

Farooq Abdullah's remarks on Article 370 desperate attempt to stay politically relevant: Dr. Tahir

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Party's senior leader and spokesperson Dr. Tahir Choudhary has strongly criticized National Conference leader Dr. Farooq Abdullah for his recent remarks on Article 370, accusing him of misleading the people of Jammu and Kashmir for political gains.

Dr. Choudhary stated that such statements are part of a desperate attempt by Dr. Abdullah to regain relevance in the region's political landscape. Dr. Choudhary drew a clear distinction between Maharaja Hari Singh's state subject law introduced in 1927 and Article 370.

"Maharaja Hari Singh's state subject law was designed to protect the rights of all citizens of Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring that the local population retained control over their land, jobs, and resources. However, Article 370, was discriminatory in nature and became a



tool of exploitation by vested interests," Dr. Choudhary explained and suggested Dr Farooq Abdullah to properly read history before comparing the State Subject law of Maharaja Hari Singh with Article 370.

The BJP spokesperson said that State Subject law introduced by Maharaja Singh had the provision of granting citizenship to rights to non-state subjects also.

Highlighting the discriminatory aspects of Article 370, he said, "It was anti-women, anti-weaker sections, and a major obstacle to the full integration of Jammu and Kashmir into the Indian

Union. Women from the region who married outside the state were denied inheritance rights, and marginalized sections of society were left to suffer without the safeguards and opportunities available elsewhere in the country."

Dr. Choudhary asserted that the abrogation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marked the beginning of a transformative era for Jammu and Kashmir. "The removal of this article was a bold and historic step that finally ended decades of inequality and stagnation. It was a decision that paved the way for the holistic development of the region and brought it on par with the rest of India," he said. Citing the positive developments that have followed the abrogation, Dr. Choudhary pointed out several key milestones.

"Since the abrogation,

Jammu and Kashmir has seen a significant surge in development projects, including infrastructural advancements, investments, and improved governance. The successful hosting of the G20 summit in the region, which showcased Jammu and Kashmir on the global stage, is a shining example of this progress. Additionally, peaceful assembly polls and the absence of violence during such major events are a testament to the newfound stability and security in the region," he stated.

Refuting Farooq Abdullah's claims about the abrogation, Dr. Choudhary emphasized that the people of Jammu celebrated the removal of Article 370 because it dismantled barriers to their growth and prosperity.

"Farooq Abdullah's attempts to romanticize Article 370 as a protective shield for the people are baseless and misleading. The fact is that Article 370 only

benefited a select few while depriving the majority of basic rights and opportunities. The people of Jammu and Kashmir are now witnessing the benefits of full integration with India, and they no longer fall prey to such divisive narratives," he added.

Dr. Choudhary also highlighted the BJP government's commitment to the holistic development of Jammu and Kashmir.

He said, "The abrogation of Article 370 has unlocked immense potential for the region. New job opportunities, infrastructure projects, educational institutions, and healthcare facilities are being developed at an unprecedented pace. Tourism, a major pillar of the region's economy, has also seen a revival, with record-breaking footfalls in the past few years. This progress is the result of a clear vision and strong leadership by the BJP government.

Only BJP can fulfil aspirations of general public: Yudhvir Sethi



MLA East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi listening to issues at public grievance camp.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Yudhvir Sethi, BJP leader and MLA East Constituency, on Thursday held a public grievance camp at Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan Kacchi Chawni Jammu and listened to the issues faced by the public.

The camp witnessed a huge rush of people from across Jammu city who came to the party office to discuss their issues with senior BJP leaders.

Various deputations, including individual persons

visited the camp to present their grievances on issues such as ration, education, pension, PHE, PDD, revenue, power, water scarcity, roads, and other development-related topics, as well as personal issues. Yudhvir Sethi gave a patient hearing to the deputations and resolved most of their issues instantaneously.

Sethi said that the BJP is committed to addressing the day-to-day problems being faced by the people in general and Jammu City in particular

and that the party is making a sincere attempt to lessen the gap between administration and people.

The senior BJP leader stated that only BJP can fulfill the dreams and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and address their issues on a priority basis.

Yudhvir Sethi has assured the public that he will take up the rest of their issues with the concerned authorities and get them resolved soon.

Dr. Ambedkar advocated for equal rights to women: Balbir



J&K BJP spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan interacting with women group.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, remains a beacon of hope and inspiration for the cause of women empowerment. His firm commitment to ensuring gender equality and justice has left a permanent mark on India's socio-political landscape.

Balbir Ram Rattan, spokesperson, Jammu and Kashmir BJP & former Vice Chairperson, said this while discussing the contribution of Dr. Ambedkar in empowering women of the country, with a group of the women leaders of BJP, on Thursday.

He was talking to BJP Secretary & Mahila Morecha seh-prabhari, Veenu Khanna, State Executive Member, Shailja Gupta, Sushma Rani, Pooja Grover and Sonika Rao.

Balbir shared that Dr. Ambedkar recognized that no society can progress without uplifting its women. A firm advocate for women's rights, Ambedkar introduced progressive reforms to dismantle oppressive structures.

He further pointed out that as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the

Indian Constitution, Dr. Ambedkar championed provisions to safeguard women's rights. He ensured that the Constitution guaranteed equal rights, protection against discrimination, and equal opportunities for all citizens, irrespective of gender. His emphasis on the right to education, property rights for women, and measures to prevent exploitation were monumental in addressing gender disparities.

Dr. Ambedkar's vision continues to inspire movements for women's empowerment. His belief in education, economic independence, and equal representation remains vital in addressing the challenges women face.

As India progresses, Dr. Ambedkar's ideals serve as a reminder that true empowerment lies in fostering an inclusive society where women can utilise their full potential, Balbir said.

Sadhotra stress role of Lamberdars, Chowkidars in strengthening unity, foiling intolerance

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Senior National Conference leader and Additional General Secretary, Ajay Kumar Sadhotra, on Thursday urged Lamberdars and village Chowkidars to play an active role in fostering communal harmony and promoting brotherhood and peace.



Additional General Secretary National Conference Ajay Kumar Sadhotra with newly elected team of Numberdars and Chowkidars of Suchetgarh Assembly Constituency.

Speaking at a conference of Lamberdars and Chowkidars in village Mana, Suchetgarh Assembly Constituency, the event was organized by Ch Madan Lal, President of the Lamberdars and Chowkidars Union Suchetgarh, and Ch Naresh Bittu, District President Jammu Rural-B, National Conference, Sadhotra emphasized the importance of grassroots workers in promoting unity and maintaining peace, highlighting their strong connections with the

local communities.

He described Lamberdars and Chowkidars as crucial bridges between the government and the people, underscoring their responsibility to help maintain peace and unity in their areas.

He also spoke about the growing threat of intolerance and division in society, urging collective efforts to counter this dangerous trend. "Our country is facing a serious challenge of

division and hatred, which must be addressed with unity and peace," Sadhotra stated. He further encouraged these community representatives to engage with every section of society, ensuring that harmony prevails and that everyone, particularly those at the lower end of the social hierarchy, feels included and valued.

Acknowledging the vital role of grassroots workers, Sadhotra assured them that

the National Conference prioritizes their welfare. He mentioned that the Omar Abdullah government recognizes the significance of grassroots workers and is committed to addressing their concerns.

Other National Conference leaders also expressed their gratitude to grassroots workers.

Ayoub Malik and Pardeep Bali, Secretaries of Jammu Province, reiterated that

prosperous villages are the foundation of a progressive state.

Satwant Dogra, Provincial President of the Women Wing, emphasized the party's commitment to women's empowerment and gender equality. She highlighted the National Conference's efforts to encourage women's active participation in governance and community building.

Prominent attendees included Chander Mohan Sharma District President Jammu, Raghubir Singh Manhas District President Jammu Rural-A, Ch Mohd Aslam, Amrish Sharma, Somnath, Anju Grover, Jatinder Choudhary Block President Suchetgarh, Dev Raj Block President R.S. Pura, Mohinder Lal Vice President Jammu Rural B, Jatinder Bhagat District President SC Cell, Ashwani Charak were present.

Programme on Rabies Prevention organised at Block Kot Bhalwal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Department of Information and Public Relations, in collaboration with The State Surveillance Unit, Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP), Directorate of Health Services (DHS) Jammu and with support from the National Health Mission (NHM) and Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Jammu, successfully conducted a Rabies Awareness Program here at Village Ghorata, Block Kot Bhalwal on Thursday.

The initiative, organised under the direction of Joint Director Information Jammu, Atul Gupta and supervision of Cultural Officer, Mukesh Kumar Sharma, received significant support from Dr. Rakesh Magotra, Director Health Services Jammu and Dr. Harjeet Rai, State Surveillance Officer/State Nodal Officer NRCP, Dr.



Nukkad Natak being presented at school in Kot Bhalwal.

Harbaksh Singh, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Jammu and Dr. Rabia Khan, Block Medical Officer (BMO) Kot Bhalwal and Cultural Unit of Department of Information and Public Relations.

As part of the program, a Nukkad Natak was presented at the local school, attracting enthusiastic participation from both students and the general public. The street play effectively conveyed key messages

about rabies prevention, the importance of timely vaccination and the need for community engagement in rabies control efforts. The event aimed to raise awareness about rabies-a preventable viral disease that remains a significant public health concern. The program emphasized the importance of early reporting of animal bites, timely administration of anti-rabies vaccines, and the role of responsible pet ownership in

preventing the spread of rabies. In addition to providing accurate information, the Natak effectively dispelled common myths related to vaccination and rabies prevention. It also emphasized important Do's and Don'ts, such as Wash animal bite wounds immediately with soap and water for at least 15 minutes, seek medical attention promptly after a bite, don't rely on unverified traditional remedies and don't ignore minor scratches or assume all pets are vaccinated.

The program also highlighted the free availability of ARV and ARS at government health facilities, ensuring accessibility to life-saving interventions for all. The collaboration between various departments, including Health, Information and Education, underscores the collective resolve to combat rabies and protect public health.

This activity serves as a significant step in building community awareness about Rabies prevention and control, aligning with the National Goal of Dog Mediated Rabies elimination by 2030.

SKUAST-J holds 26th Academic Council Meeting

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J) conducted its 26th Academic Council Meeting under the chairmanship of Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu.



VC SKUAST-J, Prof. B.N. Tripathi chairing 26th Academic Council Meeting.

Dr. Anil Kumar, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture (FoA), Registrar, and Member Secretary presented the agenda items. Dr. Sandeep Sawhney from SKUAST-K participated as the external expert. Statutory officers, Heads of Divisions, In-charges of research stations, and nominated members also attended the meeting.

Prof. Tripathi underscored the crucial role of efficient delivery systems in teaching, research and extension, emphasizing their direct influence on the quality of education and the University's overall ranking. He highlighted the need for innovative teaching methodologies and the

integration of modern pedagogies to meet contemporary educational demands.

The Council deliberated extensively on a variety of critical issues and approved several forward-looking initiatives.

The Council approved the engagement of Professors of Practice and Adjunct Faculty to bring in domain expertise and bridge the gap between academic learning and practical implementation.

To promote global exposure and collaborative research, the Council endorsed guidelines for Masters and Ph.D. Sandwich/Bilateral

Programs, facilitating research opportunities for students nominated by other universities and institutions.

Recognizing the importance of digital integration, the Council approved the introduction of online thesis viva voce for Masters and Ph.D. students and oral comprehensive examinations for Ph.D. candidates.

Aligning with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Council sanctioned the introduction of compulsory non-credit courses in French and Sanskrit for Masters and Doctoral programs. This initiative aims to enhance

students' linguistic skills and cultural understanding.

The Council approved the launch of M.Tech. Biotechnology and M.Sc. Urban Horticulture programs starting from the academic session 2024-25.

These programs are designed to address emerging trends and demands in their respective fields.

To nurture high-quality and trained human resources, the Council introduced a voluntary teaching assistantship program for Ph.D. scholars, enabling them to gain valuable teaching experience alongside their research pursuits.

Prof. Tripathi stressed that blending modern pedagogical approaches with traditional strengths would enhance the overall quality of education at the University.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Rajinder Peshin, Director Education.

JU organizes symposium to celebrate National Girl Child Day



JU faculty presenting certificate to a participant.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: On the eve of National Girl Child Day, the Centre for Women's Studies (CWS) organized a Symposium on the theme: "Empowering Girls for a bright future" for the students of various departments of University of Jammu (JU).

Prof. Savita Nayyar, Director, CWS, JU, explained the theme of this year i.e. "Empowering Girls for a bright future" with the help of examples and related it with the present society and focused on

the importance of empowerment of girls for the sustainable development.

She explained the reasons for declining sex ratio of the Girl child and also highlighted the process of socialization which inculcates the different gender roles creating different gender expectations from male and female in the society.

Earlier Dr. Saranjit Kaur, Faculty, CWS said the purpose of celebration of this day is to spread awareness among people about all the inequalities girls face in the society. This

mission also aims to raise the awareness among people all over the country to promote awareness about the rights of the girl child as well as the importance of girl's education, health, nutrition and safety.

Ankita Sharma, Samreen Fatima, Pavleen Kaur, Sanam Sharma, Abhay Singh, Pankaj Sharma, Ananya, Saiera Royaz Zargar, Kaimaat Mir, Jasmeen Kaur, Sakshi Sawhney, Himanshu Chib were the students from Department of Political Science, Department of English, Department of Sport & Physical Education and Department of Media Studies participated in the symposium and shared their views on various issues related to the status of Girl Child.

Later Certificate of appreciation was distributed to the participants. The program was coordinated by Kunzang Angmo, faculty, CWS.

BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Pre-Consultations to be held at IIM Jammu today

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, in collaboration with the Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, and knowledge partner Global Counter Terrorism Council (GCTC), is organizing the BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Pre-Consultations tomorrow at IIM Jammu.

This event aims to foster innovation and entrepreneurship among youth, providing a platform to exchange ideas, share best practices, and explore opportunities to promote entrepreneurial growth and collaboration

across BRICS nations.

The event will be inaugurated by Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, as the Chief Guest, and Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir, as the Guest of Honour, in the presence of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu.

The post-inaugural session will feature a panel discussion on "Innovation and Entrepreneurship in J&K: Challenges and Roadmap," with panellists including successful entrepreneurs from Jammu & Kashmir, representatives from industry, angel funding and administration.

Later a masterclass for attendees will be conducted by Dr. Muqbil Burhan, Chairperson, Center for Entrepreneurship, Innovation & Skill Development, IIM Jammu and an Entrepreneur Success Story will be shared by S K Samiullah, Founder, Fast Beetle.

The event will also feature an Idea Pitching Competition, judged by a distinguished jury panel comprising of the domain experts coming from ASSOCHAM, FICCI-FLO, Venture Capital, Healthcare & administration.

Over 50 startups from across Jammu and Kashmir will showcase their innova-

tions, technologies, and products in diverse sectors such as tourism, food tech, Agri-tech, software technology, herbal cosmetics, herbal food supplements, and artificial intelligence.

Representatives from Mission YUVA, DST i-TBI, SBDO-IIM Jammu, and STEM-IIIM Jammu will also interact with participants at their respective stalls. The event is set to attract academicians, technocrats, startups, industrialists, and more than 500 students from various universities, colleges, and schools, making it a significant milestone in fostering entrepreneurial spirit.

Organized under the lead-

ership of Prof. B. S. Sahay and supported by the faculty, staff, and students at the Institute, the BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Pre-Consultations form part of the BRICS Youth Council Entrepreneurship Working Group Meeting Series.

Themed "Youth Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Growth," the event aligns with the broader objectives of fostering innovation, collaboration, and sustainable development across BRICS nations. IIM Jammu takes pride in hosting this platform, empowering young entrepreneurs, and making a meaningful contribution to the nation's progress.