, which was also attended by Chinese President Xi Jinping, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, the Prime Minister talked about the "crisis" facing multilateralism, and highlighted the need for reform of the United Nations Security Council as well as various other key global bodies.

"Terrorism is the biggest

problem the world is facing. We have to ensure that the countries that support and assist the terrorists are also held guilty and the problem is dealt with in an organised manner," the Prime Minister

said some countries were like the black sheep of the family and the world should not show any complacency in dealing with challenges like terrorism and the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a subsequent intervention after his address, Modi also suggested that the National Security Advisers of the member countries can deliberate on framing a counter-terrorism action plan.

The prime minister further suggested that the BRICS Business Council can make a concrete plan to take the mutual business among the member nations to the target of USD 500 billion.

In his address, the Prime Minister said India and South Africa have proposed that COVID-19 vaccines and treatments be exempted from intellectual property agreements and sought support of the other BRICS countries to it.

The BRICS is known as an influential bloc that represents over 3.6 billion people, or half of the world's population. The BRICS

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# Private company cheats people in J&K, 7 booked

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police's Crime Branch has booked seven people and registered a case against a private firm for luring people with a business plan to double their money in Kathua district, officials said on Tuesday.

The accused who have been booked for the fraud, cheating and conspiracy are Mukesh S, the director group of companies, Deepak Malik, the CEO group of companies, Sonu Rani, Parveen Kumar and its members Ranjeet Singh, Jaspal Singh and Sukhwinder. All of them

are from Haryana and Punjab.

The crime branch sleuths conducted a preliminary inquiry into a written complaint by Varinder Singh of Kathua and found that the suspects presented the people a business plan with mala fide intention to lure and cheat them, the officials said.

Ranjeet, Jaspal and Sukhwinder promised the complainants to double their investment amount within two to three months. The suspects also made the complainants transfer a

dynastic entitlement". Later, in an interview to a national TV channel, Dr Jitendra alleged that both the Congress and the National Conference (NC) are beating about the bush and trying to evade the moot point as to whether they would restore Article 370, if ever voted to power.

If some of the Gupkar leaders believe that they can confuse the nation through the vocabulary of English language, then let them know that we are equally prepared to unfold the treasure

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# 572 fresh COVID cases, 7 deaths reported in J&K

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: In all 572 new positive cases of novel Corona virus (COVID-19), 191 from Jammu division and 381 from Kashmir division, have been reported on Tuesday, taking their total in Jammu and Kashmir to 103581. Also 07 COVID-19 deaths have been reported; 03 from Jammu division and 04 from Kashmir Division.

Moreover, 568 more COVID-19 patients have recovered and discharged from various hospitals including 216 from Jammu Division and 352 from Kashmir Division.

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# Rs 223 cr loan scam of J&K State Cooperative Bank

## ACB presents supplementary chargesheet; former Registrar, Dy Registrar Cooperative Societies sent to judicial custody

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) has produced Supplementary chargesheet in Rs 223 crore loan scam of J&K State Cooperative Bank (JKSTCB) against Mohd Mujib-ur-Rehman Gassi, then Registrar of Cooperative Societies J&K and Ashiq Hussain, then Deputy Registrar Srinagar on Tuesday.

As per an official spokesperson, the ACB produced a supplementary chargesheet against Mohd

Mujib-ur-Rehman-Ghassi, son of Ghulam Mohd Ghassi, resident of Syedpora, Harwan near Syedpora Bridge Tehsil and District Srinagar, the then Registrar of Cooperative Societies J&K and Ashiq Hussain, son of Syed Zia-ud-Din, resident of Chewdara, Tehsil Berwah, District Budgam then Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies J&K in Rs 223 crore J&K State Cooperative Bank (JKSTCB) loan scam. Both accused were arrested prior to production of chargesheet

and produced in Court for production of chargesheet and remanded to Judicial custody by the Court.

He further informed that case vide FIR 04/ 2020 was registered against Mohammad Shafi Dar, resident of Majeed Bagh Barzulla Srinagar, Chairman J&K State Co-operative Bank Ltd and others under Section 5(1) (d) read with Section 5(2) PC Act and Sections 465, 467, 468, 471, 120-B/RPC in ACB Srinagar for allegedly sanctioning loan to the tune of

Rs. 250 crores in favour of a non-existent Society under the name and style River Jhelum Co-operative House Building Society Magarmal Bagh, Srinagar for purposes of construction of a satellite Township at Shiv Pora Srinagar bypassing Credit Policy of the bank and on basis of false and fabricated documents. The ACB had already filed a chargesheet on November 8, 2020 against Mohd Shafi Dar, the then Chairman of J&K State Co-operative Bank.

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# PAGD announces seat-sharing arrangement for 3rd phase of DDC polls in J&K

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) on Tuesday announced the seat-sharing arrangement for the third phase of the District Development Council (DDC) polls in Jammu and Kashmir on December 4.

According to the seat-sharing formula agreed upon by the parties, the

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# Ladakh records 97 fresh COVID-19 cases, four more deaths

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
LEH: Ladakh's COVID-19 tally climbed to 7,493 on Tuesday with 97 fresh cases, while the death toll mounted to 93 as four more people succumbed to the disease, officials said. All deaths and fresh cases were

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**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)  
Max: 24.3°C Min: 10.2°C

Humidity  
Max: 81 Min: 65

Temperature (Srinagar)  
Max: 13.0°C Min: 1.8°C

Humidity  
Max: 80 Min: 61

Sunset : 17:31 Hours  
Sunrise : 07:04 Hours

# Storage of Pfizer's COVID vaccine challenge for most nations; India examining possibilities: Govt

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: The cold-chain requirement for the anti-coronavirus vaccine candidate developed by Pfizer at a temperature of minus 70 degrees Celsius poses a big challenge, but the government is examining the possibilities if at all the vaccine has to be obtained by India, it said on Tuesday.

The government further said a national scheme on COVID-19 vaccine distribution is in its final stages of preparation.

At a press briefing, NITI Aayog member (Health) Dr V K Paul, who also heads the National Task Force on COVID-19, said sufficient doses of the vaccine, as required for the Indian population, will not be available, but the government is looking at the possibilities and will work out a strategy for its procurement and distribution in case it gets the regulatory approvals.

Paul, however, reminded that the arrival of the Pfizer vaccine in the country might

take some months.

"The arrangement of cold-chains for storing the vaccine developed by Pfizer at a low temperature of minus 70 degrees Celsius is a big challenge and it will not be easy for any nation. But then, if at all it has to be obtained, we are examining what we need to do...and will work out a strategy," he said.

As for both the vaccine candidates of Moderna and Pfizer, Paul said, "We are watching the

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# 'King' parties held J&K to ransom as dynastic entitlement: Dr Jitendra

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
NEW DELHI: In a sharply worded cryptic rejoinder to Gupkar Alliance partners, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh said here on Tuesday that "King" parties had held Jammu & Kashmir to ransom for half a century as dynastic entitlement.

Pertinent to mention that, earlier in the day, National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah had, in a Tweet, sought to rebut Home Minister Amit Shah who, this morning, posted a series of Tweets denouncing what he described as the Gupkar



Gang.

Omar Abdullah wrote "I can understand the frustration behind this attack by the Hon'ble Home Minister. He had been briefed that the

People's Alliance was preparing to boycott elections. This would have allowed the BJP and newly formed King's Party a free run in Jammu & Kashmir. We didn't oblige them".

In a prompt and word by word sarcastic response, Dr Jitendra Singh in the same tone replied, "I can understand the frustration behind the misventure by the Gupkar Gang to gang up against 'Shah' because he had spelt the doom of 'King' parties, which had for half a century held Jammu & Kashmir to ransom as a

dynastic entitlement". Later, in an interview to a national TV channel, Dr Jitendra alleged that both the Congress and the National Conference (NC) are beating about the bush and trying to evade the moot point as to whether they would restore Article 370, if ever voted to power.

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# Cornered by Amit Shah, Congress ditches Gupkar Alliance

## NC loses Dooru, Shangas to Congress without contesting

**AHMED ALI FAYYAZ**  
JAMMU: Cutting teeth with the valley-based alliance of the regional parties for contesting the District Development Council (DDC) elections in a seat-sharing arrangement, Congress has been cornered by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah and forced to sever its bonhomie with Farooq Abdullah-led Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD).

"The Gupkar Gang is going global! They want foreign forces to intervene in Jammu and Kashmir. The Gupkar Gang also insults India's Tricolour. Do Sonia Ji and Rahul Ji support such moves of the Gupkar Gang? They should make their stand crystal clear to the people of India", Home Minister Shah tweeted at 1:03 pm on Tuesday. He addressed the valley-based alliance as the "Gupkar Gang".

"Congress and the Gupkar Gang want to take J&K back to the era of terror and turmoil. They want to take away rights of

Dalits, women and tribals that we have ensured by removing Article 370. This is why they're being rejected by the people everywhere", Shah tweeted while mounting a frontal attack on Sonia Gandhi's party.

"Jammu and Kashmir has been, is and will always remain an integral part of India. Indian people will no longer tolerate an unholy 'global gathbandhan' against our national interest. Either the Gupkar Gang swims along with the national mood or else the people will sink it", Shah tweeted, asserting firmly that J&K would always remain an integral part of India.

Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) had initially owned up its association with the PAGD which is struggling for restoration of Article 370 and 35-A, besides Statehood, rescinded by the BJP government at the Centre in August 2019. However, apparently for fear of electoral losses, Congress remained

silent and did not attend the PAGD meetings during the course of the Bihar Assembly elections. Immediately after the results came out in Bihar, in favour of the BJP-led alliance, J&K Congress leaders began asserting publicly that their party was part of the PAGD and contesting the DDC elections in a seat-sharing.

Even Farooq Abdullah claimed on more than one occasion that Congress was a part of the PAGD.

Shah's attack on Congress came at an unexpected time as neither the Congress nor the BJP were currently fighting any elections across the country.

Landing in an embarrassing situation, Congress on Tuesday lost no time to start a damage control exercise. It immediately issued a statement in Srinagar and Jammu claiming that it was never part of the PAGD. In the statement, Congress strongly refuted what it called "the baseless allegations levelled by Union Home

Minister Amit Shah". "(Congress) was neither part of PAGD nor have participated in any of its meetings or deliberations, but it has entered seat sharing at certain places at local district level", said the party statement.

"Congress strongly condemned the propaganda and allegations of Amit Shah and urged the latter to refrain from doing such dirty politics.

The party further said that BJP leaders were "in habit of indulging in rumour mongering aiming to gain political mileage". "Eyeing on DDC elections in J&K, Union Home Minister seems desperate enough about the poll outcome, which is certainly going to be unfavourable to BJP", said the Congress statement.

However, the Congress statement of not being part of the PAGD created an embarrassing situation not only for the Farooq-led alliance but also for the National Conference (NC) that lost the two DDC

seats of Dooru and Shangas in Anantnag district to Congress without contesting.

Monday, 16 November being the last day of filing nomination papers in Phase-II of the DDC elections, J&K PCC President Ghulam Ahmad Mir's son Nasser Ahmad Mir filed his papers from Dooru in a seat-sharing arrangement with the PAGD. The decision to leave Dooru and Shangas for Congress left two of NC's strong aspirants disappointed-reportedly angry-in Dooru and NC's former Assembly candidate advocate Riyaz Ahmad Khan in Shangas.

In Shangas, former Congress MLA Gulzar Khan's daughter Saba Gulzar filed the nomination papers on Monday on behalf of the PAGD. As the Congress declared to move out of the PAGD, no other party can now file nomination papers from Dooru or Shangas where the fight will be straightly between the Congress and the BJP.