



Kerala government
suspends IAS officer
Sriram Venkitaraman
page 6



Unnao rape survivor
airlifted to Delhi after
Supreme Court order
page 7



Nirmala to interact with
various sectors to find
ways to boost growth
page 13



Nathan Lyon spins
Australia to victory
in Ashes opener
page 14

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J&K loses its special status, divided into two UTs

■ Home Minister Amit Shah announces the Centre's decision in the Rajya Sabha

VIJAITA SINGH
DEVESH K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

Ending Jammu and Kashmir's special status in the Indian Union, the BJP government extended all provisions of the Constitution to the State in one go, downsized the State into two Union Territories and allowed all citizens to buy property and vote in the State.

Leading the charge, Home Minister Amit Shah piloted two special resolutions and a Bill creating the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh through the Rajya Sabha on Monday. While the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will have a legislature, the one in Ladakh will not.

The first resolution informed the House that the President had used his powers under Article 370 to fundamentally alter the provision, extending all Central laws, instruments and treaties to Kashmir. However, the drastically altered Article 370 will remain on the statute book.

The government's surgical strike on the State's autonomy came as telephone and Internet services in the Valley were suspended, former Chief Ministers Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti remained under arrest and thousands of additional Central security personnel were deployed.

Mr. Shah said that if the Union Territory model worked well, the government would consider giving Jammu and Kashmir the status of a State again and "no constitutional amendment would be required". Prime Minister Narendra Modi was present during the proceedings.

Mr. Shah said the Resolu-

tion for Repeal of Article 370 of the Constitution of India "would pass every legal scrutiny" and he was aware that an "NGO brigade", supported by some parties, would challenge it.

Slamming the Congress, Mr. Shah said, "It was your policy that has killed so many people, more than 41,000, since 1988. Why aren't youth in Rajasthan, Gujarat or Odisha misguided? Because there is no Article 370 in these States."

Dismissing concerns that there would be "bloodshed" in the Valley, Mr. Shah said this was a "new experiment" and everyone should support it. "Terrorism cannot end in the State till Article 370 or 35A continue. They are an obstacle to development. We want to embrace the Kashmiri youth. The move will bring development, tourism and industries to the State. These opportunities till now were controlled by only three families," he said.

Governor Satya Pal Malik on Monday night reviewed the security situation with top officials in Jammu and emphasised the need for constant vigil to deal with any eventuality. The Army's Northern Command chief Lt. Gen. Ranbir Singh met the Governor and briefed him about the security situation.

Reacting to the developments, U.S. State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus said, "We call on all parties to maintain peace and stability along the LoC." (With PTI inputs)

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10
CONGRESS MEMBERS TEAR
RESOLUTION COPY ► PAGE 10
QUICK TRIGGER ► PAGE 11
A WRONG WAY TO END
► EDITORIAL

■ RS adopts the J&K Reorganisation Bill, with 125 votes in favour and 61 against

The new order

Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** introduced two statutory resolutions to recommend that the President issue a notification rendering **Article 370** inoperative, and to accept the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill. A look at how the government changed the **special status** of the State **overnight**:

370 Under Article 370, Jammu and Kashmir had its own constitution and the laws passed by Parliament were applicable to the State only with the State government's concurrence

370 The President was empowered to decide which provisions of the Indian Constitution would be applicable with the State's assent

35A Article 35A protected the laws such as bar on outsiders buying property in the State and women marrying non-Kashmiris losing their property rights

■ These special measures could only be altered on the recommendation of the Sadar-i-Riyasat (on the advice of the Ministers Council) or by the 'Constituent Assembly'

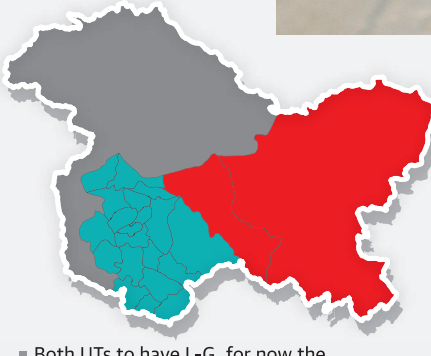
■ President Ram Nath Kovind declared that all provisions of the Indian Constitution shall now apply to the State

367 To scrap Article 370 altogether, a few clauses were added to Article 367 on Monday which contains "Interpretations": the reference to the 'Constituent Assembly' was amended to read 'Legislative Assembly of the State'. All references to the 'Sadar-i-Riyasat' will be construed as references to the Governor

SHARING OF POWER

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019, will bring about the following changes to the State

■ Two Union Territories to be formed out of the State of Jammu and Kashmir: UT of Ladakh (Kargil and Leh districts; ●) and UT of J&K (all other districts of the State of J&K ●)



● Four sitting Rajya Sabha members of the State will become MPs of UT of J&K
Five Lok Sabha seats to go to the UT of J&K
Legislative Assembly of UT of J&K will have 107 seats to be chosen through a direct election

● One Lok Sabha seat to go to the UT of Ladakh
● 24 seats in PoK will be vacant

No entry: Barbed wire erected by the security personnel to block vehicles on a road during restrictions in Srinagar on Monday.
■ REUTERS

India briefs envoys on J&K move

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs on Monday reached out to the member-states of the U.N. Security Council and briefed envoys on the decision to end the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, sources confirmed.

The Indian outreach came as Pakistan said New Delhi's move was unacceptable to Islamabad.

Sources said the outreach was carried out on the basis of a request from members of the diplomatic community.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

A fatal legal error, says P. Chidambaram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram on Monday said the government cannot modify Article 370 by using another provision of Article 370. By doing so it made a "fatal legal error" and it would discover this in due course.

The Rajya Sabha passed a resolution moved by Home Minister Amit Shah that would repeal the provisions under Article 370 of the Constitution, which granted a special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

"How can Article 370 be modified using Article 370?... I know it was your manifesto promise...but in repealing Article 370, you are unleash-

ing forces which you cannot control," he said.

While introducing the resolution earlier in the day, Mr. Shah had said, "Under Article 370(3), there is a provision that the President, on recommendation of Parliament, has the power to amend or cease the implementation of Article 370, through a public notification." He later clarified to Mr. Chidambaram that the said provision has to be read with Article 371 D (Special provisions with respect to the State of Andhra Pradesh.)

Mr. Chidambaram appealed to the government not to "dismember the State" and warned it had committed a "cardinal blunder." "Momentarily you may

think you have scored a victory...drum beats on streets may force you to think that you have corrected a so-called injustice but history will prove you.... Future generations will realise what a grave mistake this House is making today. This will be a catastrophic blunder," he said.

He said the State was being reduced to the state of municipal administrations and instead of protecting the rights of the States, the Rajya Sabha was passing Bills which were on the concurrent list.

Leader of the Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad said the State's head, considered India's crown, has been "chopped off" and it was a

"matter of shame" that the Centre had reduced the State to a non-entity with Lt. Governor's rule.

"The way an atom bomb explodes, such an explosion took place in the House today when the Home Minister arrived," Mr. Azad said in the Upper House. He dared the government to bring a Bill to convert Gujarat into a Union Territory, saying it should not take things lightly, and accused the Centre of muzzling the State's history while being "drunk" with power.

Tiruchi Siva (DMK) termed the move unconstitutional as the Constitution says that only the Assembly should decide on such crucial issues.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10

Kashmiris fear fresh bout of violence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAMMU

The people of Kashmir on Monday expressed apprehensions about a new cycle of violence in the Valley, with many saying that scrapping of Article 370, which gave special status to the State, could lead to change in its identity.

"We are shocked by the decision and it left us disappointed because our sentiments were attached with this Article... its scrapping means that the State will lose its Muslim-majority character," said Farooq Ahmad Shah, 50, a resident of Srinagar, who was visiting Jammu.

He said that though the State's ruling parties rendered the Article ineffectual over the last 70 years in "collusion" with the different governments at the Centre, its scrapping was bound to provoke the people.

"How long will they keep us under house arrest," asked Arshid Warsi, a man in his 20s from the Valley, who was also visiting the city. Revoking Article 370 does not mean "we cannot express our resentment", he said.

A school teacher, who wished not to be named, blamed the State's mainstream parties for the "current crisis."

"It is very unfortunate that the government has taken a decision which is going to create more resentment rather than bringing peace," she said.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 10
BACKGROUND ► PAGE 11

NEARBY



Vellore polling peaceful, over 72% turnout

VELLORE
The election to the Vellore Lok Sabha constituency passed off peacefully amid tight security on Monday. The average turnout was 72.62% after polling closed at 6 p.m., District Election Officer A. Shanmuga Sundram said. There were reports of VVPAT units malfunctioning in some places and some cases of problems with EVMs and control units.

TAMIL NADU ► PAGE 4

HIV patients face shortage of drugs

CHENNAI
There is a shortage of first-line anti-retroviral therapy regimen — Zidovudine-Lamivudine (ZL) combination drugs — across Tamil Nadu. Persons living with HIV/AIDS, who are on this drug regimen, are getting doses for a week instead of the recommended one month.

CHENNAI ► PAGE 2

Student raped in Tiruchi, suspect arrested

TIRUCHI
A third-year student of an engineering college here was allegedly raped by a man, who posed as a policeman, on the outskirts of the city on Sunday. The suspect also beat up the girl's male friend. Based on the description they provided, the police arrested the accused.

TAMIL NADU ► PAGE 5

METROPLUS ► 8 PAGES

DMK leads onslaught against Centre's action on J&K

AIADMK draws flak for supporting move

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

DMK president M.K. Stalin on Monday led the political onslaught from Tamil Nadu on the Centre's decision to strip Jammu and Kashmir of the special status accorded to it under Article 370 of the Constitution and bifurcate the State into two Union territories.

The AIADMK, which supported the move in the Rajya Sabha, came under attack from many political parties, including the DMK and Congress.

Terming the Centre's action as a "murder of democracy", Mr. Stalin said, "It is highly condemnable that the AIADMK has supported the move. The party should rename itself as All India Bharatiya Janata Party."

He urged the Centre to put on hold the President's notification amending the provisions of the Article 370, effectively taking away the special status bestowed upon the valley, and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019.

Mr Stalin reiterated the DMK's unshakable faith in India's security and sovereignty and pointed out that it had taken a patriotic stand and extended support during challenges such as the Indo-China war, Indo-Pakistani war and the Kargil intrusion. "We never bothered



M.K. Stalin

whether the country was ruled by the Congress or the BJP. The DMK has always opposed abrogation of Article 370. It was firm that the special status for Jammu and Kashmir should not be dispensed with," he said.

It was highly condemnable that instead of addressing pressing issues like the financial crisis and unemployment, the BJP government had abrogated the special status to Jammu and Kashmir and it had happened at a time when there was no elected government in the state, the DMK leader said. "The government's decision proves that it has ulterior motives since it has not consulted the leaders of the political parties (in the valley), kept them under house arrest, cut off communications and created an emergency (like situation)," he alleged.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

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