

AAP allowed drug trade to run openly in Pb: Shah

HANS NEWS SERVICE
JALANDHAR

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah launched a scathing attack on the AAP government in Punjab on Wednesday over the drug menace in the state, accusing it of allowing the trade in the contraband to run openly. Seeking support for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Assembly polls due early next year, Shah said the saffron party will

free Punjab from "chitta" (heroin) by December 2029. "Can AAP make Punjab drugs-free? Only the BJP can make Punjab drugs-free," he said. The senior BJP leader was addressing a rally here to mark the culmination of the party's "Nasha Mukht Punjab Yatra", which began on September 18. Hitting out at the AAP government led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Shah alleged that it

allowed the "chitta" trade to run openly in Punjab. He said the BJP will fight the Punjab Assembly polls on the issue of "Nasha-Mukt" (addiction-free) Punjab. Seeking support for the party, Shah said, "I promise Punjab's mothers and youngsters from here that before December 2029, we will free Punjab from chitta." On his arrival at Jalandhar in the afternoon, the home minister paid obeisance at the Shree Devi

Talab temple here. Later, he met some families affected by the menace of drugs. Before addressing the rally at Paragpur, in a post in Punjabi on X, Shah said Punjab is grappling with a serious drug problem due to the AAP government's poor governance and called the Mann dispensation "aapda" (disaster). He said the people of Punjab are waging a decisive battle against drugs and uniting the state

Can AAP make Punjab drugs-free? Only the BJP can make; BJP will fight the assembly polls on the issue of addiction-free State

in the process. The BJP's yatra reached every village in Punjab, raising drug awareness while also inspiring youngsters to join the campaign, he added. On the conclusion of the yatra in Jalandhar, Shah said he will meet with the residents of Punjab face to face and, by interacting with the families suffering from the scourge of drugs, share their pain and sorrow. Punjab BJP chief Kewal Singh Dhillon, party leaders Tarun Chugh, Sunil Jakhar, Ashwani Sharma, Vikramjit Singh Sahney, Manpreet

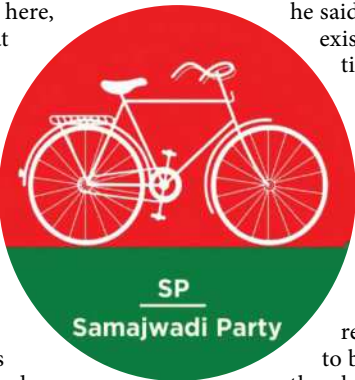


Badal, Iqbal Singh Lal-pura, Preet Kaur, Vijay Sampla, Sandeep Pathak, Som Prakash, Manoranjan Kalia, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, Ravneet Singh Bittu, Raghav Chadha, Harbhajan Singh and Ashok Mittal were also present at the rally.

SP in touch with many MLAs from ruling camp: Akhilesh

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LUCKNOW

AHEAD of the Rajya Sabha polls in Uttar Pradesh, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday said several MLAs from the ruling BJP-led coalition are in contact with his party, but asserted that the SP would not make promises that it cannot fulfil. Asked whether MLAs from the ruling camp are in touch with him, Yadav said, "There are many who are in contact. But how do we adjust them? We do not want to make a promise and then go back on it." Addressing a press conference at the party office here, he said the SP existed earlier, while continuing to a tion on allies for year's sembly. On the Sabha Yadav democratic requires rep-to be elected then lawmakers of the Upper House of Parliament. "Democracy should not have dishonesty. Had the BJP not indulged in dishonesty, the SP would have had three Rajya Sabha MPs," he said, referring to the previous election to the Upper House, in which SP candidate Alok Ranjan lost due to cross-voting in the party. Yadav said the SP is now urging MLAs to use this opportunity to "wash away the past". "Sometimes one should learn even from his opponents. They appear to be fighting, but remain together internally," he said. Asked about seat-sharing in an alliance, he said, "The SP has said this earlier and I am saying it again -- winnability is the basis for a seat."



LPU protest: HC seeks status report from govt

The matter came up for hearing before the bench headed by Chief Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra in the High Court on a plea by Lovely Professional University (LPU) B.Tech student, Ravi Raj, seeking a CBI probe into the vandalism and violence at LPU

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH

THE Punjab and Haryana High Court on Wednesday sought a status report from the Punjab government on a probe into the violence and vandalism that erupted at Lovely Professional University in Phagwara days ago. The matter came up for hearing before the bench headed by Chief Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra in the High Court on a plea by Lovely Professional University (LPU) B.Tech student, Ravi Raj, seeking a CBI probe into the vandalism and violence at LPU. Speaking to the media after the hearing, Additional Solicitor Advocate General Satyapal Jain said the High Court has sought a status report on the Punjab Police's investigation. "A complete status report (has been sought), what action has been taken, who are the culprits, what action has



been taken against them, what action is being taken," Jain said. The next hearing is on October 8. Jain said it was important to identify those behind spreading the misleading information on campus, as he expressed apprehension that a planned conspiracy appears to be behind it. Raj, the petitioner, submitted that an unverified post was circulated among the students on the night of September 26 claiming that a female student had been raped on the campus and sent home. Students gathered outside the girls' hostel and later blocked National Highway-44, according to the plea. Later, a large number of outsiders, carrying swords, rods and sickles



Punjab SIT summons Majithia in drug case

HANS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH

A Punjab Police Special Investigation Team, probing a Rs 6,000 crore drug case, has summoned senior Akali leader and former minister Bikram Singh Majithia to appear before it on October 5, official sources said on Wednesday. The SIT has also summoned dismissed Punjab Police cop Jagdish Bhola on the same date, they said. The SIT may question both Majithia and Bhola face-to-face for the first time in the multi-crore drug racket case. Bhola, a former wrestler, was arrested in November 2013 by the Punjab police in connection with the drug racket. In 2014, Bhola had named Majithia in the drug

racket, a charge which was vehemently denied by the senior Akali leader. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) later had also investigated the case under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The ED sleuths had questioned Majithia in 2014 in connection with the case when he was the minister in the then Akali government. Majithia was booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act on December 20, 2021, when the then chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi-led Congress government was in power. The action was taken on the basis of a 2018 report of the anti-drug Special Task Force (STF) of the Punjab Police.

BJP protests Omar's statehood resolution

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JAMMU/SRINAGAR

THE Bharatiya Janata Party staged a protest in Jammu and Srinagar on Wednesday against the National Conference-led Jammu and Kashmir government over the Assembly resolution on statehood, including autonomy. The BJP accused the government of passing the resolution without adequate discussion and failing to fulfil its election promises. Hundreds of BJP workers, led by party MP Jugal Kishore Sharma and other senior leaders, gathered at Kachi Chawani and marched in the area, raising slogans against the National Conference (NC) and the government. In Srinagar, the BJP protested outside its head office in Jawahar Nagar. Speaking to reporters, BJP J-K spokesperson



Altam Thakur said the NC government was raising these issues to divert attention from public welfare. The protesters demanded Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's resignation and the dissolution of the government, alleging that the Assembly resolution sought to revive provisions of greater autonomy for Jammu and Kashmir, which the NDA government rejected years ago. BJP workers also burned the chief minister's effigy during the protest. Police and paramilitary personnel were deployed in large numbers along the protest route. Sharma alleged that BJP legislators were not given adequate opportunity to participate in the discussion on the resolution and were forcibly removed from the Assembly when they raised objections.

Mehraj marshalled out of J-K Assembly

HANS NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR

AAP MLA from Jammu and Kashmir's Doda, Mehraj Malik, was on Wednesday marshalled out of the Legislative Assembly here after he went to the well of the House to register his protest for not being allowed to speak. Malik went into the well of the House while the Question Hour was going on, alleging that he was not being allowed to speak on issues in the assembly. However, as he continued to protest in the well of the House, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather ordered that the MLA be marshalled out. Earlier, Malik arrived on a bike for the assembly proceedings after his



security and driver were allegedly withdrawn. "After taking away my escort, my driver was taken away before assembly session and Today the 2 PSO's i was provided have also been withdrawn from srinagar. i am the only MLA in J&K, without escort, Driver and PSO's (sic)," Malik said in a post on X. The AAP MLA from Doda said J-K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhakar would be responsible if anything happened to him.

Eight houses gutted in blaze in J-K's Kishtwar

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JAMMU

AT least eight houses and a few cowsheds were gutted in a major fire that broke out in a remote village in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Wednesday, officials said. No casualties were reported in the blaze. The fire broke out in a house in Mungli village of Warwan shortly after midnight and quickly spread to adjoining structures despite efforts by local residents to contain the blaze, including the use of earth movers to demolish parts of the affected houses and create a firebreak, the officials said. They said as there is no fire station in the Warwan area, fire tenders were called from Kokernag in south Kashmir's Anantnag district and the blaze was



brought under control around 4 am. The affected area remained under monitoring as smouldering continued in parts of the site. Some livestock perished in the fire. The exact extent of the livestock loss, however, could not be ascertained as a detailed assessment was not possible during the night. The cause of the fire has not yet been ascertained immediately, the officials said. The administration has begun assessing the damage and relief requirements, while a relief vehicle is being arranged from the district headquarters, the officials said. Fire incidents are relatively common in the remote Warwan region during the winter months, when residents traditionally stock large quantities of dry grass and other fodder for livestock.

5 trekkers go missing in Uttarakhand

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DEHRADUN

A group of five trekkers have gone missing on the Vasukital trek in the high Himalayan region of Rudrapur district in Uttarakhand and efforts have been launched to trace them, officials said on Wednesday. Rudrapur District Disaster Management Officer Nandan Singh Rajwar said the brother of one of the trekkers in the Kedarnath-Vasukital trekking group informed the District Disaster Management Office about the incident. The officer said a helicopter attempted to locate the team on Tuesday, but could not find them. He said that a foot search team was also sent to trace the trekkers.

The officer said the trekkers had left on September 25 and usually it takes 10-12 days to complete this trek and return. However, they are being searched as contact has been lost with them. The state experienced heavy rainfall in the lower regions and heavy snowfall in the higher elevations on September 26 and 27, for which the Meteorological Department had issued a warning. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has directed officials to remain vigilant and urged people to avoid unnecessary travel. Rajwar said the trekking team did not take permission before leaving for the trek, otherwise the administration would have stopped them from going.

Nathwanis' political journey: Father backed by NDA, son fielded by SP

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

THE NDA helped send senior Reliance executive Parimal Nathwani back to the Rajya Sabha in June. On Wednesday, the Samajwadi Party chose his son Dhanraj Nathwani for a seat from Uttar Pradesh, extending the family's parliamentary journey across states and rival political camps. A group president at Reliance Industries and president of the Gujarat Cricket Association, Dhanraj was named alongside veteran leader Ram Gopal Yadav as the SP's candidate for the Upper House. Elections to 10 Rajya Sabha seats from Uttar Pradesh will be held on October 16, ahead of the state assembly polls due next year. Based on

A group president at Reliance Industries and president of the Gujarat Cricket Association, Dhanraj was named alongside veteran leader Ram Gopal Yadav as the SP's candidate for the Upper House

the present assembly arithmetic, the BJP-led alliance is expected to win eight seats and the Samajwadi Party two. Dhanraj, whose corporate responsibilities span several Reliance businesses, including overseeing the Jamnagar manufacturing divisions, filed his nomination in Lucknow in the presence of SP chief Akhilesh Yadav. "I extend my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to the Honorable National President, Shri Akhilesh Yadav ji, for nominating me as the



Reliance Jio Defence System Limited. He serves as vice chairperson of the Dwarkadhish Temple Administrative Committee and holds memberships of the Nathdwara Temple Board, and the Gujarat State Board for Wildlife. While Nathwani senior, Reliance Industries' director-corporate affairs, secured a fourth consecutive Rajya Sabha term with BJP-led NDA backing, son Dhanraj is seeking entry through one of the BJP's principal opponents in Uttar Pradesh.