



Grenade recovered near temple, destroyed

A grenade, spotted by some children near a temple in a remote village of Jammu's Rajouri district, was later destroyed by police.

Officials said some children were playing with construction material in Chattyar village of Rajouri when they spotted a grenade.

The matter was brought to the notice of village head who alerted police. Officials said cops, accompanied by a bomb disposal squad, reached

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Maha Yagya concludes at Bhawan

The nine-day Shat Chandi Maha Yagya, organised by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) on the eve of ShardiyaNavratras, concluded with spiritual fervour and devotion on Mahanavami festival today.

The 'purnahuti' ceremony was performed amidst the chanting of Vedic mantras, invoking divine blessings for universal peace, prosperity

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Operationalisation of Ladakh's first Medical College

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India, has given its nod for the operationalisation of Ladakh's first Government Medical College in Leh, from the academic year 2027-28.

According to officials, it became possible on the intervention of Ladakh LG Vinai Kumar Saxena.

The approval paves the way for initiating recruitment against 103 sanctioned regular posts in a phased manner, in accordance with academic

Portals of Chardham shrines to close in Nov

GOPESHWAR/UT-TARKASHI, OCT 20: The officials concerned today said that the portals of Chardham shrines for the winter season would be closed in November.

The portals of the Shri Badrinath Temple would close on November 16. Officials said the auspicious date and time for the closure were determined in the presence of the temple's chief priest (Rawal) Amarnath Namboodiri, the Dhar-madhikari (religious authority), and Vedpathis (Vedic scholars).

Rishi Prasad Sati, vice-

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India's nuclear prog dedicated to peaceful purposes: Jitendra



NEW DELHI, OCT 20 : Union Minister Jitendra Singh today said that India's nuclear programmewas dedicated to peaceful purposes and not warfare, reaffirming the vision that has guided the country's nuclear journey since its inception.

On the sidelines of

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The Himalayan Mail

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

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Neha Sharma issues legal warning over unauthorised AI-generated content using her likeness

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SCO Meet

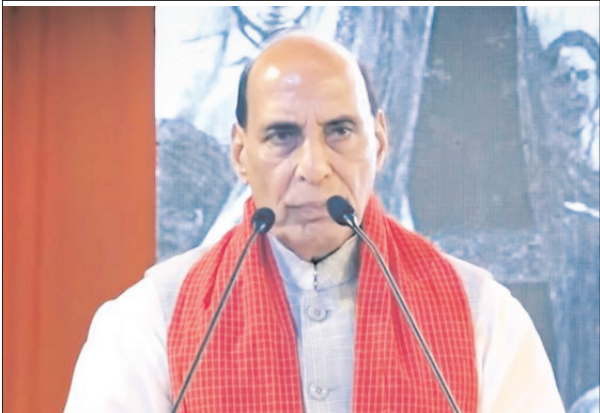
Terrorism serious threat to peace, radicalises societies: Rajnath

DUSHANBE (TAJIK-ISTAN), OCT 20: Underlining that there can be "no place" for those who finance, support, or shelter terrorists, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today said 'terrorism radicalises societies and poses a serious threat to peace & development'.

The entire "ecosystem of terrorism" must be firmly and collectively "dismantled", he asserted.

"Terrorism has become one of the most serious threatsto peace & development, and it not only causes harm to innocent lives but also disrupts investment & commerce," Singh said while addressing the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

The union minister said



that "terrorism radicalises societies and deprives our youth of the opportunities they deserve".

Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar was also present when Singh was making these remarks at the gathering.

The defence minister is in Tajikistan on a two-day official visit to represent India at the meeting of the Council

of Heads of Government (CHG) of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO).

Singh stressed that there can be "no justification for terrorism; there can be no double standards in dealing with it."

He said, "There can be no place for those who provide terrorists with finance, support, or safe

All political parties should unite for national interest: Modi

NEW DELHI, OCT 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said all institutions and political parties of the country should unite for national interest and fight together against the enemies of the country.

He also said that no matter how big or difficult a crisis may be, no one should sit back relying on others and recognise their own strength.

"May our thoughts be aligned, and may... all the institutions of the nation, all political parties, stand together for national interest," he said while participating in Dussehra celebrations here.

"We must proceed with



this very spirit and we must fight together against the enemies of the country," the PM said.

Underlining that his government's goal was to make India self-reliant, the prime minister said, "We must have faith in our resources. We must turn our resolve into power and find solutions through our own hard

work. Because Lord Shri Ram taught us that the difficulties cannot stop our journey."

He said, "In 'Ram Rajya', there is no discrimination against anyone and everyone receives justice and equal opportunities. The purpose of power is not to rule, but to ensure public welfare -- this is the ideal of Bhagwan Ram."

He said Dussehra is the festival of victory of the good over evil and it gives people the courage to believe that no matter how powerful the enemy is, "when we stand with truth and humanity, victory will ultimately be ours".

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West Asia situation 'matter of deep concern': EAM to UAE counterpart

NEW DELHI, OCT 20: During talks with his UAE counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today said 'the situation in West Asia remains a matter of deep concernand India will support all efforts to promote peace through dialogue and diplomacy'.

Al Nahyan, who is also the deputy prime minister of the UAE, landed in Mumbai on Monday night on a two-day visit. His trip to India comes amid a fresh wave of attacks on Saudi Arabia reportedly by the Houthi militants.



In his televised opening remarks at the meeting, Jaishankar also backed efforts for free, safe and unimpeded flow of trade, energy and fertilisers.

The external affairs minister made a mention of how the Comprehensive Economic Partnership

Agreement (CEPA) between India and the UAE has significantly enhanced bilateral trade and economic ties.

"The situation in the Gulf remains a matter of deep concern. We will continue to work together and support all efforts to promote dialogue and diplomacy," he said.

"We continue to support free, safe and unimpeded flow of trade, energy and fertiliser. I would also like to thank you and, through you, the UAE leadership for ensuring the well-being of the Indian community in

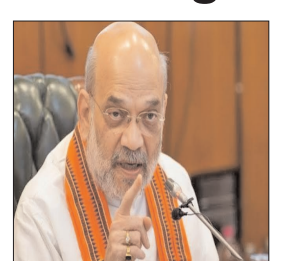
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Amit Shah slams Punjab govt over drug menace

CHANDIGARH, OCT 20: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday criticised the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Punjab Government for failing to curb the drug menace, alleging that the drug trade continued to grow in the state.

He said he had never felt so deeply saddened in his life as he did while meeting the families of people who had died in incidents linked to Punjab's drug menace.

As the Punjab government announced that the probe into the murder of anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh Jhota would be



handed over to CBI, Shah urged Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to transfer the investigations into the deaths of two other anti-drug activists to the CBI as well, stating that the state government would not be able to handle them.

After meeting the families of anti-drug campaigners af-

ected by the drug menace, Shah criticised the state government for failing to control the easy availability of narcotics in Punjab.

Speaking to the media in Ludhiana after concluding a day-long visit to the state, he said he had come to offer solace to grieving families and had no political agenda. He added that he wanted to remind the AAP government and its leaders that they had promised to eradicate the drug trade within three months of coming to power, but the menace continued to

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havens. The entire ecosystem of terrorism must be firmly and collectively dismantled."

On October 15 in New Delhi, Singh had said that any future terrorist act originating from Pakistan would draw an even "stronger response".

He said that since 2014, the "shelf life" of most terrorists had fallen to less than a year, with security forces neutralising them within a year of their taking up arms against India.

Addressing the SCO members, Singh also emphasised India's support for the adoption of the action plan for 2026 to 2030 on the Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation Programme.

"India believes that our economic engagement,

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Darbar Move offices to reopen in Jammu on Nov 2

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, OCT 20

The government has ordered the annual Darbar Move of government offices from Srinagar to Jammu for the winter season, with offices scheduled to reopen in Jammu on November 2.

"The offices observing five-day week shall close in Srinagar on October 30 (Friday) after office hours, and the offices observing six-dayweek shall close on October 31 (Saturday) after office hours," an order issued by the government reads.

All the offices were scheduled to reopen in Jammu on

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5 IPS, 7 JKPS officers among 14 transferred in Ladakh

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, OCT 20

The Union Territory administration in Ladakh has ordered the transfers and postings of 14 police officers, including 5 IPS and 7 JKPS officers.

As per an order, Altaf Ahmad Shah is posted as commandant, IRP 25th Bn with additional charge of principal PTS, UT of Ladakh and SP Traffic.

Rajneesh Garg is posted as AIG Personnel, AIG Crime/Welfare, PHQ, Rishabh Shukla as SP, Changthang, Pawan Kumar as SP, Sankoo, and Koyye

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Will explain concerns over SIR to PM: Kharge



KALABURAGI (KARNATAKA), OCT 20: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday said he would explain to Prime Minister Narendra Modi his concerns over the SIR of electoral rolls, delimitation and women's reservation.

He said he would explain in detail on October 21.

"I don't want to talk about politics today. I have personally written a letter to

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Dussehra celebrated with religious fervour, gaiety across J&K

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, OCT 20

Dussehra was celebrated today with great religious fervour, devotion and enthusiasm across J&K, marking the triumph of good over evil and commemorating Bhagwan Ram's victory over demon king Ravana.

Chants of "Jai Shri Ram" reverberated as people celebrated Dussehra, burning large effigies of demon king Ravana, his brother Kumbhakaran and son Meghnad here.

The main Vijayadashami function was held at Parade Ground in the city, where a grand Ram Leela, depicting the victory of Bhagwan Ram over Ravan was staged before the burning of the effigies.

Hundreds of people thronged the venue to witness the celebrations and raised religious slogans as the firecracker-stuffed effi-



gies went up in flames amid cheers.

Elaborate security arrangements were made on the occasion for the smooth conduct of the event.

As mark of celebrations, all the temples and city markets were tastefully decorated on the occasion. A 'jhanki' was also taken out at Janipura on the occasion by locals.

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The reports of celebrations also poured in from other parts of Jammu region, including the districts of Kathua, Samba, Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban.

At Bhaderwah in Doda district, large effigies of Ravana, Kumbhakaran and Meghnad were put to flames amid fireworks and traditional arrow-shooting

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India urges vigilance on technology transfer to terror-linked states

UNITED NATIONS, OCT 20: 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.

"Terrorism remains a major challenge to international security. India is deeply concerned about the risk of weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of terrorists and non-state actors," Lok Sabha MP Alok Kumar Suman said while delivering India's

statement at the UN General Assembly First Committee, which deals with disarmament and international security.

"We encourage all Member States to remain vigilant about the transfer of dual-use and sensitive technology, particularly to those with a record of proliferation or linked to terrorism," he said.

The comments appeared to be a thinly veiled reference to Pakistan and the global proliferation network led by A Q Khan. The Pakistani nuclear physicist, also known as the father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb, led an extensive international network aimed at the prolifera-

tion of nuclear equipment and know-how, which the US State Department has described as providing a "one-stop shopping" for countries seeking to develop nuclear weapons".

Suman is part of the second cohort of visiting Indian Parliamentarians, who arrived here for a UN familiarisation trip. The MPs will have a diverse range of engagements at the United Nations headquarters during the visit and will also meet senior UN officials, envoys and members of the Indian diaspora during the visit.

Suman noted that since 2002, India has tabled a

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Rubio lands in Mumbai; discusses energy security, def ties

NEW DELHI, OCT 20: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio today kick-started his three-day visit to Indiato advance bilateral ties in energy, trade & investment, defence and critical technologies, and exchange views on the West Asia crisis.

Rubio's second India visit this year comes amid persistent friction in bilateral ties. During his earlier trip in May, he held talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, besides attending a Quad foreign ministers' meeting.



The visit of the US Secretary of State, who is accompanied by a large business delegation, would focus largely on boosting India-US economic engagement.

Rubio and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held wide-ranging talks largely focusing on cooperation in the energy and de-

fence 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.

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 SJaishankar and I discussed energy security and defense cooperation while

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Guv Kavinder releases 3 books on Dogri theatre

Himalayan Mail News JAMMU, OCT 20

Himachal Pradesh Governor Kavinder Gupta today released three books on Dogri theatre, describing the publications as a valuable contribution to the preservation and promotion of Dogri language and the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

The three books - Trai Dogri Natak, Char Bal Natak and a collection of translated and adapted plays - bring together nine plays covering a wide range of social, historical, philosophical and contemporary



themes. Four of the plays have been specifically written for children, drawing upon inspiring narratives centred on Nachiketa, Prahlad, Dhruv and Sacha Gian.

The governor appreciated the author's efforts to enrich Dogri dramatic literature, and emphasised that regional languages are an in-

tegral part of India's civilisational and cultural diversity.

He said literature and theatre had a unique role in keeping languages vibrant by connecting younger generations with their cultural roots while also addressing contemporary social concerns.

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