

# Art 370 verdict: Life as usual in Kashmir, several organisations celebrate in Jammu

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR/JAMMU: There were celebrations across Jammu on Monday but life went on as usual in Srinagar and other district headquarters in the Kashmir Valley as the Supreme Court upheld the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370 and reorganise Jammu and Kashmir into two Union territories.

Shops and business establishments opened in Srinagar and elsewhere as per usual while public transport also plied normally, in sharp contrast to what was witnessed on August 5, 2019, when the Centre moved to scrap Jammu and Kashmir's special status. There was radio silence from Kashmir that day.

The scenes in Jammu -- the winter capital -- were different on Monday as several organisations held events to celebrate the top court ruling and lauded it as a momentous decision.

In the summer capital, municipal workers were seen going about their work in the morning and tourists were busy clicking photographs at Lal Chowk in the city centre as taxis that ply between Srinagar and Jammu queued up at the tourist reception



Activists of Bajrang Dal and Shiv Sena & Dogra Front celebrating SC's decision in Jammu on Monday.

centre. Shop owners along the upmarket Residency Road were seen lifting the shutters, unmindful of the fact that the top court of the country was scheduled to deliver the verdict on petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370.

Muntazir Muzamil, a trader, said, "The verdict has been pronounced by the Supreme Court and there's no point debating it now. For the past 35 years, Kashmir has seen only violence... now, we are hopeful that the pace of development happening in Kashmir won't slow down."

"The situation should remain peaceful. What else

can a common man expect? We have to think of our future. Whatever happened has happened, it can't be undone now," he added.

Although there were more uniformed men on the streets in the morning, the numbers were not large enough to rouse any apprehensions. There were no concertina wires or special barricades erected on the roads to check the movement of people.

In Jammu, organisations like the Dogra Front Shiv Sena (DFSS), Rashtriya Bajrang Dal and the West Pakistan Refugees hosted events to celebrate the top court verdict.

Led by DFSS chairman

Ashok Gupta, scores of DFSS activists carrying national flags and pictures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi gathered in the Rani Park area. They danced to the beat of drums and dholaks and distributed sweets.

Reacting to the SC verdict, Gupta said, "It was the last nail in the coffin of Article 370. We are pleased with the decision. Article 370 is now conclusively laid to rest."

Rashtriya Bajrang Dal president Rakesh Kumar organised several events as well.

"The SC upheld the government's decision. Celebrations took place when Article 370 was abrogated. Today, with

this decision, there is widespread happiness in Jammu and Kashmir and the country," he said.

Valmiki Samaj activists also distributed sweets to celebrate the verdict, expressing jubilation with slogans like "Bharat Mata Ki Jai."

"We are very happy today. Fears in our hearts and minds over its restoration have been permanently removed with the SC verdict. We thank the SC for that," Valmiki Samaj leader Garu Bhatti said.

The Jammu and Kashmir unit of Shiv Sena (UBT) also welcomed the Supreme Court's decision.

The party's Jammu and

Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni demanded special safeguards concerning land, jobs and education for the region, akin to those granted to border and northeastern states under Article 371.

"We welcome the verdict of the Supreme Court. We are satisfied with the decision of SC to put an end to the issue," Sahni told reporters here.

He urged the Central government to conduct elections in Jammu and Kashmir promptly, in adherence to the court's deadline.

Reports of celebrations also welcomed the Supreme Court's decision. The Law and order issues

# SC verdict endorses PM's visionary policies for J&K: Chugh

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court decision, upholding the Narendra Modi Government's decision on Article 370 and 35A of the Constitution and said it was a historic victory of the Prime Minister's visionary step.



Chugh said J&K has entered a new era of growth and development after 2019 and the Union Territory government is determined to ensure that the fruits of progress not only reach the people of J&K but also extend their benefits to the most vulnerable and marginalised sections of our society, who suffered due to Article 370.

He said the verdict is not just a legal judgment; it is a beacon of hope, a promise of a brighter future and a testament to our collective resolve to build a stronger, more united India.

Chugh said ever since J&K turned a new chapter there has been a 45.2 per cent reduction in terrorist incidents and 90 per cent reduction in infiltration as compared to 2018 to 2023.

The Law and order issues

like stone pelting have reduced by 97 per cent even as there has also been a 65 per cent reduction in casualties among security personnel.

Chugh said in 2018, the incidents of stone pelting were 1,767, which are now almost zero.

After the abrogation of Article 370, the network of terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir has been destroyed.

Moreover, a record 1.88 crore tourists came to the Union Territory and the tourism sector has expanded.

In 2018, 199 youths joined terror outfits in Jammu and Kashmir; this number has reduced to 12 in 2023.

Chugh said credit for turnaround in J&K goes to the Prime Minister for his visionary steps.

# Politicians, people of J&K disappointed with SC verdict on Art 370: Azad

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and President Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) Ghulam Nabi Azad on Monday expressed disappointment over the Supreme Court verdict upholding the abrogation of Article 370 and said people of the region were "not happy".



He, however, welcomed the limit set by the apex court for holding assembly polls.

He said that the unemployment scenario in Jammu and Kashmir can worsen on account of the removal of Article 35A, as people from other parts of the country can apply for jobs.

"We are disappointed over the Supreme Court verdict," Azad told reporters, adding that he has been stating that only the central government or the Supreme Court can decide on the matter.

The central government, he said, took the decision to abrogate Article 370 while the attendant Article 35A was annulled, and it would not have changed its stance.

"This was our last hope...It is a unanimous decision. I think people of Jammu and Kashmir, whether in Kashmir or Jammu, are not happy," he said.

Azad said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir had a "sentimental" link with Article 370 and 35A and it was "historical" for the region.

He said Article 35A was incorporated in the "Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir" in line with the decisions taken by Maharaja Hari Singh, the erstwhile ruler, so that outsiders cannot purchase land in the state or get employment.

He said the removal of Article 35A will "cause great harm to Jammu and Kashmir's economy, lands will get costlier," and people from all over the country can apply for jobs, making it difficult for the locals to get them.

He said Jammu and Kashmir does not have a big industry and a lot of people depend on tourism for their livelihood. "Unemployment will rise," he said.

Azad said that Jammu and Kashmir has borders with Pakistan and China and 35A was incorporated considering special circumstances.

He said the decision to abrogate Article 370 in August was a "mistake" and was taken in "hurry". He said political parties in Jammu and Kashmir were not consulted.

The former union minister said the apex court has "at least" fixed the date for assembly polls and restoration of statehood would follow.

"This is in our favour", he said.

# Fight for honour and dignity will continue: Mehbooba on Article 370 decision

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: As the Supreme Court upheld the Central Government's decision on abrogation of Article 370, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister and President of Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Party (JKPDP), Mehbooba Mufti, said the people of J&K are not going to lose hope or give up.



In a message on social media platform she said "Our fight for honour and dignity will continue regardless. This isn't the end of the road for us."

"We should not be disheartened. J&K has seen several ups and downs

before this. SC's verdict stating Article 370 was a temporary provision, is not our defeat, but the defeat of the idea of India. I want to say this to the people of the country that many of you are celebrating this (verdict). This is a political war which has been going on for ages, and a lot of people have sacrificed their lives for

this. We will not leave this, we have to come together and fight" the PDP chief added. Weighing in on the SC ruling on Article 370, National Conference MP Hasnain Masoodi said, "...The question of J&K being divided into two parts and downgraded from a state to a Union Territory (UT) has not been addressed. Our senior lawyers will review this judgment and see what we've to do". Meanwhile PDP suspends political activities for a week after a Supreme court verdict on Article 370. The decision taken in order to stand in solidarity with the people in the wake of the Supreme Court judgment on Article 370 a party statement said on Monday.

# Establishment-cum-Selection Committee re-constituted

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The government on Monday re-constituted the Establishment-cum-Selection Committee with Atal Dulloo, IAS, Chief Secretary, J&K as its Chairman.

"In partial modification of Government Order No. 792-JK(GAD) of 2023 dated July 3, 2023, sanction is accorded to the re-constitution of the Establishment-cum-Selection Committee with Atal Dulloo, IAS, Chief Secretary, J&K as its Chairman," read an order issued by Sanjeev Verma, Commissioner/Secretary

General Administration Department. Other Members of the Committee include Raj Kumar Goyal, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Home Department; Santosh D. Vaidya, IAS, Principal Secretary, Finance Department; Dr. Manddeep K. Bhandari, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor; and Achal Sethi, Administrative Secretary, Department of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs while the Administrative Secretary of the department to which

the case pertains shall be co-opted as a Special Invitee and Sanjeev Verma, IAS, Commissioner/Secretary, General Administration Department will be its Member Secretary. "The terms of reference of the Establishment-cum-Selection Committee and the procedure to be adopted by it, while making the selection for the posts within its purview, shall remain the same as contained in Government Order No. 1488-GAD of 2011 dated December 26, 2011," it added.

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