

!! Continuations from Page 1 !!
Article 370 abrogation...

Article 370. "It sheds light on the historical reluctance to challenge this provision and the eventual paradigm shift brought about by its abrogation in 2019. Through careful examination, it discusses how the government resolved legal complexities and safeguarded against security threats to successfully execute the historic decision," the statement said.

Replete with anecdotes, the book recounts the events leading to the abrogation and also chronicles the region's history -- from the ancient to contemporary times. The publishers claimed this is the "first book of its kind on the Modi government where the actual decision-making process has been documented through interactions with top decision makers including Prime Minister Narendra Modi".

In advance praise for the book, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said, "An eminently readable account of a crucial decision that has promoted national integration while transforming the development and security landscape of Jammu & Kashmir. It brings out how the political calculations and personal proclivities of an earlier era were finally countered by national sentiment."

The Modi government had on this day in 2019 annulled these articles that gave special rights to the then Jammu and Kashmir state, which was also divided into two Union territories.

Bangladesh slides into...

fickleness of history -- Army chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman announced that the 76-year-old prime minister has resigned.

An interim government will be taking over, he said in a televised address amid feverish speculation about where Hasina was headed.

"I'm taking all responsibility (of the country). Please cooperate," Zaman added, signalling the end of Hasina's 15-year power run.

The Army chief said he had met political leaders and told them the Army would take over responsibility for law and order. However, there were no leaders from Hasina's Awami League party at the meeting.

As protests spiralled across the country, the army chief said he had asked both Army and police not to fire any shots.

Zaman also urged restraint and asked protesters to end the violence. He vowed "justice" for all the people.

After hours of uncertainty in a day of sudden developments, Hasina landed at the Hindon airbase in Ghaziabad near New Delhi on her way to London, diplomatic sources in the Indian capital said. She arrived in India in a C-130J military transport aircraft of the Bangladesh Air Force.

She is likely to meet her daughter Saima Wazed, who is based in Delhi and working as the WHO's regional director for South-East Asia.

Back home in Dhaka, restive crowds, their protests giving way to jubilation that the Hasina rule had ended, swarmed the airport and even spilled into the runway. The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in the city's Dhammondi area was damaged. Four Hindu temples suffered "minor" damages across the country, eyewitnesses and a community leader said.

The Bangabandhu memorial museum - dedicated to Mujibur Rahman who was assassinated along with his wife and their three sons while serving as president in 1975 - was also vandalised. Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana had survived the purge as they were abroad. Hasina then spent six years in exile in India.

The home of Dr Wajed Miah, Hasina's husband, was not spared either in the vortex of violence on Monday, local reports said.

From Ganabhadan, the prime minister's official residence, came extraordinary visuals of protesters storming in and walking away with sofas and even chairs.

A man held aloft his child, hundreds broke in to the beating of drums, and one protester proudly proclaimed to the media that he had taken a red lipstick. "I will keep it as a memento of our struggle... to remember we broke free from a dictator. She used to wear this lipstick," he said.

Another young man carrying a planter said, "This is freedom. I can't put this feeling into words."

The Bangladesh flag draped around his neck, a protester said he was 35 years old and had not been able to cast his vote for three elections.

With crowds on a fiery rampage through the country -- a charred vehicle on a Dhaka street testimony to the violence -- the Awami League office in the capital was set on fire. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan's house was ransacked. And a Prothom Alo reporter said screams and loud noises could be heard when several people entered the chief justice's residence.

The violence was not restricted to Dhaka. In the eastern city of Sylhet, offices of the deputy commissioner and superintendent of police were reportedly set on fire, while the homes of several councillors were attacked, BBC reported.

Hasina has been ruling the strategically located South Asian nation since 2009. She was elected for a record fourth consecutive term and fifth overall term in the 12th general election held in January, amid a boycott by the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of former premier Khaleda Zia and its allies.

BSF orders 'high...

security situation, they said.

The DG toured the North 24 Paragans district and Sunderbans area to review preparations.

"The force has directed all its field commanders to be "on ground" and "deploy all personnel on border duty immediately," a senior officer told PTI.

An spokesperson for its South Bengal Frontier based in the Kolkata headquarters said, "In view of the changed situation in Bangladesh, the BSF has issued alert all along Indo-Bangladesh border and the number of troops deployed along the border has been increased."

He added, "Leave of all the personnel posted along the Bangladesh border were cancelled in the last few weeks after Bangladesh witnessed massive protests and now all units have been asked to acquire an all alert posture."

The BSF guards the Indian front on the eastern flank of the country that runs along five states.

West Bengal shares a total of 2,217 kilometres of its border with Bangladesh, along with Tripura (856 km), Meghalaya (443 km), Assam (262 km) and Mizoram (318 km).

Sheikh Hasina on Monday resigned as prime minister of Bangladesh and left the country, several news reports said, amid massive protests against her government that claimed more than 106 lives in the last two days. There was, however, no official confirmation about her leaving Dhaka.

Peace returning gradually...

proof that women, youth, farmers and entrepreneurs have excelled themselves and they are wholeheartedly contributing to the sacred duty of nation building, he added.

"Today J&K is witnessing an era of peace, progress and prosperity. Schools, colleges, universities, hospitals and other public institutions are functioning without any disturbances. Earlier practice of daily hartals, strikes, stone pelting and bandhs are things of the past now" Sinha said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that J&K is certainly on the march. The UT has made sufficient progress especially in the areas of infrastructure development, tourism, industrialization, social security, employment generation, livelihood creation, public outreach, transparency and providing basic facilities, he added.

He said the G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting opened new avenues for global partnership that helped in tapping the tourism potential of Jammu and Kashmir. J&K has recorded 2.11 Crore tourist visits during 2023 which is the highest ever.

"Our tourism initiatives have not only showcased the mesmerizing beauty of J&K but have also spotlighted our culture and heritage. Owing to the G20 Tourism Working Group meeting held in Srinagar, J&K witnessed 2.5 times increase in foreign tourist arrivals", the LG said.

To boost the industrial sector in J&K, the Lieutenant Governor said that effective policy and enabling environment has been created. Investment proposals worth Rs.1,26,582 Crore with expected employment potential of 4.74 lakhs persons have also been received for setting up of industrial units in the UT, he added.

Post-370 Art...

demonstrated new enthusiasm among the people who would earlier not come out of their homes to exercise their franchise for fear of Pakistan-sponsored terrorists. Chugh questioned whether Kharge ever visited J&K after the abrogation of Article 370 to see the ground situation or he is just piping the song of the Gandhi family?

Tourism has touched a new high in J&K which never happened when Abdullahs and Muftis and Congress ruled the J&K, said Chugh.

He said Kharge's statement on Jammu and Kashmir is a perfect example of frustration and disappointment in the Congress and lack of understanding of the ground reality. The abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the state into two Union Territories have brought unprecedented development and prosperity to the region, he maintained.

The Modi government's policies have ensured that terrorism is on the decline, and the region is witnessing a new era of peace and stability, he added.

Chugh said the Congress had been party to the reckless exodus of Kashmiri Pandits whereas the Modi government has created atmosphere for them to return. The Modi government has taken concrete steps to ensure their safe return and rehabilitation.

The Congress's criticism of the economy is also unfounded, as Jammu and Kashmir has seen unprecedented investment and growth since 2019. The New Industrial Policy has attracted significant investment, and the region is witnessing a new era of economic prosperity, he said.

Chugh said the Modi government is committed to holding elections according to the Supreme Court's deadline, but the Congress is trying to politicize the issue for their own gains.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir have rejected the Congress's divisive politics, and they will continue to support the Modi government's development agenda, he said.

Chugh said: "As we mark the fifth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, the people of J&K are celebrating this historic decision with great enthusiasm. The removal of Article 370 has brought about a new era of development, prosperity, and integration for the region".

The people of Jammu and Kashmir have wholeheartedly embraced this change, and it's evident by the fact that they have rejected the politics of former Chief Ministers Umar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, who tried to mislead them with their divisive rhetoric".

The overwhelming support for the Modi government's decision is a testament to the fact that the people of Jammu and Kashmir want to be an integral part of India's growth story, Chugh said, adding, they have seen through the false promises and propaganda of the Congress and other opposition parties.

BJP will form...

peace in the region. Reddy said that Jammu and Kashmir has faced many difficulties due to the Abdullah family and Pakistan. They along with the skewed leadership of Congress retarded the development and gave rise to separatism here. "Today, under the strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah a historic decision to abrogate Article 370 was taken. He said that Dr Shyama Prasad Mookherjee and others sacrificed their lives and the whole nation has lived the struggle of Jammu and Kashmir: The Constitution of Dr Ambedkar was implemented in the rest of India but not in J&K and now the abrogation of Article 370 has marked the implementation of the Constitution in J&K as well. It was a herculean task to hoist the national flag in Kashmir earlier, but now the national flag hoists with pride in every corner of Jammu and Kashmir, including the Lal Chowk. August 5 has marked the beginning of a new dawn of development in J&K, he added.

The Union Minister said that under the Modi government, the focus has shifted to tourism from terrorism. Now democracy has strengthened and the SCs, STs, OBCs, Pahlris have got their rights after the abrogation of Article 370, said Reddy.

Reddy further said that the Modi government avenged the martyrdom of every single jawan.

Tarun Chugh, in his address, said that on this day, the final tribute was paid to the 'Do Vidhan, Do Nishan, Do Pradhan' in the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir. He remembered the sacrifice of Dr Shyama Prasad Mookherjee and his arrest while entering J&K. He said that the BJP progressed with the pious thought of unifying the J&K with the rest of India in letter and spirit, which was achieved by the Modi government on August 5, 2019. He said the Prime Minister implemented the Constitution of India in Jammu and Kashmir as wished by Dr. BR Ambedkar.

"Today, the Narendra Modi government is continuously working on these three issues of development, trust and security in Jammu and Kashmir", he said, adding that nobody can now bring back Article 370, while mentioning the articulations of Abdullah and Mufti on the abrogation of Article 370. He also took a jibe that they both lost the elections in their bastion. He charged the then CM Dr Farooq Abdullah for the regrettable displacement of Kashmiris in the horrible circumstances. He also warned the people, who ask for a repeat of 1990, that now Narendra Modi is the Prime Minister of India who has the guts to deal with the iron hand. The rule of 3 families pushed J&K into the bloodshed. As long as even one BJP worker is alive, who follows Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, and Premnath Dogra, and who has respect for Tikka Lal ji, this nightmare of yours will neither be fulfilled nor will it be allowed to happen, Chugh told Abdullahs and Muftis.

Ravinder Raina, in his address, congratulated the people of Jammu & Kashmir on the anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370 and remembered the contributions of Maharaja Hari Singh, Pt Prem Nath Dogra, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookherjee and other greats.

Meanwhile, in BJP office Kachi Chawani, senior party leaders, Sat Sharma, former BJP President and former Minister, Yudhvir Sethi, BJP Vice-President, Parmod Kapali, BJP District President, Arvind Gupta, Venu Khanna BJP Secretaries, Sanjita Dogra, Mahila Morcha President and others hoisted 'Tiranga'.

5th FC chairs...

the functioning of PRIs and ULBs in Jammu and Kashmir:

During the meeting, discussions were also held on the recommendations of State Finance Commission (SFC) report for Jammu and Kashmir, which suggested devolution to local bodies including those in the Ladakh region.

Key areas discussed in the meeting included allocation of funds between the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh post-2019 reorganization, transfer of funds to local bodies and the distribution of grants recommended by the 14th and 15th Union Finance Commissions.

Commissioner Secretary, HUDD, Mandep Kaur on the occasion discussed the role of ULBs in the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Jammu and Kashmir. She emphasized the need for robust local governance structures to facilitate development.

Secretary, RDD, Dr Shahid Iqbal on the occasion provided an in-depth briefing to the commission members on the functioning of PRIs.

He made out that Gram Panchayats (GPs), Block Development Councils (BDCs), and District Development Councils (DDCs) in Jammu and Kashmir operate under the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989, and the J&K Panchayati Raj Rules, 1996.

He informed the commission that committees comprising elected members of PRIs and professionals/department officers have been established to manage natural resources, human resources, employment generation, self-help groups, finance and planning works and infrastructure development.

Secretary, RDD also highlighted the challenges faced due to the no funds received under the 15th Finance Commission award, which has adversely impacted the infrastructure development plans.

He emphasized the need for adequate funding for the construction of Panchayat Ghars and recommended that a significant portion of grants should remain untied, allowing PRIs to address local needs and contingencies effectively.

Dr Shahid stressed on the importance of non-sector-specific grants to enable local governments to prioritize localized needs and requirements.

Secretary, RDD also called for special concessions for areas with limited working seasons and challenging topographies, such as hilly regions, particularly concerning eligibility for performance grants.

Chhari Mubarak taken to Sharika Bhawani temple for annual prayers

SRINAGAR: Chhari Mubarak, the holy mace of Swami Amarnathji, was taken to historic Sharika Bhawani temple atop the Hari Parvat Fort here for prayers on the occasion of 'Shravan Shukla Paksha Pratipada' on Monday.

Sizable number of sadhus and devotees participated in the prayers that lasted for about two hours, Dashnami Akhara, the permanent abode of the Holy Mace, said in a statement.

"In connection with the annual Swami Amarnath Ji Yatra-2024, Chhari-Mubarak Swami Amarnath Ji, led by Mahant Deependra Giri ji, was taken to ancient 'Sharika Bhawani' Temple, Hari Parvat, Srinagar today to pay obeisance to the goddess on the occasion of 'Shravan Shukla Paksha Pratipada', as per the age-old traditions," it said.

"The goddess, 'Sharika-Bhawani', popularly known as 'Tripursundari' and 'Chakreshwari Devi' amongst the mystics, is believed to be 'Isht Devi' (presiding deity) of the Srinagar city who manifested herself in a figure of 'Shila' (holy rock) at Hari Parvat," the statement read.

It said the Chhari-Sthapana ceremony will be performed on Wednesday at Shri Amreshwar Temple Akhara building here and traditional 'Chhari-Pujan' shall be performed on the occasion of 'Nag-Panchami' that falls on Friday.

The Chhari Mubarak is scheduled to leave on August 14 for the holy cave shrine of Amarnath situated at an altitude of 13,500 feet in south Kashmir from Dashnami Akhara, Srinagar for the main course of pilgrimage.

"The traditional puja and rituals shall be performed on the auspicious occasion of 'Shravan-Purnima' on 19th of August, this year," it added.

CS takes stock of infrastructure, other modern initiatives of SED

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Monday held a meeting of School Education Department (SED) to take stock of the projects taken up under different schemes and the modern technology based learning solutions for the students.

Present in the meeting were Principal Secretary, School Education; Chairperson, JKBOSE/SCERT; MD, Samagra Shiksha; Director, School Education, Kashmir/Jammu besides other concerned officers either physically or virtually through video conferencing.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary impressed upon the department to make the learning outcomes/outputs measurable by using certain tools or techniques. He maintained that the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan has a vast scope to enhance teaching-learning process and the department should utilise its potential optimally to obtain the desired outcomes.

He advised for including many more subjects to enrich the content developed for Vidhya Samiksha Kendra (VSK) including the MCQs for assistance of the students. He also urged them to create contents/videos in vernacular languages for the understanding of most of the people.

Dulloo took this occasion to

have live demonstration of several bots developed by the department for making the teaching process more effective and fruitful. He watched the use of bots like Smart Attendance for students, Study Buddy developed for deep learning and retention of lessons, JK Pariksha envisaged to help students to improve their weak areas, Parent Pulse bot for feedback of parents, JK Shikshak Sahayak bot for making tailored lessons to meet specific needs of students.

Regarding VSK, Jammu it was revealed that it is going to be commissioned soon. It was divulged that it would be helpful in monitoring Samagra Shiksha projects on real-time basis, besides tracking academic and non-academic activities, help in improving student's performance, teacher's accountability and resource usage besides setting up a centralised grievance help desk and creating a real-time school performance dashboard for the UT. Giving details about the PM SHRI (Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India) scheme, it was given out that selected schools will showcase the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 and emerge as exemplar schools over a period of time.

Under this scheme, it was divulged that 233 schools including 74 Middle Schools, 114 High Schools and 45 Hr

Secondary Schools were taken in J&K in first phase. It targets creation of 45 Atal Tinkering labs @Rs. 10.00 Laacs, 159 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) labs @ Rs. 10.00 Laacs and 45 Science Centres @Rs. 08.00 Laacs in these Schools.

As far as other infrastructure is concerned, it was informed that 89 KGBV hostels were sanctioned for running elementary level classes (6th to 8th) for Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs). Out of these, 35 KGBVS are 100 bedded and 54 KGBVS are 50 bedded. It was further apprised that 73 KGBV buildings have been completed and rest are in progress and slated to be finished by March, 2025.

Regarding other civil works in the Department, the meeting was apprised that 8902 works were approved by MoE from 2018-19 to 2023-24 to be completed at a cost of Rs 1220 Cr. It was said that 1551 works are in progress and an expenditure of Rs 601.83 Cr has already been made on completion of these works in the schools of the UT.

About the implementation of NEP 2020, it was added that a number of steps had been taken by the department during the past and many are in pipeline to meet the requirements for its smooth implementation on ground.

12 landlords booked for not providing tenant details to police in Jammu city

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Twelve cases have been registered against land and house owners in Jammu city for allegedly failing to provide details of their tenants to the local police for their verification, an official spokesperson said.

The verification process was initiated after several instances of anti-national elements staying in residential areas in the guise of tenants and domestic help came to the fore in Jammu.

During this drive, 10 FIRs were registered against landlords at Bahu Fort belt and two in Channi Himmat area under sections the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), he added.

The district magistrate has already issued the orders for the owners to get the police verification of the tenants done in the jurisdiction of district Jammu.

Police appeal to the residents to come forward and provide the complete details of their tenants and domestic helpers to their nearest police station and get the verification done timely.

Kathua Admin seals three Libraries operating illegally from basements

STATE TIMES NEWS

KATHUA: In a decisive move to ensure the safety and compliance of educational facilities, the Kathua District Administration has sealed three libraries found operating illegally from basement premises.

The action was taken under the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Kathua and in accordance with the committee established by the Divisional Commissioner Jammu, aimed at inspecting private tuition and coaching centers.

The libraries, identified as Takshila Library, The Reading Carrel (W.No.15 NHA1 Kalibari) were found to be in violation of building by-laws and did not meet the mandatory infrastructure requirements set by the "Guidelines for Regulation of Coaching Centers" issued by the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India.

The inspection team, led by the Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Kathua, Amit Sharma, and comprising 1st Class Magistrate and police officials, conducted the operation today.

On the occasion, the enforcement team members said that the safety of students is our top priority, and we are committed to enforcing regulations that ensure educational facilities are safe and compliant with government guidelines.

The administration urges all private tuition and coaching centers to comply with the guidelines and maintain the necessary infrastructure to provide a safe and conducive learning environment for students. Further inspections will continue to ensure strict adherence to these standards.

Bear mauls man to death in Ramban

STATE TIMES NEWS

BANIHAL/JAMMU: A 48-year-old man was killed and a teenager injured in a bear attack in the upper reaches of Ramban district, officials said on Monday.

The incident took place when the pair was grazing their cattle in the Autootop area of Ukhral Pogal Paristan subdivision late on Sunday.

Nazir Ahmed Malik died on the spot while 15-year-old Reyaz Ahmed Gorski was admitted to a hospital, they said.

Reyaz is undergoing treatment and his condition is stable, the officials said.

Malik's body was sent for post-mortem. Wildlife range officer Hukum Singh said two teams were sent to the area.

Compensation will be provided to the kin of both, he said.

Body of Pakistani intruder repatriated along IB

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Body of an intruder, who was recently shot dead by the BSF while attempting to illegally sneak into India, was repatriated to Pakistan along the International Border here on Monday, officials said.

The unarmed intruder was gunned down after he ignored repeated warnings and attempted to cross the border fence through the Khora border outpost in the Samba district on the night of July 31.

The deceased was identified as Pakistani national Muhammad Affal, a resident of the Punjab province, the officials said.

The body was returned to Pakistani Rangers by the BSF at border outpost Octroi in the Suchetgarh sector of the Jammu district, the officials said.

Army opens fire on suspected infiltrators along LoC in Sunderbani, Akhnoor; search ops on

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Army troops opened fire after noticing the movement of two groups of infiltrators along the Line of Control (LoC) in Akhnoor and Sunderbani sectors of Jammu and Kashmir in the early hours of Monday, officials said.

Though there was no exchange of fire, a massive search operation is underway in both areas to ensure that there is no infiltration from across the border, they said.

Alert Army troops fired after picking up suspicious movement of three to four infiltrators in a forward area in the Battal sector of Akhnoor on the outskirts of Jammu around 1.30 am, the officials said.

The area was illuminated with flares and put under surveillance through drones with reinforcements mobilised to lay a tight cordon. A search operation was launched at first light, they said.

The Army troops also fired a few rounds on noticing suspicious movement in a forward area in the Sunderbani-Novshera sector in Rajouri district around 12.30 am. A search of the area along the LoC is also underway, they added.

Security has been beefed up across Jammu and Kashmir in view of the fifth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, which granted a special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, on Monday.