



Jammu & Kashmir Revives Darbar Move | Jammu & Kashmir | 21 Oct 2025

Why in News?

After a **four-year suspension**, the **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) administration** is set to **resume the century-and-a-half-old tradition** of the '**Darbar Move**' this winter.

Key Points

- **About:** It is a unique practice involving the **biannual shifting** of the **J&K's Civil Secretariat** and other **government offices** between the two capitals: **Srinagar** for the summer and **Jammu** for the winter.
- **History & Evolution:** It was instituted in **1872** by **Maharaja Gulab Singh**, the founder of the **princely state of Jammu & Kashmir**. His primary objective was to make the **administration more accessible** to the people across different regions.
 - The practice continued after **India's independence**, evolving into a **symbol of regional integration** and **shared governance** between **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- **Interruption and Legal Scrutiny:** The continuity of this tradition was broken following a significant observation by the **Jammu and Kashmir High Court** in **2020**, which stated that there was no **"legal justification or Constitutional basis"** for the **Darbar Move**.
 - Acting on this, the **Lieutenant Governor's administration** decided to **end the practice in 2021**, projecting an **annual saving of approximately Rs. 200 crore** for the government.
- **Implications of Revival:** Proponents argue that it will **reinforce regional parity** in the **Union Territory's governance structure** post-**Article 370** and provide a substantial boost to the **local economies** of **Srinagar** and **Jammu**, as the move involves significant **logistical and service-based activities**.

Maharaja Gulab Singh

- **About:** Became Maharaja on **16 March 1846** after the **Treaty of Amritsar**, establishing the princely state of Jammu & Kashmir.
 - He joined **Maharaja Ranjit Singh's court in Lahore**, serving as a prominent **military commander**.
- **Titles and Recognition:** Conferred **Raja of Jammu in 1822**; known as the **"Jewel in the Lahore Darbar"** for his military prowess.
- **Family and Legacy:** Part of the renowned **Dogra Trio** with his brothers **Dhian Singh** and **Suchet Singh**, and a direct descendant of the Jammu ruling family.