

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !!

### Key points from...

in Union Territory of J&K shall be done at the earliest, said the CJI.  
- The Supreme Court upheld the reorganisation of Ladakh as a Union Territory.

### SC upholds abrogation...

a Union of states and Jammu and Kashmir features in it as a state.  
The CJI said if the contention of the petitioners on the interpretation of Article 370 regarding the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly was accepted, then Article 370(3) would become redundant and would lose its temporary character.

Article 370(3) of the Constitution says notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this article, the President may, by public notification, declare that this article shall cease to be operative or shall be operative only with such exceptions and modifications and from such date as he may specify: Provided that the recommendation of the Constituent Assembly of the State referred to in clause (2) shall be necessary before the President issues such a notification.

"It can be garnered from the historical context for the inclusion of Article 370 and the placement of Article 370 in Part XXI of the Constitution that it is a temporary provision," the apex court concluded.

In his separate verdict, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul said the purpose of Article 370 was to slowly bring J&K on par with other states.

Justice Sanjiv Khanna, in his separate verdict, concurred with the CJI and Justice Kaul and gave his own reasons for the conclusion.

The petitions challenging the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and the validity of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 that divided the erstwhile state into the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were referred to the Constitution bench in 2019.

### SC verdict: PM...

Supreme Court's verdict has proved that the decision to abrogate Article 370 was completely constitutional."

Asserting that since the abrogation of Article 370, peace and normalcy have returned to J&K, Shah said prosperity in the tourism and agriculture sectors has raised the income levels of the residents of both Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Growth and development have brought new meaning to life in the Valley, which was once torn apart by violence, Shah wrote on 'X' with the hashtag 'Naya Jammu Kashmir'.

"The rights of the poor and deprived have been restored, and separatism and stone-pelting are now things of the past," he added.

The entire region now echoes with melodious music and cultural tourism and the bonds of unity have strengthened, he said, adding Jammu and Kashmir's integrity with 'Bharat' stands reinforced.

"It is once again the Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh that always belonged to our nation and will continue to be so," the minister said.

Shah said under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the NDA government is committed to establishing lasting peace in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh and the all-around development of the region.

"Whether it is boosting the local economy with new incentives, building state-of-the-art educational infrastructure, or empowering the poor with welfare benefits, we will continue to exert all our might for the region," the home minister said.

Reacting to the SC verdict, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said, the court upheld Prime Minister Modi's decision to scrap Article 370 and 35A of the Constitution and the process followed for that.

This historic decision of the Supreme Court is going to make every Indian happy and by abrogating Article 370, Prime Minister Modi has not only written a new chapter but has also given new strength to the unity and integrity of India, Singh said.

BJP chief J P Nadda said the Constitutional Bench of the SC has upheld the process, objective, and decision to abrogate Articles 370 and 35A.

"Our government, under PM Modi has brought J&K into the mainstream, for which our millions of karyakartas extend their heartfelt gratitude to PM Modi Ji. Since the abrogation of Article 370, Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh have witnessed a new dawn of peace, prosperity, and development," he said on X.

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur said the top court's verdict is yet another victory and a moment of celebration for all the "nationalist people" of the country who dreamt of "complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with Bharat" and for which they fought political and legal battles, and even sacrificed their lives.

The Modi government withdrew the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019, to undo one of the many "historic blunders" committed by the Congress during the Nehruvian era, Thakur said on X.

Several BJP leaders also hailed the SC verdict as "historic", and said that with the scrapping of the special status given to J&K, Prime Minister Modi has written a new chapter and given new strength to the unity and integrity of India.

In its reaction to the court order, the Congress demanded immediate restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and said assembly elections should be held there immediately to enable people to elect a government of their choice.

Congress leaders P Chidambaram and Abhishek Singhvi said the judgement of the Supreme Court in cases concerning the abrogation of Article 370 has decided many issues but has left some.

The Judgement needs a careful study, Chidambaram said, noting "Prima facie we respectfully disagree with judgment on the manner in which Art 370 was abrogated".

He said the Congress has always demanded the restoration of full statehood of J&K and "we welcome the SC verdict in this regard".

"The verdict has sent a wave of despair among the people in J-K, and Ladakh. The verdict is very disturbing because....guaranteed by the Constitution," Tarigami said in a video statement.

The CPI(M) leader said the struggle for a better future will continue.

Writing the judgment for himself and Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant, Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud said Article 370 was a temporary provision in the Constitution and the president had the power to revoke it.

The court also upheld the validity of the decision to carve out the Union Territory of Ladakh from Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019.

### Provide opportunity to...

Vice Chancellors, Heads and faculty members of premier institutions of J&K, who were actively engaged in the workshop at Raj Bhawan Jammu, shared their valuable suggestions during the panel discussion on thematic areas to build a roadmap for students involvement and contribution in 'Viksit Bharat@ 2047'.

The Lt Governor expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister for creating a strong education ecosystem, industrial-academic relation, in the last 9 years, to turn every student into development soldier.

"Youth has absolute power to create a new vision for society. Youth has the potential to provide the nation influential ideas that will self-replicate and set the development agenda," the Lt Governor said.

He said, for the first time in history of India, the youth, symbol of skills and infinite energy, are getting an opportunity to become important stakeholders of a development revolution.

'Voice of Youth' initiative will ensure the imaginative innovation and ideas of youth are translated into reality, he said.

It is important that the Vice Chancellors and Head of Institutions must focus on cost-effective technology and viability of new initiatives to power the journey of Viksit Bharat, he said.

He said the workshop and its outcome will also act as a guiding force in accelerating the growth.

Highlighting the role of teamwork and collaborative creativity of students, the Lt Governor said the students have immense energy to rally around the common goal, attract and inspires participation of the society in equal number to share the gains from technical skills and knowledge.

"A proud moment has come in the lives of students and they being handed over the reins of the development of the nation and responsibility to contribute in Viksit Bharat," he said.

"In the journey of next 20 years, the students will be at the highest point of their career and their creative skills, disruptive ideas would be going through the strongest phase of life and I am confident with opportunities and collaborative efforts they will be able to give new impetus to the journey of Viksit Bharat," the Lt Governor said.

Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department, Dr Mandeep Kumar Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lt Governor and senior officials were also present.

### Full statehood to...

Narendra Modi and said that full statehood would be restored to Jammu and Kashmir at an appropriate time.

Speaking in Rajya Sabha, he also hailed the Supreme Court's Monday verdict upholding the abrogation of Article 370 as historic and said there will now be only "one Constitution, one national flag and one prime minister".

He attacked the opposition saying it is unable to see the change on the ground in Jammu and Kashmir after the scrapping of Article 370 and said the entire country has understood that it was first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's mistake in handling the Kashmir issue.

Shah also asserted that Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) was an integral part of India and no one can snatch it.

Replying to discussions on two new bills, he said they have ensured reservation of 24 seats to people from PoK in the J-K assembly.

"I want to assure the people of the country, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi has promised from the ramparts of the Red Fort, that the youth of Kashmir will no longer carry guns or stones and will instead carry laptops.

"The beginning of building a 'New Kashmir' has been made which will be free from terrorism. The foundation of a 'new and developed' Kashmir has been laid and when India becomes developed, Kashmir will stand equally among the other states, where tourists from across the world would come," he said in the Rajya Sabha.

"We are committed to providing justice to the people of Kashmir; its youth and children. We are sensitive towards them and not towards terrorists," he also said while attacking the Congress.

In an apparent reference to the Nehru, Abdullah and Mufti families, Shah alleged that three families deprived the ST and poor people of Kashmir of their rights, as several laws were not implemented in Jammu and Kashmir earlier.

"They (Opposition) will not be able to see the change, there is a problem with their glasses. They are not ready to rectify their mistake.... But people do not care anymore about them. The entire country has understood that it was Nehru's mistake," Shah said.

He also attacked the Congress for being against the other backward classes, alleging that it was because of them that the OBCs did not get reservation under various schemes in Jammu and Kashmir, which the new bills have now ensured.

He also alleged that the Congress has always been opposed to OBCs and their rights as they opposed the Mandal Commission too.

"The Congress party has always opposed the other backward classes and their rights," he said.

Shah also targeted the Congress and INDIA bloc over the huge recovery of cash during income tax raids on a company linked to a Congress MP from Jharkhand, wondering why he has not yet been suspended by the Congress.

He said the bank machines have also given up and the counting of notes has continued for more than five days.

He was replying to the over four-hour debate on the JK Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill and JK Reservation (Amendment) Bill - seeking to nominate two members from the Kashmiri migrant community and one representing the displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to the legislative assembly, besides providing reservation to certain communities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The home minister said the two bills related to Jammu and Kashmir brought by the government would give justice to those deprived of their rights for the last 75 years and asserted that reservation to the displaced people would give them a voice in the legislature. He also alleged that Jammu and Kashmir suffered due to the "mistakes" of first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and listed decisions like the "untimely" ceasefire and taking the Kashmir issue to the United Nations among them. The opposition led by the Congress, however, walked out of the House midway during the Home Minister's reply.

### Seven JKAS officers...

Bhat, JKAS, Deputy Director, Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir, has been transferred and posted as Deputy District Election Officer, Bandipore; Noor-ud-din Bhat, JKAS, Deputy District Election Officer, Bandipore, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Director, Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir; Shakeel Hussain, JKAS, Deputy District Election Officer, Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Director (Administration) in the Directorate of Social Welfare, Kashmir; Om Parkash, JKAS, District Panchayat Officer, Reasi, has been transferred and posted as Deputy District Election Officer, Doda; and Harvinder Singh, JKAS, Private Secretary with Chairman, Advisory Board under J&K Public Safety Act, has been transferred and posted as Deputy District Election Officer, Samba, against an available vacancy.

"Abdul Rashid War, JKAS, Labour Commissioner, J&K, is transferred and posted as Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Kashmir, vice Reyaz Ahmad Soff, JKAS, who shall avail further orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department and Rehana Batul, IAS (AGMUT/2010), Secretary, Labour and Employment Department, holding additional charge of Secretary, Public Grievances, shall also hold the charge of the post of Labour Commissioner, J&K, in addition to her own duties, till further orders," reads another order.

# Kashmir politicians allege house arrest, BGP welcomes SC verdict upholding Article 370 abrogation; LG says claim baseless Congress seeks immediate restoration of statehood

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR/JAMMU :

Mainstream politicians from Kashmir on Monday shared pictures of chains and locks on gates, alleging that they were under house arrest, a claim rejected by J-K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha as a war of words broke out on a day the Supreme Court upheld the validity of abrogation of Article 370.

Early Monday, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) on X alleged that "even before the Supreme Court judgement is pronounced, police have sealed the doors of the residence of PDP president @MehboobaMufti and put her under illegal house arrest".

Following the statement, Sinha at a press conference in Jammu denied the claim and said "no one has been put under house arrest or arrest in all of Jammu and

Kashmir".

"These claims are completely baseless and an attempt to spread rumours," the Lt Governor (LG) said and stressed that he was speaking responsibly and confirming that no one had been subjected to house arrest or arrest for political reasons anywhere in the Union Territory.

While Farooq Abdullah, who is the MP from Srinagar, is currently in Delhi for the ongoing Winter session of Parliament, his son Omar Abdullah is in Kashmir.

The Jammu and Kashmir Police issued a cautiously worded statement, clarifying that no arrest orders had been issued in relation to the Supreme Court proceedings concerning Article 370, and that there were no restrictions on movement.

"The police have not

received any orders to effect any arrests, particularly those related to court proceedings on Article 370 by the apex court," it said.

"There are no restrictions on movement. Examinations scheduled by different public bodies are proceeding as planned, businesses are open, and transportation is operating," the statement said. Police emphasised that the normal life of the common people continued at its usual pace. "While the police remain vigilant against disruptive elements, they have no intention or instructions to curtail freedom of movement and activities," the Jammu and Kashmir Police asserted in the statement.

The police urged people to carry on with their daily lives and not be influenced or intimidated by social media posts contradicting this information.

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#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and

Kashmir BJP president Ravinder Raina on Monday hailed the Supreme Court's verdict upholding the abrogation of Article 370, saying "we honour and respect the judgement in letter and spirit".

"We are proud of our country, constitution and our judiciary which is one of the best in the world. We respect and honour the judgement of the supreme court in true letter and spirit," Raina told PTI.

He said the Central government has time and again made it clear that it is ready to hold assembly elections but the decision has to be taken by the Election Commission, while the Prime Minister and Home Minister are promise-bound on the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood.

J-K BJP's chief spokesperson

Sunil Sethi said it is better not to give a political colour to the supreme court judgment which was in accordance with the wishes of the people of the entire country.

"This is a historic judgment as it put at rest the questions raised on the complete integration of J-K. This fight was not political or community-centric but there are some people in Kashmir whose politics runs on this (Article 370)," Sethi said.

Another BJP leader Brig (Retd) Anil Gupta said only conflict beneficiaries would be unhappy by the supreme court verdict.

"Those claiming that people of J&K are unhappy with the Supreme Court judgment are peddling lies. They can speak for themselves. Who has given them the mandate to speak on behalf of the entire people? Only conflict beneficiaries will be unhappy," he

wrote on X.

Meanwhile Congress has said that it shall continue its struggle for safeguarding the rights of people of J&K especially the rights of the land and job, apart from seeking immediate restoration of statehood , without any further delay, in any case before holding of assembly elections

Briefing media persons at party HQ here today, after the Supreme court verdict on Article 370, JKPC Chief Vikar Rasool Wani flanked by other senior leaders said that special status was accorded to J&K by then Congress Govt, thus protecting rights of people mainly the job and land rights of the residents of J&K, which have been taken away by the abrogation of special provision by the present government

He said that People are unhappy over the snatching of their land and job rights by

BJP Govt for which Congress shall continue its democratic struggle to seek protections of these rights, if the India block Govt comes in power at the Centre.

He said that it is significant that Hon'ble Supreme Court has vindicated our party's stand and acknowledged the struggle of the people, by holding that non holding of elections in J&K for such a long time is "unconstitutional and undemocratic" and directed the holding of Assembly elections latest by 30th Sep.2024. It is a slap on the BJP Govt. for denying the democratic rights to the people of J&K for over five and half years.

With regard to the restoration of statehood, GOI has now assured the Supreme Court, to restore the statehood, as soon as possible, the congress party demands the same be done at the earliest,

without any further delay, in any case before the assembly elections.

The Congress party is committed to continue its struggle for the restoration of rights of people especially safeguard, for land and jobs besides seeking immediate restoration of statehood, without further delay. He said that the party shall go in to other details of the judgment. Working President Shri Raman Bhalla, Sr. Vice Presidents Th. Balwan Singh & Ravinder Sharma besides General Secretaries Narinder Gupta, Pawan Raina, Namder Sharma & Suresh Dogra and Rajveer Singh, Ricky Dalotra were present in press conference.

Ravinder Sharma referred to the stand of the party as per CWC resolution on the issue and said that party had left the issue of constitutionality on the Apex Court.

## RSS welcomes SC verdict on Article 370, says it will strengthen national unity

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

DELHI: The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh on Monday said the Supreme Court verdict upholding the abrogation of Article 370 by the Centre will strengthen national unity.

The RSS has been opposing Article 370 of the Constitution "since the beginning", Sangh's all-India publicity head Sunil Ambekar said in a statement.

The top court unanimously upheld the Centre's 2019 decision to abrogate provisions of the Article bestowing special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir (J-K).

It also directed restoration of statehood "at the earliest" as well as elections to the assembly by September 30 next year.

"The Supreme Court legitimising the abolition of Article 370 is worth welcoming. Rashtriya Swayamsevak

Sangh (RSS) welcomes this decision," Ambekar said

The RSS has also passed many resolutions in the matter and participated in all the movements demanding scrapping of the provision which gave a special status to Jammu and Kashmir; he said. "This decision will strengthen national unity. The people who have been suffering injustice in Jammu and Kashmir for years due to Article 370 have got relief from this decision," Ambekar added.

The RSS-linked women's organisation Samvadhanee Nyas also hailed the Supreme Court verdict.

It said the abrogation of Article 370 by the Centre has paved the way for the "integration of Jammu and Kashmir into the mainstream of India" and fostering equal rights and opportunities to all citizens.