

!! Continuations from Page 1 !! Abrogation of Article...

investment proposal in New Kashmir isn't just about capital, it's about trust being restored, faith being rewarded.

The change is not imperceptible; it is perceptible. Perception has changed, ground reality is changing, hopes of the people are soaring", he stated.

Addressing the gathering at the 10th Convocation Ceremony of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, Dhanthkar said, "In just two years, Jammu and Kashmir received investment proposals worth Rs 65,000 crores, signaling strong economic interest in the region. For the first time since 2019, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has entered Jammu and Kashmir; with multiple international companies showing interest. The region is a confluence of confidence and capital," he added.

"The aspirations of generations found wings when the constitutional walls of separation crumbled in 2019 with the historic abrogation of Article 370. To the young minds present, I would like to emphasize that Article 370 was a temporary provision. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, refused to draft it. Sardar Patel, who integrated most princely states into the Indian Union, was unable to integrate Jammu & Kashmir. In 2019, a new journey began on this sacred land-one from isolation to integration," said Dhanthkar.

He said, "In 2023, over 2 crore tourists visited Jammu and Kashmir, giving a tremendous boost to the local economy. What was once called heaven on earth is now a symbol of hope and prosperity."

The Vice-President said, "A great son of the soil once voiced the demand for 'Ek Desh Mein Ek Nishan, Ek Vidhan, Ek Pradhan.' That dream has been accomplished. Where there was once disorder, we now witness real order and stability."

"Nationalism is our identity. It is our supreme duty to always prioritize national interest above everything else. No political or personal interest is greater than the interest of the nation," he urged.

Highlighting the importance of duties, the Vice President said, "Every individual has certain duties. Our culture teaches us what our duties are. We must discharge our civic duties diligently, and when we do so, the results will be remarkable. We must march ahead, fast-tracking our journey toward a developed Bharat. One significant step in this direction is the transformation from the Danda Vidhan to the Nyaya Vidhan-unshackling the colonial mindset."

"You are living in a confident and resilient India. Today, Bharat is being celebrated globally as a favorite destination for investment and opportunity. Never before in our history since independence has the voice of an Indian Prime Minister been so resonant with global leaders," he added.

"I first came to Jammu and Kashmir in early 80s, when I visited Gulmarg, Sonamarg and other places along with my family. The second visit was a very painful experience. I was elected to Parliament in 1989. I came to Srinagar as a Member of the Council of Ministers. We did not see even dozens of people on the streets of Srinagar and the national scene was one of gloom. Look at where we are now! It was a glorifying moment for me in #RajyaSabha when it was declared that more than two crore tourists had been to Jammu and Kashmir."

He emphasized that the transformation in Jammu & Kashmir is not just a regional phenomenon but a significant part of India's national renaissance.

"The winds of change have brought peace and progress. Let us be the architects of a new dawn for Jammu & Kashmir and for Bharat," he added.

Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of UT of J&K, Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister of UT of J&K, Sakeena Masood, Minister of Education UT of J&K and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

In the academic year 2023-24, a total of 684 students of the SMVDU have qualified for the Bachelor's Degree in different disciplines; 147 students for Master's Degree; 34 students for Integrated Master's degree and 44 students for the award of Ph D Degree. A total of 26 medals, nine certificates of distinction and 10 Infosys foundation prize for excellence were presented to the selected students by the dignitaries, a university official said. He said a total of 501 male and 408 female students were awarded the degrees.

VP Dhanthkar pays...

projects to facilitate the pilgrims.

The Vice President also visited Bhairon temple near the shrine, they said.

Dhanthkar was originally scheduled to visit the SMVDU camp for the convocation on December 27 last year but his visit was rescheduled due to the state mourning announced by the central government following the passing of former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

He was earlier received by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Jammu airport before leaving for Katra.

Need fresh look...

utilised to transform rural areas. This mission calls for dedication and determination. Above all, our youth needs to be rooted in ancient culture and must have faith in their abilities and wisdom of our culture," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that the skills and knowledge must contribute in improving the lives of people.

To seize future opportunities in science and technology, we need to take a fresh look at our teaching-mentoring system because it will have a direct bearing on the journey of Viksit Bharat, the Lieutenant Governor further said.

He asked the teaching community to focus on harnessing the capacities of our students and transform the educational institutions into the most potent instrument to build a prosperous India.

It is the responsibility of our teachers and educational institutions to initiate innovative educational programmes and nurture curiosity, promote critical thinking, creativity, innovation. Teachers should share their own life experience to inspire students for Lifelong Learning Skills that will shape the future, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his best wishes for a productive and a bright future to all the graduating students. He also congratulated the girl students for outshining the boys in the medal tally, and also remained ahead in Certificate of Distinction and Infosys Foundation Prize.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University also conferred Honoris Causa degrees on writer & historian Padma Shri Pt Shiv Dutt Nirmohi, and former CEO National Health Authority Dr Ram Sewak Sharma.

Dr Sudesh Dhanthkar, wife of Vice President; Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister; Sakina Itoo, Minister for Higher Education; Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament; Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor SMVDU; Vice-Chancellors of various Universities; HoDs of different educational institutions, senior officials of Civil and Police administration, faculty members, students and their parents were present.

HIGHLIGHTS...

Those stepping out today into real world have unique opportunity of nation building.

Today our youth are equipped with special knowledge and skills that can be properly utilised to transform rural areas. This mission calls for dedication and determination. Above all, our youth needs to be rooted in ancient culture and must have faith in their abilities and wisdom of our culture.

Skills and knowledge must contribute in improving lives of people.

Our teachers must focus on harnessing capacities of our students and transform educational institutions into most potent instrument to build prosperous India.

Advances in humanities, arts, science and technology have opened new areas of opportunities and your knowledge and learning will help you achieve success.

Justice Vinod Gupta...

wife Usha, daughter Ruchira Gupta, and son Gaurav.

He breathed his last at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital New Delhi where he was admitted about a month ago. His death has shocked his friends, former colleagues in the Bar and the Bench in Jammu

Law Graduate from Delhi University in 1970 and started practice in Jammu High Court as junior of late D. D. Thakur. He took keen interest in the Jammu Bar Association.

As a Judge of J&K High Court he was appointed as Vice President of Jammu Club and credited with effecting many improvements and expansion of its infrastructure.

He became Central Govt Standing Counsel and was later appointed as Advocate General of Jammu & Kashmir in 1990. He was elevated as Judge of J&K High Court. He served as Judge of Calcutta High Court for four years.

Later, he was appointed as first Chief Justice of Jharkhand High court in November 2000. In 2003, he was appointed as Chief Justice of Himachal High Court from where he retired on 9th September, 2009.

Justice Gupta was very social and a widely travelled person. He will be cremated at New Delhi tomorrow.

Cop among 3...

led to the killing of sub-inspector Ashraf Bhat, an attack on a group of tourists in Pahalgam on May 18 last year that left two persons injured.

The officials said he was also involved in radicalising and luring the youth to join

terror ranks besides using terrorists to blackmail government officials including his colleagues and businessmen.

They said Ashraf Bhat, a resident of Reasi who was appointed as 'Rehbar-e-Taleem' Teacher in 2008 and later regularised in June 2013, was affiliated with LeT.

"For many years his activities were undetected but eventually came to light in 2022 and he was arrested and currently lodged in district jail, Reasi," the officials said.

During the course of investigation, it was revealed that Bhat's handler was the most wanted LeT terrorist Mohd Qasim, who is based in Pakistan.

"LeT found him to be very useful because as a teacher Bhat was best placed to radicalise youth and carry out terror activities. He helped LeT to raise finances for terror activities and coordinated transport of arms, ammunition and explosives," they said. Khan, who joined the forest department in 1996 as a helper and currently posted as an orderly at the forest range office, Verinag (Anantnag), was found working for Hizbul Mujahideen, the officials said.

They said his links with the outfit first came to light in the year 2000 when a land-mine blast in Anantnag killed the then power minister Ghulam Hasan Bhat and two policemen.

"Khan and another accused had provided logistical support to the terrorists to carry out the attack.

He also helped in smuggling RDX used in the blast," the officials said, adding he was arrested, chargesheeted but later acquitted in 2006 due to "witnesses backtracking, intimidating environment inside and outside the courts".

However, despite his acquittal in 2006, Khan continued his work for the terror group. His role was once again exposed in 2016 when he played a central role during the valley's unrest following the killing of Hizbul terrorist Burhan Wani, the officials said.

They said he also mobilised mobs and youth for stone pelting and arranged weapons to attack security forces and is named in four FIRs.

After the killing of another terrorist Yawar Nisar Wagay in 2017, he once again played a key role in organising violent protests and was subsequently detained under the Public Safety Act for eight months.

Another batch of...

country, some neurotoxin in the food chain is suspected as the main cause of the deaths. While the people were provided all kinds of facilities at the separation facilities, dedicated teams of officials were also stationed in the village to take care of the livestock of the shifted families.

Democratic India able...

Security Act (NFSA) and then extended it for five years from January 1, 2024.

Government data as of December 2024 shows 806.7 million people receive free food grains in two categories: 35 kgs per Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households per month and 5 kgs food grain per person per month in case of Priority Households (PHH) beneficiaries.

"Started the #MSC2025 with a panel on 'Live to Vote Another Day: Fortifying Democratic Resilience'. Joined PM @jonasgahrstore, @ElissaSlotkin and @trza-skowski .

Highlighted India as a democracy that delivers. Differed with the prevailing political pessimism. Spoke my mind on foreign interference," the minister posted on X.

Apart from Jaishankar, the panel comprised Norway's Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store, US Senator Slotkin and Warsaw Mayor Rafal Trzaskowski.

CBSE Class 10...

the 2024 paper."

Similarly, Rakshita from Kerala School, RK Puram, said, "It's my first time appearing for the boards, but the exam wasn't tough. The invigilators were quite friendly."

Delhi's outgoing Chief Minister Atishi extended her best wishes to students appearing for the exams.

"As the CBSE Board Exams for Class X and XII begin today, I extend my heartfelt best wishes to all students. This marks a significant milestone in your academic journey.

"I encourage you to approach it with confidence, determination, and a positive mindset. Believe in yourself, trust your preparation, and remember that exams are just a stepping-stone toward a bright future," she added.

BJP discusses strategy...

expose the government for its failure on all fronts to fulfill the promises made in its election manifestos."

He encouraged the party MLAs to compile a comprehensive list of issues being faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Our MLAs must represent every section and every community in their list of issues and should forcefully raise them in the house," he said.

The Leader of Opposition noted that the budget is being presented in J&K after a gap of seven years, adding that the party MLAs will strongly advocate for public interests in this session, while safeguarding the rights of all sections of society.

He specifically stated that the government would not be allowed to "compromise the interests of the people."

"The current functioning of the NC government is showing its bias toward a particular region while ignoring the interests of the other region," he alleged, vowing to counter "any such measure by the government in the budgetary allocations."

Judicial Academy organises...

Director J&K Judicial Academy, Sonia Gupta, conducted the proceedings for the daylong training programme and presented the vote of thanks.

All the sessions remained very interactive during which all the participants actively participated and shared their experiences, difficulties besides discussing various aspects of the subject topics. They also raised a number of queries which were answered satisfactorily by the resource persons.

Four army personnel...

forces effectively engaged the terrorists at their location.

Nine of them, including high-value target ringleaders Farman alias Saqib, Kharji Amanullah alias Toori, Kharji Saeed alias Liaqat and Kharji Bilal, were killed, the ISPR said adding that they were involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area and were on the top of the 'wanted' list of the law enforcement agencies.

The second IBO was conducted in the general area of Miranshah in North Waziristan district where six terrorists were "effectively neutralised by the security forces."

"However, during an intense fire exchange, Lieutenant Muhammad Hassaan Arshaf, 21, from Lahore district, leading his troops from the front, fought gallantly," and was killed along with his three men, the ISPR said.

The three soldiers were identified as Naib Subedar Muhammad Bilal, 39, resident of Dera Ismail Khan district; Sepoy Farhat Ullah, 27, resident of Lakki Marwat district, and Sepoy Himat Khan, 29, resident of Moman district.

The ISPR added that sanitisation operations were being conducted to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

According to the army, the security forces conducted a total of 59,775 operations last year during which 925 terrorists were killed, and 383 officers and soldiers were killed.

Pakistan has witnessed an uptick in terror activities, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, after the Afghan Taliban swept to power in 2021.

The country blames the Afghan Taliban for providing support to Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) as the terror attacks have significantly increased since the banned TTP broke a fragile ceasefire agreement with the federal government in 2022.

With at least 685 members of security forces losing their lives amid a total of 444 terror attacks, 2024 turned out to be the deadliest year for the civil and military security forces of Pakistan in a decade, according to a 2024 report issued by the Centre for Research and Security Studies, a think-tank.

J&K Govt notifies...

places for consumption to its consumers and a level playing field to all the stake holders; tapping of full potential of existing liquor Industry to promote ancillary industries and raising new avenues of employment; and complete digitalization in liquor manufacturing, distribution and sale from production till retail consumption.

According to notification, 305 vends shall be allotted during the Policy year 2025-26, subject to fulfillment of eligibility conditions as per Bid Document and J&K Excise Policy 2025-26. These vends shall sell, in retail, to the public under one roof J&K-special Whisky/J&K Country Liquor and Indian made foreign liquor including imported foreign liquor/beer/wine/cider/RTD which are permitted to be sold by the Excise Department, J&K.

The E-auction for allotment of vends shall be done through the J&K Bank Ltd. on e-auction portal i.e. <https://jkexcisedept.procure247.com> in a completely secure and transparent manner.

The detailed procedure for e-auction/instructions to the bidders shall be available on the e-auction portal and on the official website of the department i.e.www.jkexcise.nic.in. The schedule of starting and closing of online bids for each location is given in the Annexure to this notice. All licenses issued through e- Auction shall determine on 31-03-2026 irrespective of date of issuance.

Seven-day NSS special camp concluded at MIER

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The NSS Special Camp at MIER College of Education, held from February 3 to 11, 2025, was a remarkable seven-day journey filled with service, learning, teamwork, and holistic development. The theme of the camp was 'Youth for Digital initiatives'. The camp was organized by Dr Komal Sharma, NSS Programme Officer under the guidance of Principal Prof. Adit Gupta.

A total of 44 NSS Volunteers from SOE and SSSH enthusiastically participated in the camp.

Each day commenced with a morning prayer and yoga session, fostering a sense of inner peace, discipline, and unity among the volunteers.

The camp was officially inaugurated by Prof. Adit Gupta, Director & Principal of MIER College of Education, who delivered an inspiring address on the transformative impact of community service in shaping responsible and compassionate individuals.

The event was graced by senior faculty members, including the Head and Deputy Head of the School of Education and the Head of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities.

Dr. Komal Sharma, NSS Programme Officer, played a pivotal role in guiding the volunteers, passionately orienting them about the objectives of the camp and instilling in them the true spirit of selfless service and social responsibility.

Further adding to the inspiration, Nirbhay Khajuria (MA Psychology, Sem-I), an NSS volunteer, shared his enriching experiences from the Republic Day Camp, motivating fellow participants to embrace the ethos of community engagement wholeheartedly.

A significant milestone of the camp was the volunteers' registration on the 'My Bharat' portal, symbolizing the beginning of their dedicated journey in nation-building efforts.

The participants actively engaged in Shramdaan (voluntary labor), making meaningful contributions to community welfare and reinforcing the NSS ideology of giving back to society.

A poster-making competition on 'Digital Literacy and Safe Digital Practices' provided a creative platform for volunteers to express their understanding of responsible digital engagement.

The competition witnessed fierce participation, with the winners being Shweta (B.Ed Special Sem 1) - 1st Prize, Janvi (B.Ed Sem 1) - 2nd Prize, Kritika (MA Psychology Sem 1) - 3rd Prize, and Arshia (MA Psychology Sem 1) - Consolation Prize. Judges commended the participants for their artistic brilliance and ability to convey compelling social messages.

The Nukkad Natak (street play) on 'Cyber Security', performed at Kabir Basti, captivated the local community, powerfully raising awareness about online safety through an engaging and thought-provoking performance.

The initiatives were met with overwhelming appreciation, with the Sarpanch, Surjit Singh, extending his support. To ensure a well-rounded experience, the camp balanced academic enrichment with physical activities.

Sports events such as Badminton, Basketball, Kho Kho, and Tug of War energized the volunteers promoting physical fitness, teamwork, and camaraderie.

An insightful lecture on Cyber Security and Online Banking Awareness, delivered by Ali Raza, Manager at PNB, MIER equipped volunteers with essential knowledge on safeguarding personal information in an increasingly digitalized world.

To further engage intellectual curiosity, a quiz competition on 'Digital India' was held, where Team C (Shiv Paul, Sneha Devi, Anannia Bhagat, Ridhima Sharma) emerged as the winners.

The grand valedictory ceremony, hosted by Kritika Choudhary and Bharti Khajuria (MA Psychology Sem-I) marked the culmination of the camp.

The event began with a formal welcome speech by Priyanshi (BA Psychology Sem-I) and was attended by distinguished guests, including Dr. Heema Gandotra, NSS Programme Coordinator, University of Jammu, as the Chief Guest, alongside the Principal, Heads of Schools, faculty members, and students.

The stage came alive with a spectacular cultural showcase, featuring an NSS song, an intellectually stimulating skit, a mesmerizing Dogri dance, and a high-energy Punjabi performance, each capturing the vibrancy and essence of the NSS journey.

A particularly poignant moment was the detailed seven-day camp report meticulously presented by Dr. Komal Sharma, highlighting the dedication and hard work of the volunteers.

A defining highlight of the ceremony was the felicitation of Nirbhay Khajuria, whose prestigious selection for the Republic Day Camp was celebrated as a moment of immense pride and honour for the college.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Sayma Niyaz (MA Psychology Sem-I), marking the end of an unforgettable journey.

Power shutdown

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Sidhra, Jhajiarkotli, Janipur, Subash Nagar, BB-I, BB-II, Akhmoor, Gangyal, Gandhi Nagar, Trikuta Nagar, Nanak Nagar, Rail Head Complex, University area, City area, DC Office, Boria (PHE), Sunjwan, Bathindi, Narwal, Transport Nagar, Channi Himmat and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 16 from 10 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Poonch Town, Bandichichian, Islamabad, Nangli Sahib, Banpat, Dhokari, MES and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 16 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Jourian and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 16 from 10 am to 4 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Kohinoor, Balaji, Industrial area SICOP, SIDCO, Hatlimorh Old Industry and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 16 from 10 am to 12 noon.

Likewise, the power supply to Vijaypur and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 16 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Jakh and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 17 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Old Nandpur, New Nandpur, Jerada, baba Chamliyal, Adlian, Pindi, BSF and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 18 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Pindi, Adlehar, Nandpur, Chandra, BSF, Babda Chamliyal and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 19 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Suhagpur, Arnia, Allah, Chak Shera, Treva, Jabowal, Kotli, Nandpur, Jereda, Addair, Baba Chamyal and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 17 from 9 am to 3 pm.

Meanwhile, Executive Engineer, Electric Division-I, JPDCL, Parade Jammu has informed that the power supply to Surgal Chowk Malhoi, Sarah (near HP Gas Agency), Kanna Chargal-VII, Lower Duwara, Forest Colony (Near Check Post), Jagti near Dido Park (Miya Mohalla), Behra-II, Chibba Main, Kalgran and Jindal Lerh Ward No.16 will remain affected on February 16 to 20 from 10 am to 6 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to on Road Malhori Jagir Near Masjid will remain affected on February 21 to 28 from 10 am to 6 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Jandrah Wall, Kanna Chargal-VIII, Chibba Nalla Main, Rambarschulla-III and Jogan will remain affected on February 20 to 28 from 10 am to 6 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Lower Guwada-I, Rangoor-II, Jagti Near Bahu Maharaj Temple and Behra-I will remain affected on February 19 to 28 from 10 am to 6 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Bantoll, Kala Kuppaer Dunami Patta, Dunami Patta, Salata, Sukatter-I and II, Jhajiarkotli near Cottage, Sandroot-I and II, Shatali, Bagga-III, Badola-I and II and Garni will remain affected on February 16 to 28 from 10 am to 6 pm.

Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Logate Industry, Sahar, Sher Kotla, Kumri, Kathera, Boura, Bhed Blode and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 18 from 8 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Channi, Danoh, Bann, Bhagwal and its adjoining areas will remain affected on February 16 and 18 from 8 am to 12 noon.

Likewise, the power supply to IIDC Industrial area will remain affected on February 16 from 8 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Hatlimorh, Sawanchak, Shastri Nagar, Nag Nagri, Tara Nagar, Patel Nagar, Kalibari, Tangri, Police Line and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 16 from 8 am to 12 noon.

Likewise, the power supply to Narayanpur, Barnoti, Flote, Mahi Chack, Sakta Chack and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 16 from 8 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Seolra Industry-1 and 2, Kaluchak and adjoining areas will remain affected on February 16 from 8 am to 1 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Koulpur, Vijaypur and its adjoining areas will remain affected on February 17 from 8 am to 1 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Bandral and its adjoining areas will remain affected on February 19 from 8 am to 1 pm.