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Terrorism serious threat to peace, radicalises societies: Rajnath

along with being inclusive, should be beneficial for each member country. We should work towards building more resilient supply chains, facilitating trade and investment, and using technology for development," Singh said.

The Programme for Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation of the SCO Member States is aimed at the comprehensive development of trade, economic, and investment interaction based on transparent, predictable, and stable conditions for the development of sectoral ties.

Increasing mutual trade volumes and expanding investment cooperation in the interests of improving the well-being of the peoples of the Organisation's countries.

On February 25, 2026, a meeting of experts from the member states of the SCO was held to discuss the draft Action Plan for 2026-2030 on the implementation of the Program for Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation of the SCO Member States.

Singh said India had welcomed the decisions taken in Bishkek to make the Universal Centre in Tashkent and the Anti-Drug Centre in Dushanbe permanent bodies of the SCO.

Dussehra celebrated with religious fervour, gaiety across J&K

rituals performed by participants portraying Bhagwan Ram and Luxman, creating an atmosphere of religious devotion and festive enthusiasm.

A large number of devotees, locals and visitors participated in the celebrations, reflecting Bhaderwah's rich cultural heritage and longstanding religious traditions.

In the valley, Kashmiri Pandits and visitors celebrated Dussehra with religious and gaiety.

Hundreds of people, including tourists, thronged the Sher-e-Kashmir cricket stadium to celebrate the festival organised by Kashmiri Pandit Sangarsh Samiti, officials said.

Giant effigies of Ravana, Kumbhakaran and Meghnad were set afire at the practice grounds of the cricket stadium amidst thunderous cheers from the people assembled there, the officials added.

Grenade recovered near temple, destroyed

the village soon after the matter was brought to their notice.

The grenade was later destroyed in a controlled explosion at a nearby isolated location, with no damage reported, officials said.

Police had registered a case in this connection and launched a probe.

Maha Yagya concludes at Bhawan

and the well-being of all, officials said.

The maha yagya was performed by pandits, lending spiritual sanctity and significance to the sacred occasion, officials said, adding that over 4 lakh pilgrims visited the holy cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi during the nine days of Navratras.

This marks a significant increase over the approximately 1.78 lakh pilgrims who visited the holy shrine during the corresponding period of last year's ShardiyaNavratras, reflecting the growing enthusiasm and devotion among pilgrims, officials said.

Operationalisation of Ladakh's first Medical College

requirements. The development marks a significant step towards fulfilling the long-standing aspiration of the people of Ladakh for access to quality medical education within the Union Territory.

The Government Medical College in Leh would expand opportunities for students aspiring to pursue medical education, strengthen clinical training facilities and contribute to the long-term development of healthcare services in Ladakh.

On 13 July, 2026, the LG had written to Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare JPNadda, seeking a one-time relaxation from the condition requiring nearly 80 pc completion of infrastructure before initiating recruitment of faculty and support staff for the Medical College. The intervention was aimed at enabling preparatory recruitment to begin in time for the proposed commencement of academic activities, even as the construction of the dedicated academic infrastructure progresses.

Taking cognisance of the Lieutenant Governor's request and the urgency involved, the MoH&FW agreed to the request, suggesting that the recruitment against the 103 posts will be undertaken in a staggered manner from academic year 2027-28 onwards, based on academic requirements identified by the UT Administration.

The UT administration will also ensure that the posts are filled on a regular basis in accordance with the approved Recruitment Rules and that the Medical College shifts to its dedicated infrastructure, as soon as the proposed facilities are completed.

Saxena thanked Nadda, saying the operationalisation of the Government Medical College in Leh is an important milestone for Ladakh and fulfils a long-standing aspiration of the people.

"I am grateful to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the union health minister for their continued support towards strengthening healthcare and medical education in Ladakh. This approval will enable us to begin the process of building the required academic team in a phased manner, in line with the academic needs. Our objective is to provide the youth of Ladakh greater access to quality medical education while strengthening the region's healthcare system. We will work to ensure that all necessary arrangements are made for the commencement of the Medical College in the academic year 2027-28," he said.

As an interim arrangement, two newly constructed buildings have been identified to serve as the Academic Block and Students' Hostel. The existing 200-bedded SNM Hospital, supported by around 60 experienced doctors, can provide the clinical training required for the first batch of MBBS students. The interim facilities will be used temporarily, in accordance with the conditions stipulated by the Department of Expenditure, until the dedicated infrastructure is completed.

Portals of Chardham

shrines to close in Nov

president of the Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee (BKTC), said the date for the winter closure was decided following traditional rituals and in the presence of representatives from various local community councils and priests. He stated that the portals were scheduled to close at 9.37 pm on November 16.

The Utsav Yatra, or ceremonial procession of Almighty Badrinath, will depart for the winter abode on November 17. The date for the closure was finalised during a grand ceremony held on the premises of the Badrinath Temple on the occasion of Vijayadashami.

On Tuesday, the BKTC presented the ceremonial 'pagdi' (turban) to the designated representatives responsible for managing the temple storehouse or provisions for the 2027 pilgrimage season.

Meanwhile, the portals of Shri Kedarnath Dham will close at 8.30 am on November 11, the day of Bhaiya Dooj.

The portals of Shri Yamunotri Dham will also close on November 11, while the portals of Shri Gangotri Dham will close on November 10, the day of Govardhan Puja.

The auspicious time for the closing of the portals has been set for 10.28 am. On Tuesday, a meeting was held at Yamunotri Dham, which was attended by members of the Temple Committee and the community of priests. During this meeting, the auspicious time for closing the portals was determined.

India's nuclear prog dedicated to peaceful purposes: Jitendra

'Bloomberg Economy Forum 2026', he said nuclear energy would 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 DrHomi Bhabha, the architect of India's nuclear programme, DrSingh said India had consistently pursued nuclear energy for peaceful applications and national development.

The commitment to the peaceful use of nuclear technology, he said, remains central to the country's approach as it expands its capabilities to meet emerging developmental and technological needs.

The minister said India's nuclear energy ambitions must be viewed in the context of its long-term development goals and clean energy commitments. With the country targeting 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047 and Net Zero emissions by 2070, nuclear energy was expected to complement other sources of power by providing a continuous and reliable supply of clean electricity.

All political parties should unite for national interest: Modi

The PM also extended his greetings to all citizens on Vijayadashami.

"Heartfelt greetings of Vijayadashami to you all. May this festival of victory, filled with joy and faith, imbue everyone's resolve with renewed strength. May every life be enriched with happiness, prosperity, and success-this is my sincere wish," he posted on X.

"This festival inspires us to steadfastly move forward on the path of duty, righteousness, and honour," Amit Shah said in a message on X.

"May the grace of Shri Ram infuse joy and renewed energy into everyone's lives. Jai Shri Ram!" he said.

5 IPS, 7 JKPS officers among 14 transferred in Ladakh

Chitti Raju as DSP Headquarters, Leh.

StanzinNorboo is posted as SSP, Zanskar, StanzinLosal as SSP, Nubra, Sonam Dechen as SSP, CID, Aijaz Ahmad Malik as SSP, Sham, Rigzin Sandup as AIG Provision, Zaheer Abbas Jafari as SP Security/SP Telecom, with additional charge of SP Prisons, Govind Rattan as deputy commandant IRP 25th Bn, with additional charge of SO to DGP & AIG CIV, SP SDRF, Manzoor Hussain as DSP CID, Leh, and Sonam Regzin as DSP CIV.

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

the UAE," he said.

Jaishankar also noted that despite global headwinds and regional challenges, the economic partnership between the two countries continues to set "new benchmarks".

"The bilateral trade has crossed the USD 100 billion mark since the signing of the CEPA and two-way investments continue to grow, reflecting the confidence of our businesses in each other's economies," he said.

"Cooperation in defence, energy and technology are acquiring a strategic character. Our people-to-people ties continue to enrich the lives of our communities. Our cultural partnership is also gaining strong momentum," he said.

After the talks, Jaishankar said on social media that the India-UAE relationship is "living up to its promise as a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership".

He also described his talks with the UAE leader as "productive".

"The breadth and ambition of our cooperation is visible across the domains of trade, investments, energy, technology, logistics, defence, education and people-to-people ties," he said.

Al Nahyan said the UAE wanted to further enhance bilateral cooperation with India.

The UAE is honoured to be one of India's largest trading partners, and the aim of the Emirati leadership is to have a closer, stronger and diverse relationship, he said.

"We are very close, but we want to be closer," Sheikh Abdullah said. The UAE wants to do more with India in areas such as people-to-people ties, culture and education," he said.

There has been a significant upswing in bilateral trade and people-to-people ties after New Delhi and Abu Dhabi inked the CEPA in 2022.

The two countries are among each other's top trading and investment partners, bolstered by the CEPA, a local currency settlement system and the bilateral investment treaty.

India urges vigilance on technology

transfer to terror-linked states

resolution titled 'Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction'.

India reaffirmed its commitment to full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions.

Darbar Move offices to reopen in Jammu on Nov 2

November 2, it said.

Under the practice of Darbar Move, the government functions in Jammu during the six winter months and in Srinagar during the summer.

The practice was started by Maharaja Gulab Singh in 1872 to escape extreme weather conditions in the two regions.

The practice continued even after independence to provide governance benefits to both Kashmir and Jammu regions for six months.

The shifting of capitals was stopped during the Lt Governor's rule in 2021, but was restored by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in 2025, a year after he assumed office.

Rubio lands in Mumbai; discusses energy security, def ties

reaffirming the importance of advancing the U.S.-India strategic partnership," Rubio said on social media.

The top diplomat also answered questions from the media on the India-US energy ties as well as his trip to Reliance Industries Ltd's refinery in Jamnagar on Wednesday.

"In order for energy to become usable, you have to refine it. You have a company with a massive amount of refining capability. I think I should go talk to them, especially when it involves nation-states," he said.

"We're going to go see a company that has a tremendous amount of refining capability. It makes all the sense in the world to talk to them about it. It's very difficult to understand something or see what the possibilities are if you're not going to speak to them," he noted.

He also responded to a query on India's procurement of Russian crude oil.

"India has expressed repeatedly its desire to diversify its energy portfolio, which is a smart thing to do. It's not easy to do that from one day to the next," he said.

"I think they've made some substantial progress in that regard, and we're happy to see that. But in the end, it's not just about Russian oil; it's about India's desire to diversify, and we think we can be a source of some of its energy inputs."

"We have discussed Venezuela and other countries, and I think it's in our interest to have strong allies with diverse energy portfolios," he noted.

Ahead of his visit, Rubio said in Uzbekistan that the US is "very close" to finalising the trade deal with India. He also suggested that the US waiver on tariffs for buying Russian oil was linked to the decision.

Last week, US President Donald Trump suspended certain sanctions against Russia and five of the biggest buyers of Russian oil including India.

"We're trying to finalise the trade deal with India right now. We're very close to doing that. So that's one of the things we take into consideration when the President makes a decision about national security waivers and things of that nature," Rubio said on Monday.

The India-US relations witnessed a major downturn after Washington imposed punitive tariffs on India last year and President Trump made assertions regarding his role in de-escalating the India-Pakistan military clashes of May 2025 that drew sharp reaction from Indian officials.

Washington's new immigration policy and its decision to increase H1B visa fees also contributed to the slide in India-US ties.

The ties came under fresh strain after the US decided to restrict a key green-card processing programme for major global and Indian IT firms, including Tata Consultancy Services and Wipro.

Amit Shah slams Punjab govt over drug menace

grow.

Attacking the AAP government, Shah said, "Those who speak against the drug trade are either driven to suicide or killed. For the past 30 years, I have been elected as a member of the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabha.

"As the union home minister and earlier as the BJP president, I have met and consoled families at various places who lost their kin in tragic incidents. Today, I want to tell the people of the country and Punjab that I have never felt so deeply saddened in my life," he said.

He made the remarks after meeting families in Batala, Sangrur and Mansa, adding that people affected by the 'chitta' (illicit drug) trade had also gathered at the homes of the bereaved families.

Shah said, "The situation in Punjab, as described by them, shook us. Some lost their sons, some their brothers and others their husbands. What answer does the AAP government have for these grieving families? Except for excuses, I have not heard any answer from them till today."

He claimed that youths were falling prey to drugs under the 'AAPda' (disaster) government and alleged that those raising their voices against the drug trade were not safe.

"Meeting these three families, as well as the locals who were troubled and distressed by the chitta (drug) trade and had gathered at their homes, the reality of the situation in Punjab that they described turned out to be far more gut-wrenching and shattering than anything we read in official paper reports in Delhi," Shah added.

He said he had met the bereaved families of Bikramjit Singh in Gurdaspur, Gulzar Singh in Sangrur and Parvinder Singh Jhota in Mansa, all of whom were either murdered or driven to suicide for allegedly taking a stand against the drug mafia.

Assuring the people that the CBI would pursue those involved in Jhota's killing regardless of their influence, Shah took a dig at Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

"This morning, upon returning after celebrating his birthday, Bhagwant Mann did one good thing-he handed over one inquiry to the CBI. I want to assure the people of Punjab that, in the case entrusted to us, who-

ever the accused may be, no matter how powerful or influential they are, we will track them down, even if we have to search the depths of the earth, bringing them under the law and take them before the court.

"I would also like to appeal to the Chief Minister today: if you are unable to handle this, please hand over the other two cases to the CBI as well. The families of those victims are also demanding the same," he said.

Hitting back at his political opponents who had criticised him over his visit, Shah said his trip was purely humanitarian.

"Today, I came here merely to console grieving families; I had no political agenda whatsoever. Yet, abusive language was directed at me by name, and derogatory words were used. I only want to tell them: abusing me will achieve nothing. If doing so gives you satisfaction, by all means, take it. But at least put an end to the drug trade! Put an end to the chitta trade!" he said.

Responding to allegations that narcotics were entering the country through ports in Gujarat and Maharashtra, Shah questioned how illicit substances reached local neighbourhoods in Punjab without political patronage.

"They cast blame on us, claiming drugs arrive from Gujarat's ports. Drugs worth Rs 20,000 crore have been seized so far from the ports of Gujarat and Maharashtra. What do they mean to say? Should we not seize them? We took action to stop it. And instead, you level allegations against us? How do these drugs, packaged into sachets, reach the youth of Punjab? Is this possible without political patronage? Not at all!" he asserted.

Will explain concerns over SIR to PM: Kharage

the Prime Minister, and he has two letters from me," Kharage told reporters here.

"I will explain everything to him tomorrow, including the harm caused by the SIR (Special Intensive Revision) of electoral rolls, the implications of the delimitation exercise they are undertaking, and the issue of reservation for women. Why are they not implementing it? I will explain all these things tomorrow," he said.

Kharage's remarks came when journalists sought his reaction to Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju's letter to him.

Rijiju wrote to him responding to his October 16 letter seeking an all-party meeting before Parliament takes up the proposed Delimitation Constitutional Amendment.

In his letter, which he posted on 'X', Rijiju said the government had repeatedly sought the Congress's cooperation on the proposed legislation through written communications in March and April and discussions with Kharage and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi.

The minister said the Congress had not provided dates for discussions despite repeated requests, prompting the government to consult other parties, including the DMK, Samajwadi Party, YSRCP, NCP, Shiv Sena (UBT), AIMIM and BJD.

Rijiju also rejected suggestions of procedural impropriety over Parliament not being prorogued after the Monsoon Session was adjourned sine die on August 13, saying there was no constitutional requirement prescribing a specific period for prorogation.

He urged the Congress to cooperate constructively and not obstruct important legislation.

Guv Kavinder releases 3 books on Dogri theatre

Gupta said theatre, with its ability to communicate directly with society, can serve as an effective medium for imparting values, encouraging critical thinking and nurturing creativity among children and young people. He stressed the need for continued efforts to create quality literary and theatrical content in regional languages and to provide greater opportunities for young writers, artists and theatre practitioners.

He said preservation of linguistic &cultural heritage was not merely about safeguarding the past but also about strengthening the cultural foundation for the future.

He appreciated the contribution of writers, playwrights and theatre personalities in carrying forward the literary traditions of Jammu and Kashmir and promoting Dogri among wider audiences.

The books include plays such as Bhookh, Aag Ai, Anne Da Hathi, Mai Bhagat Singh, Maan Changa Kathothi Ch Ganga and Nama Tantra, besides the four children's plays.

The books have been authored, adapted and translated by Sudhir Mahajan.

Says Bhagwan Shri Ram's life inspires humanity to uphold truth, righteousness and duty

SHIMLA, OCTOBER 20: The Hon'ble Governor of

Himachal Pradesh, Shri Kavinder Gupta has extended his warm greetings to the people of Himachal Pradesh and the country on the auspicious occasion of Vijayadashami.

In his message, the Governor said that Vijayadashami symbolises the eternal triumph of good over evil, truth over falsehood and righteousness over injustice. The festival, he said, reminds us that the path of truth, courage and duty ultimately prevails, inspiring society to uphold moral values and remain committed to the larger good.

The Governor observed that the timeless message of Bhagwan Shri Ram's life continues to guide humanity towards righteousness, compassion, discipline and selfless service. He said that the occasion offers an opportunity to strengthen our resolve to overcome social evils, promote harmony and contribute to building a just, inclusive and progressive society.

He further emphasised that the spirit of Vijayadashami should inspire every citizen to discharge their duties with sincerity, uphold the values of unity and integrity, and actively contribute to the vision of a developed India by 2047, as envisioned by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

The Governor expressed hope that the festival would bring peace, prosperity, happiness and well-being to every household and further strengthen the bonds of unity, brotherhood and mutual respect among people.

