

## !! Continuations from Page 1 !! Development replaced disillusionment...

decision was taken to enhance constitutional integration and not disintegration. The court has also recognized that Article 370 was not permanent in nature, he added.

The breathtaking landscapes of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh witnessed the worst forms of violence and instability in the last seven decades.

The prime minister blamed centuries of colonization, most notably economic and mental subjugation, for India becoming a "confused society of sorts" which instead of taking a clear position on basic things allowed duality, leading to confusion.

PM Modi then asserted that Jammu and Kashmir became a victim of such a mindset as the then central government had a choice of making a fresh start for national integration but opted to continue with the confused approach even if it meant ignoring the long-term national interests.

"It was always my firm belief that what had happened in J-K was a great betrayal-of our nation and of the people living there. It was also my strong desire to do whatever I can to remove this blot, this injustice done to the people. I have always wanted to work to alleviate the suffering of the people of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

In very basic words, Articles 370 and 35 (A) were major obstacles, and those suffering as a result were the poor and downtrodden, he added.

"They ensured that the people of J-K never got the rights and development that the rest of their fellow Indians did. Due to these Articles, a distance was created between people belonging to the same nation. As a result, many people who wanted to work to solve the problems of J-K were unable to even if they felt the pain of the people there," the PM said.

Key central government schemes have attained saturation levels following the removal of the two Articles, he said.

"Government vacancies, which were a den of corruption and favouritism, have been filled in a transparent and process-driven manner. Earlier, there was a question mark on the status of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. Now, there are only exclamation marks about record growth, development and tourist inflows," PM Modi opined.

Noting the devastating flood which struck the Valley soon after he took office in 2014, Modi recalled that he went to Srinagar to assess the situation and announced Rs 1,000 crore as special assistance for rehabilitation, signalling the government's commitment to supporting the people during crises.

"The same year, I decided not to mark Diwali in remembrance of those we lost in J-K and decided to be there on Diwali day," he said, highlighting his decision to frequently send ministers to the region.

"From May 2014 to March 2019, over 150 ministerial visits took place. This is a record in itself. The special package of 2015 was a significant step in addressing the developmental needs of Jammu and Kashmir," he recalled.

Sports initiatives were among measures to reach out to the youth, he said, and cited the example of talented footballer Afshan Ashiq who was part of a stone-pelting group in Srinagar in 2014, but with the right encouragement she turned to football and was sent for training. She excelled in the game, the PM commended.

### SC's Art 370...

of Jammu and Kashmir as envisioned by the prime minister who released the people from the clutches that was Article 370.

"After the abrogation of Article 370 by the centre in 2019, the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a positive change. Now strike calendars are not issued by our neighbouring country and stone-pelting has become a history," he said.

The LG said people are enjoying the fruits of normalcy with the return of nightlife and cinemas in the valley where new dreams and new lifestyles have taken birth.

"Jammu and Kashmir is now known as a tourism hotspot rather than being infamous for terrorism. Last year a record number of 1.88 crore tourists visited the region and by November this year, the footfall had already crossed the two crore

mark," Sinha said.

### LG announces setting...

achieve the goal of making India a Developed Nation," the Lt Governor said.

He directed the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages to prepare a monograph on the life of General Zorawar Singh in Tamil Language.

It is the duty of every citizen to uphold and protect the unity and integrity of the nation. Young generation must strive to become worthy heirs of great leaders who struggled and sacrificed to build a new destiny of the country. With those ideals, values and civilizational strength we should focus on building a brighter future, he said.

Maj Gen Goverdhan Singh Jamwal (Retd.), Lt Gen RK Sharma (Retd.) and Thakur Gulchain Singh Charak, former Minister also spoke on the occasion.

Padma Shri SP Varma, President Gandhi Global Family; Prof. Unesh Rai, Vice Chancellor Jammu University; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Anand Jain, IGP Jammu; Devinder Singh Kaluria, Chairman General Zorawar Singh Memorial Trust and Trustees- Riya Kaluria and Diksha Kaluria; prominent citizens and students in large number were present.

### LS nod to...

knowledge and talent. The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Second Amendment) Bill seeks to provide reservation for women in the legislative assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir that came into force following the enactment of the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023.

The Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill seeks to provide for as nearly as may be, one-third of total seats in the Legislative Assembly of the Union territory of Puducherry to be reserved for women.

The Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023 is the official name of the women's reservation law, that seeks to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies

During a special session of Parliament in September, the Prime Minister had described the law as "Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam".

The law will take some time before being implemented as the next census and the subsequent delimitation exercise -- redrawing of Lok Sabha and assembly constituencies -- will ascertain the particular seats being earmarked for women.

The quota for women in the Lok Sabha and assemblies will continue for 15 years and Parliament can later extend the benefit period.

### Dulloo reviews operational...

being raised under this mission ought to be maintained properly for reaping benefits accruing from them continuously.

He told both the CEOs of JSCL and SSCL to look into raising of assets that would make the operation and maintenance of such assets durable and long lasting. He stressed on working out a model after properly analyzing the recurring expenditure to be made on such projects of public use. He asked for finding the resources that would sustain these projects for posterity.

He asked about the list of projects completed under the mission here at Jammu and Srinagar till now and ongoing ones with their anticipated dates of completion. He enquired about the usage of the projects dedicated to public and the pace of those under execution. He advised them to coordinate with the divisional administration for seeking earlier resolution of all the interdepartmental issues affecting their works. Dulloo asked about the status of the work on the Tawi Riverfront Development and water transport project in Srinagar. He called for operationalization of IT based smart traffic management systems like ILTM and ITMS at an earliest. He called for completing all the projects of the mission by their stipulated timelines without any fail.

The Chief Secretary was informed by the Principal Secretary, H&UDD, Prashant Goyal that the smart city projects are completed by sharing of 50% revenue each by Centre and the UT besides arranging funding through PPP and convergence modes. He further added that the Smart city projects includes creation of many kiosks, VMDs, advertisement decks, commercial spaces, e-buses, parking areas and public utilities that would fetch them revenue through ticketing.

It was also given out that the mission here is in a process of detailed out a plan to make the facilities and projects most beneficial and sustainable for the people of the UT for times to come.

### J&K employees, pensioners...

Commission recommendations and Pensioners/Family Pensioners, will be paid Dearness Allowance at a revised rate of 46 percent of Basic Pay/Pension/Family Pension from the existing 42 percent of Basic Pay/Pension/Family Pension rate with effect from July 1, 2023.

"The term 'Basic Pay' in the revised pay structure means the pay drawn in the prescribed level in the Pay Matrix as per 7th Pay Commission recommendations, but does not include any other type of pay like special pay etc," the order said.

"The arrears on account of additional installment of Dearness Allowance from July, 2023 to November, 2023 shall be credited in GPF accounts in respect of employees appointed prior to January 1, 2010 and paid in cash in respect of NPS employees. The revised Dearness Allowance shall form part of monthly salary from December, 2023," it added.

"The payment of Dearness Allowance involving a fraction of 50 paise and above shall be rounded to the next higher rupee and the fraction of less than 50 paise shall be ignored," it added.

A separate order mentioned that the government pensioners or family pensioners would be paid Dearness Allowance at a revised rate i.e., 46 percent of Basic Pension or Basic Family Pension from the existing rate of 42 percent per month.

The arrears on account of additional installment of Dearness Allowance with effect from July 2023 to November, 2023 shall be paid in cash to government pensioners or family pensioners in the month of December, 2023 and would form part of pension and family pension from December, 2023 onwards.

"Other provisions governing the grant of Dearness Allowance on pension and family pension such as the regulations of Dearness Allowance during employment or re-employment, where more than one pension is drawn etc. and other provisions of the existing rules or orders (as are not in conflict with provisions of this order), shall continue to remain in force," it was further ordered.

### Get ready J&K...

serve as a beacon of hope and the nation's commitment to a vibrant and inclusive democracy.

Top brass of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has vehemently been pledging commitment to the democratic values that form the bedrock of the world's largest democracy. The latest development has presented a crucial opportunity for the Election Commission to reaffirm the nation's dedication to the principles of representation and governance. Power of democracy is a force that binds the diverse population together. In line with this belief, the government has to be resolute enough in its commitment in facilitating elections to the Legislative for providing the people of this region with the opportunity to actively participate in shaping their own destiny. Conducting elections is not merely a political duty; it is a manifestation of the nation's faith in the democratic spirit that empowers individuals and communities. The forthcoming elections in Jammu and Kashmir will be a testament to the nation's commitment to fostering local leadership, encouraging political diversity, and ensuring that the voices of the people are heard. The democratic process is a shared journey where every citizen plays a crucial role. By holding elections in Jammu and Kashmir, it is hoped that a participatory and inclusive governance structure will be in place that addresses the unique needs and aspirations in this part of the country. Keeping in view the sensitive and the security situation, the road ahead may present challenges, but all the concerned agencies under the superintendence of the Election Commission of India will have to remain steadfast in their determination to overcome these.

Holding elections to the Legislative Assembly will go a long way in steering Naya Jammu and Kashmir to a new era of peace, prosperity and stability after having attained the goal of near normalcy in the wake of taking path-breaking initiatives during the past four hears-post political development of August 5, 2019.

### Shah Rukh Khan visits Vaishno Devi incognito ahead of Dunki release

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

KATRA: Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan recently visited the holy shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi in Katra. A video of the actor from the shrine went viral on social media. Shah Rukh is awaiting the release of his next film, Rajkumar Hirani's Dunki. The actor had earlier visited ahead of the release of his last two films, Jawan and Pathaan, which makes this his third visit this year.

In the video, shared by P'TI on X, Shah Rukh is seen being escorted by his entourage and a few policemen. He is accompanied by his manager Pooja Dadlani. To avoid the attention of the public, the actor went incognito. He wore a big black jacket and cap to keep his identity hidden.

Dunki, starring Shah Rukh, along with Taapsee Pannu, Vicky Kaushal, Boman Irani and others, is scheduled to hit the theatres on December 21. Recently, the actor explained the meaning of the film's title as he wrote on X (formerly Twitter), "Because everybody asks, what does Dunki mean? Dunki means being apart from your loved ones. And when you are with them, one feels the moment should last till the end of time."

### Suspicious gadget found in Samba

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA/JAMMU: An electronic gadget with a blinking light found near the banks of a canal in Samba district sent police personnel into a tizzy on Tuesday evening.

A bomb disposal squad was rushed to the spot in the Vijaypur area and it was cordoned off, officials said.

Some locals noticed the suspicious electronic gadget with a blinking light lying on the banks of a canal near Swankha Morh, around 15 kilometres from the International Border, and informed police about it, they said.

A police official said it was too early to say anything about the object.

"The officers are on the scene and further details are awaited," he said.

In November last year, a packet was dropped by a drone from across the border in Vijaypur. An Improvised Explosive Device, two pistols, four magazines and Rs 5 lakh were recovered from the packet. A joint search operation was carried out by the Army and police in the Pallanwalla area near the Line of Control in Akhnoor sector of Jammu on Tuesday, the officials said. The operation was carried out after information was received about suspicious activity in the area. However, nothing incriminating was found during the day-long operation, they said.

### Woman among 4 held; arms, ammunition recovered

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Security forces arrested four people, including a woman, in Bandipora district and recovered arms and ammunition from them, police said on Tuesday.

"Bandipora police along with Army, CRPF and Sopore Police arrested four persons, including a woman. Huge quantities of arms and ammunition recovered," the police said in a post on X. The police identified them as Adil Tariq Wasil, Shaffkat Nabi, Musab Khurshed, all residents of Ladoora Rafiabab Bla. The name of the woman has been withheld. A case has been registered and investigation taken up, the police said.



### 2 charge sheeted for medical college admission fraud

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Tuesday filed a charge sheet against two people in a court here for allegedly duping a man of Rs 5 lakh on the pretext of getting his daughter admitted to a medical college in Karnataka, an official said.

The 134-page charge sheet against Sudarshan Kumar and Rahul Kumar, both residents of Jharkhand, was filed by the Crime Branch of J&K Police in a case registered earlier this year.

In his complaint, Hemant Kumar Bhat, a resident of Roop Nagar in Jammu, said he was lured, cheated, and duped by the representatives of Bengaluru-based Global Learning and Education Consultancy on the pretext of getting his daughter admitted to a Karnataka medical college under the management quota to pursue an MD (doctor of medicine) course.

Bhat was offered a seat at Karnataka Lingayat Education Society or Kempegowda Institute, both in Bengaluru, and asked to pay Rs 5 lakh immediately to confirm the seat and submit the balance amount of Rs 25 lakh after securing admission.

A preliminary verification substantiated the allegations leading to the registration of a formal case under the relevant sections of law for an in-depth probe, police said.

### Kashmir willow clefts worth Rs 50 lakh seized, 1 held

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Police on Tuesday seized 6,250 Kashmir willow clefts worth Rs 50 lakh and detained a truck driver in Kathua district, officials said.

A police team intercepted a truck on its way to Punjab from Kathua at Toll Plaza in Lakhnapur area, they said.

During checking, the truck was found to be loaded with suspected willow clefts. They seized the truck and detained driver Kuldeep Singh of Jalandhar, they said.

The truck is loaded with 5,000 full size plain double Kashmir willow cleft, 750 full size plain single Kashmir willow cleft and 500 full size plain STR Kashmir willow cleft, they said adding that Range Forest Officer along with his team was also present on the spot.

As the matter pertains to the Forest Department, in this regard, the said vehicle loaded with willow cleft and driver handed over to the department for verification and legal proceedings, they said.

### Two 'suspected individuals' arrested in Anantnag

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Army on Tuesday said two "suspected individuals" were arrested in Anantnag district and a pistol was recovered from their possession.

"Based on intelligence inputs, a Joint Mobile Vehicle Check Post (MVCP) was established on Monday, #IndianArmy & @JnmKmrPolice at Zabilpura, Bijbehara, Anantnag, two suspected individuals have been apprehended with recovery of 01xPistol & war-like stores," the Army's Chinara Corps said in a post on X.

The Army said further investigation is in progress.

### Will be 'off-grid' for few weeks: Omar after back-to-back legal setbacks

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR:

National Conference leader Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said he will go "off-grid" for few weeks following two "deeply disappointing" days but promised to return early next year to face challenges, including two elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a long post on X, the former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir apparently referred to the Supreme Court upholding the abrogation of Article 370 and the Delhi High Court refusing to grant him divorce from his

estranged wife Payal Abdullah.

"Who was it who said it's not how hard you can hit, it's how hard you can get hit & still keep moving forward? The last two days have been deeply disappointing both personally & professionally but I refuse to give up & slink away. It's that time of the year when I take some time to be with those I care about, to refresh, recharge & come back stronger. I'm going off-grid for a few weeks," Abdullah said in the post.

He said he will come back early next year "fighting fit"

and ready to face the challenges of 2024.

"Will come back early in the new year fighting fit & ready to face the challenges that 2024 will throw at me, including at least two elections in J&K. The fights & struggles will continue," he added.

Abdullah had on Monday said he is disappointed but not disheartened by the Supreme Court verdict upholding the Centre's August 5, 2019 decision to abrogate Article 370, which bestowed special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir.

## CS for improving quality of skill courses to enhance enrolment, placements

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Urging the Skill Development Department to have a close peek into the viability of courses offered by the skill imparting institutions of the Union Territory, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Tuesday called for taking measures to improve the overall enrollment and placement of the students undergoing training there.

Reviewing the impact and outcomes of the schemes and projects of the Skill Development (SDD) and Science & Technology (S&T) Department, under implementation across Jammu and Kashmir, Dulloo observed that the skilling of youth holds the promise of bringing gainful employment to them. He made out that the relevant courses and rigorous training of the students could change the landscape of fetching them the desirable jobs. He asked for preparing these Institutes to be hubs of imparting right kind of skill sets which are in demand in the market bolstered with incubation and mentorship to safeguard the future of the students.

He even advised them to track the pass outs of these institutions for taking feedback from them besides studying the kind of challenges they face in securing employment for them. He also asked for carrying out a survey to know about the skill gap between our population and the needs of industries out there.

The Chief Secretary took this occasion to ask the Department to work out a plan for optimal utilization of Centers of Excellence established here. He asked them to take full benefits from the schemes like PMKVY, STRIVE and SANKALP to make our youth and marginal groups skilled for their empowerment.

While remarking that skill development is basically about learning by doing the Chief Secretary asked about the status of labs besides the kind of machinery and instruments available in skill institutions for learning of students. He enquired about the faculty in position there besides the plans of the Department to upgrade the curriculum and quality manpower in these institutes.

In his presentation the Commissioner Secretary, SDD, Saurabh Bhagat informed the meeting about the achievements and schemes in progress in the Department. He made out that the Department is offering all services online to its enrolled students. He added that out of the intake capacity of 15638 in it is and 3500 in our polytechnics the Board of Technical Education (BOTE) is able to fill around 95% of them.

He further informed that the Department has established 2 Centers of Excellence at ITI Kathua and Budgam in collaboration with Industries imparting automobile related training to 800 trainees of 27 ITIs. Besides he revealed that a Centrally Sponsored Scheme STRIVE is implemented in 7 ITIs, VTIP in 2 it is, CIIT scheme under polytechnic sector at Jammu and Baramulla for introducing Industry 4.0 here.

Regarding the working of Science & Technology (S&T) Department the Chief Secretary stressed on reserving

more efforts for completing the solar energy projects under implementation in the UT. He called for providing right advice to Industries in shifting to solar power. He asked for having collaboration with PDD to complete the projects like PM KUSUM and Grid connected Solar Rooftop projects here.

The Commissioner Secretary informed the meeting about the status of these projects under implementation here. He informed that the 200 MW Jammu Solar City Mission involving 50000 households of the city is currently under implementation here.

Besides he revealed that for the promotion of Agriculture sector PM KUSUM for providing solar pumps to agriculturists is implemented by the S&T department. He said that 4000 solar pumps above 15 HP capacity are aimed by the Department to cover under it. Besides for general public JaKeGA has scheme for providing solar power units of varying capacities for use in domestic sector with provision of attractive subsidy on the same.

### Rajya Sabha passes bill to regulate appointments of CEC, ECs

#### ■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Rajya Sabha on Tuesday passed a bill to regulate the appointment and service terms of Chief Election Commissioner and election commissioners with key amendments like retaining their status at par with Supreme Court judges, upgrading the search committee and inserting a new clause to protect them from court cases while discharging their official duties.

While the bill was passed by a voice vote, opposition members alleged the proposed measure subjugates the poll authority to the Executive and violates the Constitution and later walked out of the House. They also alleged that it was an attempt to circumvent the Supreme Court order on the appointment of CEC and ECs.