

03 Khattar, Dr Jitendra convene meeting to discuss 100 GW Nuclear Energy strategies

05 JK Public School Kunjwani celebrates Raksha Bandhan with cultural fervour, gaiety

09 Anti-terror operation in Kulgam enters 8th day

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Infiltrators have 'no right to vote': Amit Shah Slams Cong-RJD for opposing Op Sindoor

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SITAMARHI (BIHAR): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday slammed opposition parties for objecting to the special intensive revision of the electoral rolls in Bihar, asserting that infiltrators have "no right to vote".

He also alleged that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was "indulging in politics over the SIR exercise" in the state.

Addressing a public meeting at Punauradham in Sitamarhi district, Shah said, "Names of infiltrators must be removed from the voters' lists. They have no right to vote. But the RJD and the Congress are opposing the special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar because the names of infiltrators are being deleted from the lists."

Alleging that a "vote chori model" was being used in many constituencies across the country, Gandhi said that the judiciary needs to get involved in this because "the democracy that we love so much, does not exist anymore".

On the opposition parties' stand on Operation Sindoor, Shah claimed that terrorist attacks were "frequent in India during the UPA regime".

"But now India is different under



Narendra Modi ji's regime. Our soldiers killed terrorists in their hide-outs. But RJD and Congress leaders are opposing Operation Sindoor," he claimed.

Shah also asserted that the NDA will form the government with a thumping majority in the upcoming Bihar assembly polls.

"The RJD did nothing for the development of Bihar: (RJD supremo) Lalu Prasad ji, as a central minister, sanctioned Rs 1,132 crore for railway infrastructure in Bihar, while our govt provided Rs 10,066 crore in

FY'26," he claimed.

Shah also alleged that the RJD "encouraged hooliganism" during its rule in the state.

Addressing a rally, shortly after he laid the foundation stone for a nearly Rs 900 crore project for giving a facelift to "Punaura Dham", a shrine situated at the place where goddess Sita is believed to have been discovered by King Janaka.

The Union home minister also mocked the opposition parties for failing to "come up with a single claim or objection" regarding wrongful

deletion of genuine voters or inclusion of those who were not eligible to vote.

Notably, as part of the SIR, the Election Commission last week came out with its "draft electoral rolls", dropping names of more than 65 lakh voters who had either died, or migrated to some other state permanently or were enrolled as voters at more than one place.

Widely regarded as the BJP's principal strategist, Shah claimed that he foresaw "a certain victory for the NDA in Bihar", led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the JD(U) president, who was present on the occasion.

"It appears that the opposition realises that it is staring at a defeat in the upcoming assembly polls. So they are trying to come up with ways to explain it away. Their vehement criticism of the special intensive revision is just such an attempt", added the BJP leader.

The Union home minister also charged the RJD-Congress combine with having "opposed" inside Parliament Operation Sindoor, launched in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack.

The function was also marked by the flagging off of an Amrit Bharat train connecting Sitamarhi to Delhi. In his speech, ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Sitharaman withdraws IT Bill in LS; new Bill to be introduced on Aug 11

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday withdrew the Income Tax Bill, 2025, in the Lok Sabha, and the government will come out with an updated version of the legislation after incorporating changes suggested by the Select Committee.

A new version of the Income Tax Bill will be introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 11.

The updated version of the IT Bill, according to sources, will incorporate most of the recommendations of the Select Committee.

"To avoid confusion by multiple versions of the Bill and to provide a clear and updated version with all changes incorporated, the new version of the Income Tax Bill will be introduced for the consideration of the House on Monday," sources said.

The Select Committee, chaired by Baijyant Panda, had suggested a host of changes in the Income Tax Bill, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha on February



13. Soon after its introduction in the Lower House, the Bill, which will replace the six-decade-old Income Tax Act, 1961, was referred to the Select Committee for scrutiny.

The 31-member Select Committee had made some suggestions on the Bill.

They also favoured continuing tax exemption on

anonymous donations made to religious-cum-charitable trusts in the new law, besides suggesting that taxpayers be allowed to claim TDS refund even after the ITR filing due date without paying any penal charges.

The government in the new Bill has exempted non-profit organisations (NPOs) from taxing anonymous donations received by purely religious trusts. However, such donations received by a religious trust that may also have other charitable functions, like running hospitals and educational institutions, will be taxed as per law, as per the Bill.

Meanwhile, Lok Sabha proceedings were adjourned for the day amid vociferous protests by opposition parties demanding a discussion on the ongoing revision of electoral rolls in Bihar.

Before the House was adjourned, Finance Minister ■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

LG greets people on Raksha Bandhan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has extended his heartiest greetings to the people on Raksha Bandhan.

In a message, the Lieutenant Governor said:

"On the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan, I extend my greetings and good wishes to all.

Raksha Bandhan celebrates the unique bond between brothers and sis-

ters. The sacred thread of Rakhi symbolizes love, affection and mutual trust.

May this festival further



strengthens the bonds of unity and brotherhood amongst every section of society and reinforce the spirit of bonding and harmony".

China welcomes Modi's planned visit to attend SCO Summit

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BEIJING: China on Friday welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's planned visit to the Tianjin Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to be held later this month, expressing hope that the event will be a "gathering of solidarity, friendship and fruitful results".

PM Modi is expected to travel to China later this month, after a gap of over seven years, to attend the annual summit of the SCO, people familiar with the matter in Delhi said this week.

"China welcomes Prime Minister Modi to China for the SCO Tianjin Summit," Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Guo Jiakun said while responding to a question on reports about Modi's visit to China to attend the Tianjin summit to be held from August 31 to September 1. "We believe that with the

RS proceedings washed out amid Opposition protests

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Rajya Sabha proceedings were washed out once again on Friday as the House was adjourned for the day a little after 12 noon amid vociferous protests by Opposition members on various issues, including the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar and charges of "vote theft" made by the Congress.

The House was first adjourned till 12 noon, after Deputy Chairman rejected all notices under Rule 267 for setting aside all other business, and then again for the day amid continued

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

Opposition uproar. Soon after the House reassembled at 12 noon, after a first adjournment, Ghanashyam Tiwari, who was in the Chair, urged the members to allow the Question Hour to function but unrelenting Opposition MPs continued with their protests.

Congress member Pramod Tiwari sought to raise the issue of alleged "vote theft" over discrepancy claims in electoral rolls in an assembly constituency in Karnataka, but the Chair did not allow him to speak.

Soon, Congress members, along with those from the



India over its purchase of Russian oil.

Trump on Wednesday signed an executive order, slapping an additional 25 per cent tariff on India for the

Police search houses of Pakistan-based terrorists

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DODA: Searches were carried out at the houses of Pakistan-based terrorists across fifteen locations in Doda district as part of a massive clampdown on the terror ecosystem in the region, officials said on Friday.

"The searches in the Doda district were conducted in the houses of terrorists currently in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, who are carrying out their activities here from across the border," a senior police officer told PTI.

The police teams have been conducting searches at

GoC reviews operational readiness in Rajouri



GoC White Knight Corps, Lieutenant General P K Mishra interacting with troops at Rajouri.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Army's White Knight Corps, Lieutenant General P K Mishra, on Friday emphasised main-

taining robust defensive and surveillance measures along the Line of Control to ensure mission effectiveness in safeguarding territorial integrity.

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Mann ki Baat earns Rs 34.13 Cr since inception: Govt

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann ki Baat' programme has earned revenue of Rs 34.13 crore since its inception, the government told the Rajya Sabha on Friday.

In a written reply, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L Murugan said the Mann ki Baat programme reaches the audience through multiple traditional and digital platforms.

"Mann Ki Baat programme is produced by Akashvani leveraging existing in-house resources without additional expenditure and has

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WEATHER
Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 34.7°C Min: 24.9°C
Humidity
Max: 73 Min: 66
Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 32.3°C Min: 17.5°C
Humidity
Max: 71 Min: 50
Sunset : 19:23 Hours
Sunrise : 05:49 Hours

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Scores of girl students of the Seva Bharti Ashram are working overtime to prepare thousands of rakhis for jawans guarding the Indo-Pak border in Jammu and Kashmir.

On Raksha Bandhan, the girls will also tie rakhis to trees and plants, symbolising their commitment to safeguarding the environment that sustains life.

With barely two days to go for Raksha Bandhan, the girl students have already prepared over 8,000 rakhis for soldiers and for organising sale counters at various places in Jammu. Their mis-



sion is to weave more than 10,000 rakhis as a symbol of gratitude for the policemen, Army personnel and BSF officers safeguarding the region.

Janvi, a student from Kishtwar district currently studying in Class 8 at a school run by Janak Madan Seva Bharti Ashram in the Ponichak border belt on the

outskirts of Jammu city, is among the many girls preparing rakhis for the soldiers.

"I am part of the group of girl students from various Seva Bharti Ashrams across Jammu and Kashmir preparing rakhis for soldiers guarding our motherland. Our primary task is to prepare rakhis and tie them on the wrists of soldiers at the border on Raksha Bandhan," Janvi told PTI.

On the auspicious day, hundreds of girl students from various Seva Bharti Ashrams carry rakhis and sweets to the border areas along the International Border and the

Line of Control.

They tie rakhis to BSF jawans, Army personnel and even police officers so that they do not feel the absence of their sisters.

"This year, it is being done on a large scale across all areas. We are happy to make new brothers in uniform. This is the true tradition and culture of Bharat," she said.

Mukhti, another student from the Poonch border district studying at the Ashram in Jammu, said that their focus and affection on Raksha Bandhan is always directed towards the valiant soldiers.

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Assault on Patwari in Bhalwal; FIR registered

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: An FIR has been registered at Police Station Kanachak against Abhishek Suryavanshi, son of Jabar Singh, resident of Kangrail for assaulting Patwari Susheel Kumar at the Tehsil Office Bhalwal.

According to official hand-out, the incident occurred when the accused, Abhishek Suryavanshi, allegedly entered the office of Patwari Susheel Kumar and physically assaulted him without provocation. Following the initial assault, the accused reportedly returned to the scene with his father, Jabar Singh, carrying a sharp-edged weapon (toka), with the apparent intention of

launching a second attack on the government official.

The matter was swiftly reported to the local police. As a result, FIR No. 111/2025 has been lodged at Police Station Kana Chak under Sections 132, 126(2) and 351(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Authorities have confirmed that a detailed investigation is currently underway. Law enforcement officials emphasised that any form of violence or intimidation against public servants will be dealt with strictly as per the law.

Further updates will be provided as the investigation is in progress.