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# STATE TIMES

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## Article 370 buried in 'Kabristan': Modi "My 'dhakad' Govt removed hurdle to J&K progress"

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SONIPAT/AMBALA (HAR YANA): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said Article 370 has been "buried" in 'kabristan' (graveyard) and it was his 'dhakad' (strong) government that removed the hurdle to the progress of Jammu and Kashmir.

Modi made these remarks at back-to-back poll rallies in Haryana--Gohana (Sonapat) and Ambala--as he stepped up the attack on the Congress, saying the opposition party should forget the "dream" of bringing back Article 370 of the Constitution that gave special status to J and K. The contentious constitutional provision was scrapped in August 2019.

Addressing a rally at Gohana, his second day of the day in Haryana after the one at Ambala, Modi referred to



the ongoing Lok Sabha polls as a 'Kurukshetra' (battle) in which "there is development on one hand and 'vote jihad' on the other".

Striking a chord with the locals, Modi referred to Gohana's famous 'Matu Ram ki jalebi' to target the opposition INDIA bloc, saying it has a formula of having five prime ministers in five years if they come to power. "Ask them, is the prime minister's

post our Matu Ram ki jalebi?" he told the crowd.

"In the 2024 'Kurukshetra', there is development on one hand and 'vote jihad' on the other," he said. "I want to ask the people of Haryana... who will win?"

He waited for the crowd to respond before saying, "Your reply has decided 'Phir Ek Baar'", and the crowd went along to say, "Modi Sarkar."

Modi said now the

Congress is not even hiding its "desh-vidrohi agenda (anti-national agenda)". They are saying openly what Modi did in 10 years they will reverse it if they come to power, he said.

But their "dream" of bringing Article 370 back will never be fulfilled, he added.

"They are saying that we will restore Article 370 in Kashmir... This means once again a free run for terrorism and bloodshed in the Valley."

"From the brave land of Haryana, I want to tell those associated with the Congress that only tricolour will fly in Kashmir now."

"Forget the dream of bringing back 370 in Kashmir. And if you try to do it 'lene ke dena pad jayenge' (you will have to pay very heavy price)," he said.

"Dhara 370 ki deewar hamne kabristan me

### Former SP arrested for violating Official Secrets Act

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A former police officer has been arrested under the Official Secrets Act for publishing 'sensitive information' in his recently released book here, officials said on Saturday.

Retired Superintendent of Police Mohammad Aslam Sheikh was arrested from his residence at Gandhi Nagar area of Jammu city late Friday night, the officials said.

They said Sheikh had joined the police as Assistant Sub-Inspector in 1986 and retired last year.

He had published a book which contained copies of First Information Reports and other sensitive information which violates the Official Secrets Act, the officials said.

## Campaigning ends for Baramulla LS seat; stakes high for NC

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The blazing campaign trail in the prestigious Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency ended on Saturday, setting the stage for more than 17.32 lakh eligible voters to exercise their franchise in the fifth phase of the general elections on May 20.

The first major political battle post the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 will decide the fate of Omar Abdullah, the National Conference vice-president and a former chief minister of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state, and 21 others in the fray from the north Kashmir seat.

The constituency is spread over 18 assembly segments in the three districts of Kupwara, Baramulla and Bandipora and also includes two segments of Budgam.

**17,37,865 lakh electors eligible to vote in 2,103 polling booths across Baramulla PC**

SRINAGAR: Around 17,37,865 electorates would be casting their ballot in 2,103 polling stations established across the Baramulla Parliamentary Constituency during 5th phase of ongoing Lok Sabha elections scheduled to be held on May 20.

"These total 17,37,865 lakh voters enrolled in the phase V included 8,75,831 male and 8,62,000 female voters besides 34 third gender electorates. There are around 17128 Persons with Disability and 527 persons above the age of 100 years who will be exercising their franchise", read a communiqué received on Saturday from office of Chief Electoral Officer, J&K.

The communiqué added that around 2,103 polling stations have been set up in the fifth phase across 4 districts of Baramulla, Kupwara, Bandipora and parts of Budgam. The election staff including Presiding Officers will be stationed in every polling station. In total, more than 8,000 polling staff, including reserves, will be deployed on duty on the polling day. Besides, there are 28 border polling

Officials said the political blitzkrieg witnessed over the past few weeks from the candidates, including 14 Independents -- two of whom are women -- ended peacefully at 6 pm for the mandatory 48-hour "silence period" before the 13-hour-long polling on May 20. A total of 2,103 polling stations,

### Rajasthan couple, Sarpanch injured in twin terror attacks in Srinagar

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Terrorists on Saturday shot at and injured a former sarpanch in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

Former sarpanch Aijaz Sheikh was shot at in Hirpora in Shopian around 10.30 pm, the officials said, adding that his condition is very critical.

Further details are awaited.

Meanwhile, terrorists fired on open tourist camp near Pahalgam in south Kashmir, injuring a couple from Rajasthan,

officials said on Saturday.

The incident took place at Yanner in Pahalgam tourist resort in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district late on Saturday night, they said.

#Terrorist fired upon and injured a lady Farha R/O Jaipur and spouse Tabrez at Yanner, #Anantnag. Injured evacuated to hospital for treatment. Area cordoned off. Further details shall follow," Kashmir Zone Police posted on X.

The injured, residents of Jaipur, were admitted to a nearby hospital, police said.

## Child Care Institutions doing commendable service to society: Justice Tashi

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: To ensure better care and protection of children especially residing in various Child Care Institutions in UT of J&K and Ladakh, Justice Tashi Rabstan, senior most Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority and Chairman, Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Saturday visited "Pareesha" (Home for Girls) and "Phulwari" (Specialized Adoption Agency) at Khansahib, Budgam.



Justice Tashi Rabstan accompanied by Rajni Rabstan and Amit Kumar Gupta, Member Secretary J&K Legal Services Authority also Ex-officio Member Secretary, Juvenile Justice Committee, High

Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh were warmly received by Jahangir Ahmad Bakshi, Secretary, DLSA Budgam, Malik Tariq, SDM Khansahib, Budgam, Ubaid-ul-Khazir, District Social Welfare Officer, Budgam, Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Malik, SDPO Khansahib Budgam, Mohsina, Superintendent, Pareesha and Rifat, Coordinator SAA.

Ubaid-ul-Khazir, DSWO Budgam gave a brief presentation about the facilities being provided to the children staying in Pareesha and also informed Justice

### Greater Kailash Murder Case: Gola Shah's close aide arrested from Punjab

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU : Acting swiftly on technical inputs, the Jammu Police on Saturday arrested another accused in Greater Kailash Murder Case. The accused identified as Varun Kumar alias Punjabji, a resident of Jalandhar, currently living in Samba, was on the spot when 39-year-old Avtar Singh was murdered.

Police said, the arrest of Varun Punjabji, close aide of Gola Shah, marks a significant achievement in FIR (39/24) registered at Police

Station Gangyal over the murder of Avtar Singh on April 30, 2024.

Varun's arrest is expected to give significant clues in the ongoing investigation of the case, police said.

On April 30, a 39-year-old man in Greater Kailash, was attacked in the presence of police over a land dispute. SSP Jammu, Dr Vinod Kumar, had immediately ordered the suspension of in-charge Police



### 26 lodgement centres set up in Samba for Amarnath Yatra pilgrims

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: A total of 26 lodgement centres have been set up in Jammu and Kashmir's Samba district for pilgrims who will undertake the annual Amarnath Yatra in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said on Saturday.

The 52-day pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine will commence from two tracks --the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and 14-km shorter but steep Baltal route in Ganderbal district -- on June 29.

A total of 26 lodgement centres have been set up at different places in Samba district along the Jammu-Pathankot National Highway for hassle-free conduct of the pilgrimage, the officials said.

They said the information was given at a meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner, Samba, Abhishek Sharma to discuss the arrangements for the annual Amarnath pilgrimage. The Deputy Commissioner asked stakeholder departments to

## NC, PDP MPs failed to raise public issues in Parliament: Azad

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Chairman Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), Ghulam Nabi Azad on Saturday expressed deep concern over the rising unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir, even after the revocation of Article 370.

Addressing rallies during road shows in the Shangus assembly segment of Anantnag, Azad said that despite the government's tall claims, educated youth are turning to drugs, which is an alarming trend alongside the rise in unemployment.

Azad pointed out that J&K has limited resources and



DPAP Chairman Ghulam Nabi Azad addressing a rally in Shangus assembly segment of Anantnag, he added.

Azad said: "Militancy had a vast negative impact on the education system, especially for girls. When I was Chief Minister, I provided

### Northern Army commander reviews security situation in south Kashmir

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General M V Suchindra Kumar on Saturday reviewed the security situation and counter-terror grid in south Kashmir.

#LtGenMVSuchindraKumar, #ArmyCdrNC accompanied by #ChinarCorps Cdr visited Victor Force to review the prevalent security situation," Army's Northern command said in a post on X.

Victor Force is the Army's counter terror force based in south Kashmir.

The Army said the Northern commander was briefed on the counter

## "If Art 370 was hollowed, why Gupkar gang approached SC": Chugh hits out at Omar

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
POONCH: BNP National General Secretary and In-Charge J&K Tarun Chugh on Saturday reacted sharply to the statement made by National Conference Vice-President and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah over Article 370, asking "Why NC and other constituents of the PAGD approached Supreme Court if the law was hollowed already".

Talking to media over phone, Chugh said why NC and other regional parties knocked the door of Supreme Court for restoration of Article 370.

He said, "NC, it's leadership and Gupkar gang hood-



BJP National General Secretary and In-Charge J&K Tarun Chugh addressing gathering at Poonch.

winked people of Jammu and Kashmir for years over Article 370 and today when the law is nowhere these political parties are once again triggering the sentiments of people on it".

Chugh said ST, SC, OBC and other underprivileged classes were deprived from their rights by these political clans with the existence of Article 370, and with

### Soldiers, borders safe under Modi: Anurag Thakur

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
HAMIRPUR (HP): India's borders and its soldiers are safe under the BJP, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister Anurag Thakur said on Saturday and alleged that the Congress' "hand" is always with foreign powers.

Thakur made the remarks while campaigning in the Chintpurni and the Jaswan-Pragpur assembly segments of the Hamirpur Lok Sabha constituency, from where he is seeking a fifth consecutive victory. He said, "Our Army became stronger, its morale was boosted and the borders were strengthened under Modi's rule while nothing was safe during the Congress regime." Hitting out at the grand old party while

## No respite from scorching heat in Jammu, mercury crosses 41 deg C

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The mercury continued its upward trend in Jammu on Saturday with the maximum temperature settling at 41.6 degrees Celsius, over three notches above the season's average, the meteorological department said.

However, the minimum temperature recorded in the winter capital city was near normal at 23.9 degrees Celsius, the official said.

Jammu is reeling under heat wave conditions for the past week and the maximum temperature in the city crossed the 40-degree Celsius mark for the first time this season on May 16.

The upward trend in the temperatures has prompted the local residents to seek early summer vacation in the schools of their wards.

A MeT official said Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, recorded a high of 36 degrees Celsius and a low of 22.5 degrees Celsius on Saturday.

The Kashmir Valley, on the other



Scooty and pillion riders covered faces with scarves to protect from heat in Jammu on Saturday.

hand, continued to enjoy pleasant weather even as the mercury is hovering a few notches above normal for the past couple of days.

The summer capital Srinagar on Saturday recorded a high of 29.4 degrees Celsius and a low of 14.5

degrees Celsius, the official said, adding that the maximum and minimum temperatures were 4.2 and 3.1 notches above normal, respectively.

The weather office has predicted isolated to scattered rains in Jammu and Kashmir over the next two days.

### Rohit Shetty begins shooting for final leg of 'Singham Again' in Kashmir

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Filmmaker Rohit Shetty has started shooting for his upcoming action movie "Singham Again" in the interior areas of the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, the officials said here on Saturday.

"Singham Again" is the third film in the Ajay Devgn-led "Singham" series, which started with 2011's "Singham" and was followed by "Singham Returns" in 2014.

Shetty and his team recently arrived in the valley to shoot for the final leg of the movie, the officials said.

The film's shooting took

place in 'Shehre Khas' or Downtown area - the interior areas of the city amidst tight security, the officials added. Devgn and his co-star Jackie Shroff were seen shooting for the movie.

The crew has done a recon of various locations in the valley for the movie.



**WEATHER**

Temperature (Jammu)

Max: 41.6°C Min: 23.9°C

Humidity

Max: 44 Min: 22

Temperature (Srinagar)

Max: 29.4°C Min: 14.5°C

Humidity

Max: 58 Min: 37

Sunset : 19:24 Hours

Sunrise : 05:29 Hours

