



August 2020

SPECIAL EDITION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN  
JAMMU & KASHMIR

*One Year of Development and  
Governance in Jammu & Kashmir*



*Jammu and Kashmir: Marching Ahead*

### ***Prime Minister Modi Lauds Jammu and Kashmir Women for Work Fighting COVID-19***



Prime Minister Modi lauded the local residents of Jammu and Kashmir, especially two women sarpanches, for their effective work in fighting coronavirus. Speaking at the 67th edition of his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', the Prime Minister said that India's rural regions became a beacon of guidance for the entire country during the coronavirus pandemic. [Read more](#)

### ***Transformation underway in J&K and Ladakh, says External Affairs Minister***

A "transformation" is underway in Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh with the rollout of progressive laws and development projects, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on the first anniversary of the revocation of the special status for the region. On August 5, 2019, the government of India revoked the special status granted to Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) under Article 370 of the Indian constitution. The state was bifurcated into two Union Territories (UT), J&K, and Ladakh by the center. [Read More](#)



### ***Jammu & Kashmir: Various development projects in Srinagar ease people's lives***

To ease the lives of people residing in Srinagar, the government has completed various infrastructure projects from 2013 to 2019, including a two-tube flyover from Jehangir Chowk to Rambagh in the city. The work on the Rs 300 crore flyover, which has eased the traffic woes of the people started in 2013. The project to construct a length of 2.40 kms in four-lane with an aggregate length of four kms including accesses within a total cost of Rs 300.00 crores, was started in 2013. [Read more](#)

### ***The Prime Minister Development Package Helps Farmers in Jammu & Kashmir***



The Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP), announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015 for Jammu and Kashmir, has proved to be a breather for the farmers in the Union Territory as the horticulture department has set up apple orchards in Anantnag district to help increase the apple production. The department has lent a helping hand to an apple grower by giving him high-density apple plants under the PMDP which provides them nets, borewells and other facilities on subsidy. [Read more](#)

### ***People in Kashmir more optimistic about future than those in POK, says study***

A joint study conducted by Professor Dheeraj Sharma, Director of Indian Institute of Management, Rohtak and Professor Farah Arif of the Lahore University of Management Sciences has highlighted a contrasting picture of lifestyle in Kashmir and Pakistan occupied Kashmir. According to the survey, more people in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh are optimistic about their future as compared to people in Pakistan occupied Kashmir. [Read more](#)



### **J&K: Better infrastructure under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana boosts grape production in Ganderbal**



A section of people in Jammu and Kashmir depends on the horticulture sector for their livelihoods and grape cultivation is a major source of income for many families in the Valley. One such place is Ganderbal. After the state was made a Union Territory last year, there have been marked improvements in the horticulture sector under the centrally sponsored Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, and grape cultivators say that the quality and quantity of the crops have since seen a lot of improvement. [Read more](#)

### **Good Governance, more jobs part of J&K and Ladakh's Integration into India**

On August 5, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh celebrated the first anniversary of the amendment of Article 370 of the Constitution. It is an anniversary that deserves to be marked as it symbolises the integration of the so-called disputed territory into the Union of India. As if a festering sore on the crown of India was salved, at last, hopefully, to be healed, that too through constitutional means. [Read more](#)



### **Marked drop in bandh calls, stone-pelting incidents in J&K after Art 370 abrogation**

There has been a noted decrease in stone-pelting incidents in Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370. Officials have pointed out continued crackdown on separatist leaders in J&K as one of the key factors. Separatists, who used to give calls for strikes in Kashmir, are in disarray after the government continued to crack its whip by seizing their bank accounts and attaching assets allegedly amassed through terror funds, said a report in Deccan Herald. It revealed that a total of 82 bank accounts involving Rs 70,44,073 were frozen and 19 premises housing Jel offices were raided during the course of the investigation. [Read more](#)

### **Dignity and Rights get restored in Jammu and Kashmir**



Since the abrogation of Article 370 in the summer of 2019, Kashmiri's have enjoyed expanded rights and, in turn, a rejuvenated sense of dignity. Manish Adhikari, a Kashmiri business owner, said, "August 5 was the happiest day of my life as Parliament's decision restored the dignity and rights of our community,". [Read more](#)

### **World's Highest Railway Bridge over Chenab river in J&K nears Completion**

The world's highest railway bridge over river Chenab in Jammu and Kashmir will be ready by next year, and will connect the Valley with the rest of India by train for the first time by 2022, officials said on Sunday. The bridge, which has a central span of 467 metres, is being built at a height of 359 metres from the bed level. [Read more](#)



### ***Kashmir's Farhana Bhat Makes Mark in Bollywood***



Bollywood actor Farhana Bhat is a budding artiste who hails from the Kashmir Valley. She shot to fame from the 2018-film 'Laila Majnu', which was directed by Imtiaz Ali's brother Sajid Ali. Bhat said that the Kashmiri youth is extremely talented, but lack the right platform for showcasing its talent. She wants to provide budding singers and artists with a platform so that they are able to fulfil their dreams. [Read more](#)

### ***Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir: One Year of Unprecedented Development***

The past year has been one of remarkable journey for the Union Territories (UT) of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir. The momentous decision by 1.3 billion people of India, represented through two-thirds majority in Parliament, to reorganize the erstwhile state of Jammu & Kashmir had as the fundamental objective delivering development and governance to the people who had suffered seven decades of violence thrust upon them from abroad. [Read more](#)



### ***Refugees in J&K get dignity, domicile rights after 73 years of struggle***

The abrogation of Article 35-A last year has changed the fate of Western Pakistani refugees residing in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). A year ago, they were denied rights of common residents of J&K but now they are eligible to get domicile certificates as they have lived in Jammu since 1947, said The Tribune report quoting a refugee leader. [Read more](#)

### ***Separatist in J&K are in disarray since the abrogation of 370***



Recruitment of local youth by militant outfits in Jammu and Kashmir has declined by 42% since the abrogation of article 370, a report published in The Tribune says quoting anonymous officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). According to The Tribune's report, figures provided by intelligence agencies show during the one-year period prior to August 5, 2019, around 172 locals joined different terrorist groups. The figure of recruitment of such youths fell to 100 after August 5, 2019, and till date. [Read more](#)

### ***A War on Terror: Why India Made Its Big Kashmir Move One-Year Ago Today***

One year ago today, Indian President Ram Nath Kovind formally revoked Article 370 of the Indian constitution which protected Kashmir's special status. Indian security forces imposed a curfew on Kashmir in order to dissuade protests and unrest. [Read more](#)



# Meanwhile on the Other Side of the Border

## ***Pakistan's Bloodthirsty Blasphemy Law Needs to be Repealed***



Tahir Ahmad Naseem became the latest to be extrajudicially killed for blasphemy in Pakistan. The victim, who had formerly been an Ahmadi before leaving the community, had been under arrest inside Peshawar Central Jail since 2018 for claiming to be a prophet. He was facing trial for blasphemy, and was shot dead in the courtroom inside the Peshawar Judicial Complex. [Read more](#)

## ***'I am in my home with my kids': Asia Bibi speaks out about her new life in Canada***

The Christian farm worker brought international attention to Pakistan's controversial blasphemy laws after she was convicted of insulting the prophet Mohammed and sentenced to death in 2009. Pakistan's supreme court overturned her conviction in 2018 and in early 2019, Bibi was granted asylum with her family in Canada. After nearly 10 years in a Pakistani prison, Asia Bibi says she's enjoying a quiet life with her family in Canada. [Read more](#)



## ***Pakistani court sparks outrage by ruling 14-year-old Christian girl must stay married to alleged abductor***

A Pakistani court has sparked outrage by ruling a 14-year-old Christian girl was legally married to a Muslim man who allegedly abducted her at gunpoint [Read more](#)

## ***Helpless, Desperate Pakistani Hindus Convert to Islam to Overcome Troubles: New York times***



Many Hindu families were converted in June in the Badin locale of Sindh Province in southern Pakistan. Video recordings of the function were circulated around the web, across the nation, pleasing extreme Muslims and burdening Pakistan's diminishing Hindu minority. The mass ceremony was the most recent in what is a developing number of such conversions to Pakistan's majority Muslim confidence lately. [Read more](#)

## ***'Political absurdity': India roasts Imran Khan over Pakistan's new 'political map'***

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday unveiled a new "political map of Pakistan" that counts Jammu and Kashmir and Junagadh in Gujarat as its territories. "This is the most historic day in Pakistan's history," Khan said at a news conference after getting cabinet approval for the map. India's foreign ministry dissed Imran Khan's Pakistan for its obsession with territorial aggrandisement supported by cross-border terrorism. [Read more](#)



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