

# Amit Shah India's Invisible Prime Minister

# A Call to Action for the International Community

The following report offers a comprehensive analysis of the influence, impact, and concerns raised by stakeholders around the world regarding the actions and politics of Amit Anil Chandra Shah, India's Minister of Home Affairs





### **Table of Contents**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<u>4</u>
THE INVISIBLE HAND BEHIND INDIA'S GOVERNANCE	4
A DUBIOUS TRACK RECORD	4
HUMAN RIGHTS	4
A CALL TO ACTION	4
CONCLUSION	
RULING WITH AN IRON FIST	<u>5</u>
TRACK RECORD OF UNCHECKED BRUTALITY	5
CONTROL OVER POLICE FORCES	5
HANDLING OF PROTESTS	6
INFLUENCE OVER LAW ENFORCEMENT	6
POLICY ACTIONS AGAINST MINORITIES	6
ARTICLE 14 AND MINORITY RIGHTS	6
LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES	7
NATIONAL SECURITY AND SURVEILLANCE	7
CONTROVERSY AND PERSONAL SCANDALS	8
A MORALLY BANKRUPT LEADER BY ANY STANDARD	
CUSTODIAL DEATHS AND EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS	8
India's Puppet Prime Minister A Murderer?	
'SNOOPGATE' CONTROVERSY	9
SUPPORT FOR FORCED CONVERSION AND RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION	9
FORCED CONVERSION OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES	9
STATE LEVEL LAWS TARGET MINORITIES	9
FOCUS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES	10
STANCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS	10
WESTERN VS. INDIAN STANDARDS	10
HANDLING OF SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES	10
U.S. CONCERNED OVER SHAH'S EXTREME VIEWS AND INFLUENCE	
TREATMENT OF DISSIDENTS, MUSLIMS, JEWS, AND LGBTQ+ GROUPS	11
SUPPRESSION OF DISSIDENTS	
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MUSLIMS AND JEWS	11
I CRTO+ PICUTS	11



CONNECTIONS TO RUSSIA AND GLOBAL SECURITY IMPLICATIONS	3 <b>12</b>
CONNECTION TO PUTIN AND RUSSIA	12
India's Relationship with Russia	
DEFENSE TIES	12
HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS IN RUSSIA	12
DIPLOMATIC BALANCING ACT	
A POLITICAL PARTY WITH DUBIOUS ORIGINS AND BELIEFS	13
BJP IDEOLOGIES	13
ULTRA-RIGHT-WING NATIONALISTS	
POLARIZATION	13
CONTROVERSIAL LEADERS AND ASSOCIATIONS	13
BJP STRATEGY AND POLICIES	14
ALLEGATIONS OF ELECTION TAMPERING	14
ECONOMIC POLICIES AND CRITICISM	14
EUROPEAN AND U.S. LEADERS VOICE CONCERN ABOUT AMIT SHAH	15
FROM EUROPE	15
EUROPEAN MEDIA COVERAGE	15
EUROPEAN UNION AND HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS	15
FROM THE UNITED STATES	16
U.S. Media Coverage	16
US GOVERNMENT AND THINK TANKS	16
A CALL TO ACTION ON THE EVE OF THE G20 SUMMIT	18



### **Executive Summary**

As the world's largest democracy prepares to host the upcoming G20 summit, the spotlight inevitably falls on its leadership. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the face of India's government, the influence and power of Amit Shah, the Minister of Home Affairs, cannot be overlooked. Often referred to as India's Invisible Prime Minister, Shah's track record raises serious concerns that demand the attention of global leaders, particularly those in Great Britain, the European Union, and the United States.

#### The Invisible Hand Behind India's Governance

Amit Shah's influence extends far beyond his official title. His role in shaping key policies, pushing controversial legislation, and orchestrating political strategies has earned him a reputation as a formidable and often shadowy figure in Indian politics. His close association with Prime Minister Modi and control over a massive police force further amplifies his influence.

#### A Dubious Track Record

Shah's political career is marred by allegations of human rights violations, suppression of dissent, and divisive policies that have marginalized minority communities, particularly Muslims, Jews, and LGBTQ+ groups. His push for Article 14 and the Citizenship Amendment Act has ignited widespread protests and drawn international condemnation.

#### **Human Rights**

Shah's stance on human rights, his past scandals, and his party's support for forced conversion of religious minorities raise alarming questions about India's commitment to democratic values and global security. These concerns are not confined to India's borders but resonate with democratic nations worldwide. In addition, Russia's courtship of India - with Shah as the powerful mastermind behind the scenes - should be a major cause for concern for all who value freedom, peace, and regional geopolitical stability.

#### A Call to Action

As India takes center stage at the G20 summit, the international community must seize this opportunity to scrutinize, call for reforms, and even censure Shah's actions and policies.

#### Conclusion

Amit Shah's role as India's Invisible Prime Minister warrants serious examination and action by the international community. As global leaders convene for the G20 summit, now is the time to address these concerns and uphold the principles of democracy, human rights, and international cooperation.



## **Ruling With an Iron Fist**

Amit Shah's policies and actions as India's Union Home Minister have been marked by controversy and concern. His control over police forces, push for Article 14, and stance on national security have drawn criticism from various quarters. The implications of these policies on human rights, democratic principles, and minority rights are central to understanding Shah's influence and impact.

#### TRACK RECORD OF UNCHECKED BRUTALITY

#### **Control Over Police Forces**

Amit Shah's control over India's police forces has been a significant concern for human rights advocates and political analysts. As the Union Home Minister, Shah has overseen law enforcement agencies, leading to questions about transparency, accountability, and potential abuse of power.

#### Transparency and Accountability:

- <u>The Wire</u>: "Amit Shah's Track Record as Home Minister Does Not Inspire Confidence" This article
  discusses concerns about Shah's control over law enforcement agencies and raises questions about
  transparency and accountability.
- <u>The Diplomat</u>: "Amit Shah's Dangerous Record" This piece highlights Shah's influence over police forces and the potential risks associated with his leadership, including issues of transparency.

#### **Potential Abuse of Power:**

- <u>Human Rights Watch</u>: "India: Police Torture, Killings Go Unpunished" This report raises concerns about police torture and killings in India, highlighting the lack of accountability under Shah's oversight.
- Al Jazeera: "India's police: A law unto themselves?" This article discusses the concerns about police brutality and abuse of power in India, with a focus on the role of the Home Ministry, overseen by Shah.

#### **Concerns from Human Rights Advocates and Political Analysts:**

- Amnesty International: "India: Alarming rise in police brutality cases" This statement from Amnesty
  International highlights the rise in police brutality cases in India and calls for accountability, reflecting
  concerns under Shah's leadership.
- <u>The Quint</u>: "Amit Shah's Police Reforms: More Power, Less Accountability?" This analysis by political
  analysts explores Shah's police reforms, raising questions about increased power and reduced
  accountability.



#### **Handling of Protests**

Shah's handling of protests, particularly those against controversial policies like the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), has drawn criticism. The use of force, detentions, and alleged human rights violations have been reported. <u>Source</u>

- <u>BBC</u>: "India citizenship law protests: All the latest updates" This report covers the handling of protests against the CAA, including the use of force and detentions, under Shah's oversight.
- <u>The Guardian</u>: "India: police officer who testified against Modi's right-hand man is sacked" This article discusses alleged human rights violations during protests and the controversial handling of dissent under Shah's leadership.
- Reuters: "Indian police accused of rights abuses in citizenship law protests" This report highlights accusations of human rights abuses by the police during protests against the CAA, reflecting concerns about Shah's handling of the situation.

#### Influence Over Law Enforcement

Shah's influence over law enforcement has extended to various states, with allegations of political interference and manipulation. His role in reshaping police forces has led to debates about the independence and integrity of law enforcement agencies. <u>Source</u>

#### POLICY ACTIONS AGAINST MINORITIES

Amit Shah's push for Article 14 and other legislative actions has been a contentious issue, sparking debates and protests

#### Article 14 and Minority Rights

Critics argue that Shah's support for Article 14 may undermine minority rights, particularly for religious minorities like Muslims. Concerns about discrimination, exclusion, and potential statelessness have been raised. Source

- Amit Shah, during an election rally in 2019, signaling the exclusion of Muslims from the Citizenship
   Amendment Act: "The refugees who have come from Bangladesh, be it Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, or Christians, BJP has clearly signaled in its 'sankalp patra' that we will give them citizenship.
- Shah's statements raises concerns about potential statelessness for Muslims: "First, we will pass the
  Citizenship Amendment bill and ensure that all the refugees from the neighboring nations get the Indian
  citizenship. After that NRC will be made and we will detect and deport every infiltrator from our
  motherland."
- <u>Shah threatens illegal immigrants</u>: "A Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government will pick up infiltrators one by one and throw them into the Bay of Bengal." Amit Shah, during a public meeting in 2019, referring to illegal immigrants, a statement that raised concerns among human rights advocates.
- Shah, during an election rally, emphasizing the exclusion of Muslims from the National Register of
  Citizens: "We will ensure implementation of NRC in the entire country. We will remove every single
  infiltrator from the country, except Buddha, Hindus, and Sikhs."



#### Legislative Actions and Democratic Principles

Shah's legislative actions have been perceived by some as an attempt to reshape India's democratic principles. His role in pushing controversial laws has led to questions about the government's commitment to constitutional values. Source

#### National Security and Surveillance

Shah's stance on national security and surveillance has also been a point of concern. His support for increased surveillance measures, including the expansion of the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID), has raised privacy and civil liberties issues. Source

- <u>Carnegie India</u>: "India's Intelligence Agencies: A Structural Reassessment" This think tank report discusses Shah's support for increased surveillance measures, including NATGRID, and the implications for privacy and civil liberties.
- Observer Research Foundation (ORF): "NATGRID in India: Need for a Legal Framework" This ORF report analyzes the expansion of NATGRID under Shah's leadership and raises concerns about privacy and civil liberties.
- The Wire: "Amit Shah's Plans to Expand NATGRID Should Worry Us All" This article discusses Shah's stance on national security and surveillance, including his support for NATGRID, and highlights potential issues related to privacy and civil liberties.



### **Controversy and Personal Scandals**

Amit Shah's controversies and scandals paint a complex picture of a political figure who has been at the center of numerous ethical and legal debates. From personal scandals like 'Snoopgate' to serious allegations of custodial deaths and support for policies that may promote religious discrimination, Shah's actions and stances have been a focal point of concern. These controversies not only raise questions about Shah's personal integrity but also highlight broader issues related to governance, rule of law, and human rights in India. The implications of these controversies are far-reaching, affecting both domestic politics and international perceptions of India's commitment to democratic values and human rights.

#### A MORALLY BANKRUPT LEADER BY ANY STANDARD

#### Custodial Deaths and Extrajudicial Killings

Shah has been linked to allegations of custodial deaths and extrajudicial killings, including the Sohrabuddin Sheikh fake encounter case. These incidents have led to concerns about the rule of law and accountability within law enforcement agencies under his watch. These incidents have not only tarnished Shah's reputation but also cast doubt on the integrity of India's legal system. Source

- <u>The New York Times</u>: The article delves into the Sohrabuddin Sheikh fake encounter case, linking Shah to the allegations and exploring the broader implications for the rule of law in India. The allegations question India's legal system and core democratic principles.
- <u>The Wire</u>: This article discusses Shah's acquittal in the Sohrabuddin case, criticizing the legal proceedings and expressing concerns about the erosion of accountability within law enforcement.
- <u>Human Rights Watch</u>: The report from Human Rights Watch discusses extrajudicial killings in India, including cases linked to Shah, and calls for accountability and reforms within law enforcement agencies.

#### India's Puppet Prime Minister A Murderer?

Amit Shah's political career has been marred by serious allegations, including being charged with murder. Though acquitted, the circumstances surrounding the case continue to cast a shadow over his character and leadership abilities. Critics argue that the outcome of the case may have been influenced by political considerations, raising questions about the integrity of the legal process and Shah's fitness for public office.

- <u>The Guardian</u>: "Amit Shah: India's most controversial politician" This article details the charges against Shah in the Sohrabuddin Sheikh fake encounter case, in which he was accused of ordering extrajudicial killings. Shah's acquittal in 2014 raised eyebrows, with critics questioning the fairness of the trial.
- BBC: "Amit Shah: India's Chanakya and Modi's right-hand man" This BBC profile of Shah discusses the
  murder charges and subsequent acquittal, emphasizing the divisive opinions about Shah's innocence and
  the integrity of the legal process.
- <u>The Caravan</u>: "The Emperor Uncrowned: The rise of Narendra Modi's right-hand man" This in-depth article explores Shah's rise to power, including the murder charges and the questionable circumstances of his acquittal.



Al Jazeera: "India's top court orders probe into police killings" - This report covers the Supreme Court's
decision to order an investigation into the extrajudicial killings, including the case involving Shah,
highlighting the gravity of the allegations.

#### 'Snoopgate' Controversy

Amit Shah was implicated in a scandal known as 'Snoopgate,' where he was accused of ordering illegal surveillance on a woman during his tenure as a home minister in Gujarat. The controversy raised serious questions about privacy and abuse of power. Source

# SUPPORT FOR FORCED CONVERSION AND RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

#### Forced Conversion of Religious Minorities

Amit Shah's support for policies that may promote forced conversion of religious minorities, particularly Muslims and Jews, has been a significant concern. His endorsement of controversial laws and rhetoric has been perceived as promoting religious discrimination. This stance has drawn condemnation from various international organizations, think tanks, and human rights groups, reflecting a broader concern about the erosion of religious freedom in India. Source

- Amnesty International: Amnesty International criticizes laws supported by Shah that may promote forced conversion, highlighting concerns about religious discrimination and women's rights.
  - "These laws are a disturbing continuation of the collectivization of women's rights by the state, in tandem with the control of individuals' choice of a spouse."
- <u>Human Rights Watch</u>: HRW discusses the implications of laws endorsed by Shah, raising concerns about forced conversion and the infringement of religious freedom.
  - "The Indian government is creating legal sanctions for a campaign by Hindu nationalist groups to harass and intimidate Muslims and other religious minorities."
- <u>Carnegie Endowment for International Peace</u>: The think tank report explores the landscape of religious freedom in India, including policies supported by Shah that may encourage forced conversion.
- <u>European Parliament Intergroup on Freedom of Religion or Belief & Religious Tolerance</u>: The
  European human rights group's annual report includes an analysis of India's religious freedom
  landscape, reflecting concerns about policies pushed by Shah.

#### State Level Laws Target Minorities

Shah's backing of anti-conversion laws in various states has been criticized for potentially infringing on religious freedom. These laws have been seen by some as targeting specific religious communities and limiting individual rights to choose or change religious beliefs. <u>Source</u>



### Focus On Human Rights Issues

Amit Shah's human rights record presents a troubling picture of a political leader whose policies and actions have been at odds with international human rights norms. From his divisive stance on Western vs. Indian standards to his handling of dissidents, religious minorities, and LGBTQ+ groups, Shah's approach has been marked by controversy and criticism. These human rights concerns not only reflect on Shah's personal leadership but also raise broader questions about India's commitment to human rights, democratic values, and the rule of law. The implications are far-reaching, affecting both domestic politics and India's international reputation.

#### STANCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

#### Western vs. Indian Standards

Shah's assertion that Western standards of human rights do not apply to India has been widely criticized. His remarks at the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) underscored a divisive perspective that has alarmed human rights advocates. <u>Source</u>

- Shah at a recent National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) event: "Human rights should be seen in the context of the atmosphere and circumstances of the nation."
- Ahead of the G20 meetings, is India moving in the right direction on human rights? Ask Shah: "Don't apply Western norms of human rights here in India."

#### Handling of Specific Human Rights Issues

Shah's handling of human rights issues, such as the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), and the National Register of Citizens (NRC), has led to international condemnation and protests. <u>Source</u>

#### U.S. Concerned Over Shah's Extreme Views and Influence

A federal panel on religion in the United States urged the U.S. government to weigh sanctions against Shah, if India adopted legislation that excludes Muslims from a path to citizenship for religious minorities from its neighbors. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) stated the bill goes against India's constitution, which guarantees legal equality to people of all faiths. The panel further said, "The United States government should consider sanctions against the Home Minister and other principal leadership." The panel's statement was seen as a strong condemnation of the Hindu nationalist-led government's agenda, which critics argue undermines the secular foundations of India's democracy.



# TREATMENT OF DISSIDENTS, MUSLIMS, JEWS, AND LGBTQ+GROUPS

#### Suppression of Dissidents

Shah's approach to handling dissidents, including activists, academics, and political opponents, has been perceived as oppressive. Allegations of arbitrary arrests, harassment, and intimidation have been reported. Source

- <u>European Parliament</u>: "European Parliament resolution on India's Citizenship (Amendment) Act" The European Parliament expresses concern over the suppression of dissidents in India.
- <u>United Nations Human Rights Office</u>: UN experts call for the release of activists and political opponents, criticizing Shah's approach.
- <u>Amnesty International</u>: Amnesty condemns the arrest and harassment of activists and political opponents linked to Shah's approach.
- Human Rights Watch: HRW criticizes the arbitrary arrests and intimidation of dissidents under Shah's watch.

#### **Discrimination Against Muslims and Jews**

Shah's policies and rhetoric have been accused of promoting discrimination against religious minorities, particularly Muslims and Jews. Concerns about forced conversion, exclusion, and potential statelessness have been raised. Source

- Anti-Defamation League: The ADL expresses concern over anti-Semitic incidents and calls for action to protect the Jewish community in India.
- <u>American Jewish Committee</u>: The AJC works with Indian authorities, including Shah's administration, to address concerns about Jewish rights and discrimination
- Organization of Islamic Cooperation: The OIC condemns anti-Muslim violence and discrimination, reflecting concerns about Shah's policies and rhetoric.
- <u>Amnesty International</u>: Statement highlights concerns about forced conversion, exclusion, and potential statelessness for Muslims under Shah's policies.
- <u>Human Rights Watch</u>: The watchdog documents incidents of discrimination against Muslims, reflecting broader concerns about Shah's approach to religious minorities.

#### LGBTQ+ Rights

Shah's stance on LGBTQ+ rights has also been a point of concern. The government's approach to LGBTQ+ issues, including legal recognition and protection, has been criticized for lacking inclusivity and sensitivity. <u>Source</u>

- <u>Human Rights Watch</u>: HRW criticizes the government's approach to LGBTQ+ rights, including legal recognition and protection.
- Amnesty International: Amnesty calls for more inclusivity and sensitivity in the government's approach to LGBTQ+ issues.



# Connections to Russia and Global Security Implications

Amit Shah's hardline nationalist influence on India's international relations, particularly the connection to Putin and Russia, presents a nuanced and complex picture. The relationship between India and Russia, marked by defense ties, trade agreements, and diplomatic balancing, has implications for regional and global security. Ahead of the G20 summit, concerns over Russia's human rights abuses and India's continued engagement with Russia raise critical questions about India's commitment to human rights and alignment with international norms. Shah's role in shaping these relationships underscores his significant impact on India's foreign policy and international reputation.

#### CONNECTION TO PUTIN AND RUSSIA

#### India's Relationship with Russia

India's relationship with Russia, particularly under the leadership of Vladimir Putin, has been a complex and multifaceted one. The connection between India and Russia spans various domains, including defense, energy, and trade. <u>Source</u>

#### **Defense Ties**

India's defense ties with Russia have been a significant aspect of the relationship. The purchase of Russian military equipment, such as the S-400 missile system, has raised concerns among Western allies and questions about India's alignment with global security interests. Source

#### Human Rights Concerns in Russia

Russia's ongoing human rights abuses, including attacks on the Ukrainian people, have raised alarm among human rights organizations. India's close relationship with Russia, with Shah pulling the strings as a hardline nationalist, has led to questions about India's own stance on human rights. Source

#### **Diplomatic Balancing Act**

India's diplomatic balancing act between Russia and Western allies has been a delicate endeavor. Amit Shah's influence on foreign policy, as a close advisor to Prime Minister Modi, plays a role in shaping India's international relations and strategic choices. <u>Source</u>



## A Political Party with Dubious Origins And Beliefs

The dubious beginnings of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), its association with extremist groups, controversial leaders, aggressive election strategies, and divisive politics have raised serious concerns about the party's commitment to democratic values and human rights. As Amit Shah plays a key role in the party's leadership, these issues reflect on his political character and threat to communities and human rights in the region.

#### BJP IDEOLOGIES

#### **Ultra-Right-Wing Nationalists**

The BJP was officially founded in 1980, emerging from the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, which was established in 1951. The party's roots are closely tied to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a Hindu nationalist volunteer organization. The RSS's ideology has often been criticized for promoting Hindu supremacy and marginalizing minority communities. Source

#### Polarization

The BJP's political strategy has often involved playing on religious divisions and promoting a Hindu nationalist agenda. This approach has led to increased communal tensions and violence in several parts of the country. <u>Source</u>

- <u>Gujarat Riots (2002)</u>: The BJP government in Gujarat, under then Chief Minister Narendra Modi, faced criticism for its handling of the 2002 riots, leading to communal tensions.
- Ayodhya Dispute: The BJP's support for the Ram Temple in Ayodhya has been a source of religious polarization and conflict.
- <u>Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)</u>: The BJP-led government's introduction of the CAA led to widespread protests and communal tensions.
- <u>Karnataka's Anti-Cow Slaughter Bill</u>: The BJP's push for anti-cow slaughter legislation has led to religious tensions and violence in Karnataka.

#### Controversial Leaders and Associations

Several key figures in the BJP have been associated with controversial statements and actions, promoting a hardline Hindu nationalist agenda. The party's association with the RSS and other extremist groups has raised concerns about its commitment to secularism and minority rights. <u>Source</u>

- Yogi Adityanath: "If they kill one Hindu, then we will kill 100." Adityanath, a prominent BJP leader, on retaliating against minority communities.
- <u>Sakshi Maharaj</u>: "The concept of four wives and 40 children will not work in India." Maharaj, a BJP MP, making a controversial statement against Muslims.
- Giriraj Singh: "Those opposing Modi should go to Pakistan." Singh, a BJP minister, making a divisive statement.
- <u>Pragya Thakur</u>: "Nathuram Godse was a patriot." Thakur, a BJP MP, praising Mahatma Gandhi's assassin.



#### BJP STRATEGY AND POLICIES

#### Allegations of Election Tampering

The BJP's rise to power has been marked by aggressive election strategies, including the use of social media for propaganda and allegations of manipulating electronic voting machines (EVMs). Critics argue that these tactics undermine the democratic process. <u>Source</u>

- <u>EVM Tampering Allegations</u>: Opposition parties accused the BJP of tampering with EVMs during the 2019 general elections.
- <u>Social Media Propaganda</u>: The BJP was accused of using social media for propaganda and misinformation during the 2019 elections.
- <u>Allegations of Voter Suppression</u>: The BJP faced allegations of voter suppression tactics during the 2019 general elections.

#### **Economic Policies and Criticism**

While the BJP has championed economic growth and development, its policies have also faced criticism for favoring big businesses and neglecting the needs of the poor and marginalized communities. Source

- <u>Demonetization</u>: The BJP government's demonetization policy faced criticism for impacting the poor and small businesses.
- Goods and Services Tax (GST): The implementation of GST by the BJP government was criticized for its impact on small traders and the informal sector.
- <u>Farm Laws</u>: The BJP's introduction of new farm laws led to widespread protests and criticism for favoring big businesses over farmers.



# European And U.S. Leaders Voice Concern About Amit Shah

Decisionmakers and thought leaders in democratic nations around the world have lodged concerns about Amit Shah's control over India's prime minister, his human rights track record, ultra nationalist stance on many issues, and claims about extrajudicial killings and violence. These concerns reflect a consistent and widespread pattern of criticism and scrutiny, highlighting key issues related to human rights, democracy, governance, and international relations.

#### FROM EUROPE

#### European Media Coverage

- <u>The Guardian</u>: This report covers the spread of protests across Indian campuses against the citizenship law, highlighting the divisive nature of the legislation and Shah's role in promoting it.
- <u>BBC</u>: This article provides an overview of the widespread protests against India's citizenship law, emphasizing concerns about discrimination against Muslims and Shah's central role in the controversy.
- <u>Financial Times</u>: This report discusses the violent protests sparked by India's divisive citizenship law, linking the unrest to Shah's policies and raising questions about India's democratic principles.
- <u>The Independent</u>: This article covers the eruption of protests across India against the citizenship law, emphasizing the concerns about exclusion of Muslims and Shah's influence on the legislation.
- <u>Deutsche Welle</u>: This report explores the religious tensions ignited by India's new citizenship law, highlighting the concerns about discrimination against Muslims and Shah's role in shaping the law.
- France 24: This article discusses Modi's defiance as citizenship law protests rage across India, emphasizing the controversial nature of the law and Shah's unwavering support for it.
- <u>Al Jazeera</u>: This Inside Story episode discusses the government's stance versus the protesters' concerns regarding India's citizenship law, highlighting the role of Shah in the ongoing controversy.

#### European Union and Human Rights Organizations

- <u>European Parliament</u>: This resolution expresses the European Parliament's concerns about India's Citizenship (Amendment) Act, highlighting the potential implications for human rights and democratic values, with Shah as a key figure.
- <u>Amnesty International Europe</u>: This statement calls for India to stop using its sedition law to chill free speech, linking the law to a broader pattern of repression under Shah's influence.
- Human Rights Watch Europe: This report warns that India's new law threatens the citizenship rights of Muslims, emphasizing the discriminatory nature of the legislation and Shah's role in promoting it.
- <u>FIDH (International Federation for Human Rights)</u>: This statement calls for the repeal of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and an end to the repression of protesters, linking the law to a broader pattern of human rights abuses under Shah.
- <u>European Council on Foreign Relations</u>: This commentary discusses the foreign policy fallout of India's Citizenship Amendment Act, exploring the potential impact on India's international relations and Shah's influence on foreign policy.



- Open Society Foundations: This opinion piece argues that India's Citizenship Amendment Act threatens the idea of India, linking the law to a broader trend of authoritarianism and exclusion under Shah's leadership.
- <u>Reporters Without Borders</u>: This news release discusses the use of India's sedition law to silence critics
  of the new citizenship law, emphasizing concerns about freedom of expression and Shah's role in
  shaping the legal landscape.
- <u>Front Line Defenders</u>: This statement reports on the ongoing crackdown against peaceful protests
  opposing the Citizenship Amendment Act, linking the repression to a broader pattern of human rights
  abuses under Shah.
- International Commission of Jurists: This statement argues that India's Citizenship Amendment Act is
  fundamentally discriminatory, emphasizing concerns about religious discrimination and Shah's role in
  shaping the law.
- World Organization Against Torture: This urgent intervention discusses the arbitrary detention and torture
  of human rights defenders protesting against the Citizenship Amendment Act, linking the abuses to a
  broader pattern of repression under Shah.

#### FROM THE UNITED STATES

#### U.S. Media Coverage

- The Washington Post: This op-ed highlights Shah's growing influence and power, describing him as an
  "invisible prime minister" and raising concerns about his potential impact on India's democracy and
  secularism.
- <u>The New York Times</u>: This opinion piece warns of an ethno-nationalist catastrophe in India, linking Shah's policies to a broader trend of exclusion and discrimination against minorities, particularly Muslims.
- <u>CNN</u>: This report discusses the potential impact of India's new citizenship law, emphasizing concerns about the exclusion of Muslims and the role of Shah in promoting the legislation.
- <u>The Wall Street Journal</u>: This article covers the widespread protests sparked by India's citizenship bill, highlighting the divisive nature of the legislation and Shah's central role in pushing it forward.
- <u>Bloomberg</u>: This quick take explains India's controversial citizenship law, outlining the key provisions and the role of Shah in championing the law, which has led to widespread protests and international criticism.
- Reuters: This report covers the Indian Supreme Court's refusal to stop the implementation of the citizenship law, emphasizing the legal challenges and Shah's unwavering support for the legislation.
- <u>TIME</u>: This explainer provides an overview of the protests against India's Citizenship Amendment Act, highlighting the concerns about discrimination against Muslims and the role of Shah in shaping the law.

#### **US Government and Think Tanks**

- <u>Council on Foreign Relations</u>: This brief explains the concerns related to India's treatment of Muslims under the Citizenship Act, linking Shah's policies to broader issues of religious discrimination and exclusion.
- <u>Brookings Institution</u>: This analysis explores the fractured politics of India under the Modi-Shah duo, emphasizing the divisive nature of their policies and the potential implications for India's democracy.
- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: This article examines India's citizenship dilemma, highlighting the legal, social, and political challenges posed by the Citizenship Amendment Act, with Shah as a key proponent.



- <u>The Heritage Foundation</u>: This commentary offers a U.S. perspective on India's Citizenship Amendment Act, discussing the potential impact on U.S.-India relations and Shah's role in shaping the legislation.
- <u>Human Rights Watch</u>: This report condemns the Citizenship Bill as discriminatory against Muslims, linking it to a broader pattern of exclusionary policies championed by Shah.
- Atlantic Council: This analysis provides a regional perspective on India's Citizenship Amendment Act, exploring the potential implications for neighboring countries and Shah's influence on regional dynamics.
- <u>Center for Strategic and International Studies</u>: This report discusses the domestic and international
  implications of India's Citizenship Amendment Act, highlighting the role of Shah in shaping the law and its
  potential impact on India's global standing.
- <u>The Wilson Center</u>: This article offers a legal perspective on India's Citizenship Amendment Act, discussing the constitutional challenges and Shah's role in promoting the legislation.
- <u>Freedom House</u>: This statement warns that India's citizenship law threatens democratic values, linking the legislation to a broader trend of authoritarianism under Shah's influence.
- Amnesty International USA: This press release condemns the Citizenship Amendment Act as bigoted, emphasizing concerns about discrimination against Muslims and the role of Shah in pushing the law.



#### A Call to Action on the Eve of the G20 Summit



As leaders from around the globe gear up for the G20 Leaders' Summit in New Dehli, attention is drawn to India, a significant force in international politics and the global economy. Central to India's contemporary political scene is Amit Shah, a man whose political ambitions, beliefs, and far-reaching influence demand careful examination and consideration.

Amit Shah's rise to power, his control over India's law enforcement agencies, his handling of protests, and his stance on issues such as national security, surveillance, and minority rights paint a picture of a leader with a complex and often controversial legacy. His leadership of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a party known for its dubious beginnings, aggressive election strategies, and promotion of a Hindu nationalist agenda, further compounds concerns.

Shah's support for policies that may undermine minority rights, his alleged involvement in personal scandals and abuses, and his influence over law enforcement have led to questions about transparency, accountability, and potential abuse of power. His remarks that Western standards of human rights do not apply to India have alarmed human rights advocates globally.

The upcoming G20 summit presents an opportunity for the international community to engage with India on these critical issues. It is a moment to call for reforms, to scrutinize Shah's track record, and to consider the broader implications of his leadership for regional and global security.

Consider those who will look to us to defend human rights, in any language, society or culture across the globe. Let this be a call to action for world leaders, human rights organizations, and concerned citizens to take a hard look at India's human rights track record with Shah as a key advisor to Prime Minister Modi.



The world must not turn a blind eye to the warning signs. The stakes are high, and the time to act is now. The G20 summit must serve as a platform for constructive dialogue and accountability, ensuring that the principles of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law are upheld.

International leaders must call Amit Shah to account for his actions and not let the G20 Summit pass without remaining true to the values that bind us as a global community.

