

AGENDA - LOK SABHA

Review of the abrogation
of Article 370 and Article 35A with emphasis on its
impact and future development in J&K.

सत्यमेव जयते

BACKGROUND GUIDE

Letter for the Delegates

Dear Youth Parliamentarians,

It is wonderful when we act today in the shoes of our elected Member of Parliaments' with a futuristic vision to change the picture of our Nation. Politics is the subject which cannot be limited to the books, this subject has the nation as its soul, the law as its base and betterment of people as its duty, where people standing together mark the beauty of democracy.

Ever Since our tryst with destiny, youth has always been eager to show their interest in the matters of agriculture, education, sports, and various other fields but thinking for the betterment of the nation at such an age is commendable.

Youth is considered to be the power and the face of the nation and so the Organizing Committee of Jaypee Youth Parliament and Executive Board members of Lok Sabha are committed to providing a platform to voice your opinion freely.

Jai Hind!



Lok-Sabha Introduction

Lok Sabha is composed of representatives of the people chosen by direct election on the basis of the adult suffrage. The maximum strength of the House envisaged by the Constitution is 552, which is made up by election of up to 530 members to represent the States, up to 20 members to represent the Union Territories and not more than two members of the Anglo-Indian Community to be nominated by the Hon'ble President, if, in his/her opinion, that community is not adequately represented in the House. The total elective membership is distributed among the States in such a way that the ratio between the number of seats allotted to each State and the population of the State is, so far as practicable, the same for all States.

History of Article 370 and 35A

History of Article 370

Before August 1947, all Indian Territories were governed by the British. Out of these territories, some were governed directly by Kings or Nawabs and indirectly by the British and these were called Princely States. There were 556 such princely states at that time. In 1947, all princely states were asked to join either the Dominion of India or the Dominion of Pakistan.

The Instrument of Accession, which contained all the conditions to join a country, was then prepared. During the Independence, Maharaj Hari Singh, the King of Kashmir acted on the advice of his prime minister and decided that Kashmir would not sign the Instrument of Accession and be an independent nation.

In October 1947, Pakistan broke the standstill agreement with Kashmir by stopping the supply of grains, oil, train services and attacked Kashmir. The Pakistani Invaders joined hands with the King's army and set out to capture various places in Kashmir. The attack led to many being murdered, raped and looted. Maharaja Hari Singh fled to Jammu from Kashmir, and on October 26 1947, the then-Maharaja Hari Singh of Kashmir signed the 'Instrument of Accession', which specified three subjects on which Jammu and Kashmir would transfer its powers to the Government of India: 1. Foreign affairs, 2. Defense and 3. Communications. The document was signed by Mountbatten, the then Governor General of India the following day.

The clause 7 of this Instrument of Accession signed by Maharaja Hari Singh declared that the State could not be compelled to accept any future Constitution of India. The State was within its rights to draft its own Constitution and to decide for itself what additional powers to extend to the Central Government. Article 370 was designed to protect those rights.

In July 1949, Sheikh Abdullah and three other colleagues joined the Indian Constituent Assembly and negotiated the special status of J&K, leading to the adoption of Article 370.

Article 370 embodied six special provisions for Jammu and Kashmir:

1. It exempted the State from the complete applicability of the Constitution of India. The State was conferred with the power to have its own Constitution.
2. Central legislative powers over the State were limited at the time of framing, to the three subjects of defense, foreign affairs and communications.
3. Other constitutional powers of the Central Government could be extended to the State only with the concurrence of the State Government.

4. The 'concurrence' was only provisional. It had to be ratified by the State's Constituent Assembly.
5. The State Government's authority to give 'concurrence' lasted only until the State Constituent Assembly was convened. Once the State Constituent Assembly finalized the scheme of powers and dispersed, no further extension of powers was possible.
6. Article 370 could be abrogated or amended only upon the recommendation of the State's Constituent Assembly.

Once the State's Constitutional Assembly convened on 31 October 1951, the State Government's power to give 'concurrence' lapsed. After the Constituent Assembly dispersed on 17 November 1956, adopting a Constitution for the State, the only authority provided to extend more powers to the Central Government or to accept Central institutions, vanished. In subsequent years, other provisions continued to be extended to the State with the 'concurrence' of the State Government.

When Article 370 was originally created, only two articles of the Indian Constitution applied in full to Jammu and Kashmir. Other provisions of the Constitution would apply with exceptions and modifications specified by the President in his Order in consultation with or the concurrence of the government of the state. In exercise of these powers, as conferred by clause (3) of article 370 of the Constitution, the President made a series of orders with the concurrence of the Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Presidential order of 1950

The Presidential order of 1950, officially The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1950, came into force on 26 January 1950 contemporaneously with the Constitution of India. It specified the subjects and articles of the Indian Constitution that corresponded to the Instrument of Accession as required by the clause b(i) of the Article 370.

In this first Presidential Order under Article 370 "235 articles of the Indian Constitution were inapplicable to the state of Jammu & Kashmir, 9 were partially applicable, and 29 were applicable in a modified form".

This order was superseded by the Presidential order of 1954.

Presidential order of 1952

The Presidential order of 1952 was published on 15 November 1952, at the request of the state government. It amended the Article 370, replacing the phrase "recognized by the President as the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir" by "recognized by the President on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly of the State as the Sadr-i-Riyasat". The amendment represented the abolition of the monarchy of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Legislative Assembly elected Karan Singh, who was already acting as the Prince Regent, as the new *Sadar-i-Riyasat*.

Presidential order of 1954

The Presidential order of 1954, officially The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954 came into force on 14 May 1954.

The provisions of the Order included:

1. Indian citizenship was extended to the 'permanent residents' of Jammu and Kashmir (formerly called 'state subjects'). Simultaneously, the Article 35A was added to the Constitution, empowering the state legislature to

- legislate on the privileges of permanent residents with regard to immovable property, settlement in the state and employment.
2. The fundamental rights of the Indian constitution were extended to the state. However, the State Legislature was empowered to legislate on preventive detention for the purpose of internal security. The State's land reform legislation (which acquired land without compensation) was also protected.
3. The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India was extended to the State.
4. The Central Government was given power to declare national emergency in the event of external aggression. However, its power to do so for internal disturbances could be exercised only with the concurrence of the State Government.
5. Financial relations between the Centre and the State were placed on the same footing as the other States. The State's custom duties were abolished.
6. Decisions affecting the disposition of the State could be made by the Central Government, but only with the consent of the State Government.

Further presidential orders (1955–2018)

In addition to these original orders, forty-seven Presidential orders were issued between 11 February 1956 and 19 February 1994, making various other provisions of the Constitution of India applicable to Jammu and Kashmir. All these orders were issued with the 'concurrence of the Government of the State' without any Constituent Assembly. Some of these Presidential orders were issued when the state was under President's rule and had "no Kashmir government at all". The concurrence in this instance was given by the Governor of the state, a nominee of the Union government. Such an interpretation was upheld by the Supreme Court of India in 1972.

The effect of the Presidential orders issued since 1954 had been to 260 of the 395 Articles of the Constitution of India. All of these orders had been issued as amendments to the Presidential Order of 1954, rather than as replacements to it.

Acts passed by Indian Parliament have been extended to Jammu and Kashmir over a period of time.

- All India Services Act
- Negotiable Instruments Act
- Border Security Force Act
- Central Vigilance Commission Act
- Essential Commodities Act
- Haj Committee Act
- Income Tax Act
- The Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017
- Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017
- The Central Laws (Extension To Jammu And Kashmir) Act, 1956
- The Central Laws (Extension To Jammu And Kashmir) Act, 1968

The non-applicability of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Act by claiming recourse to Article 370 was set aside in 2010.

Article 370 acknowledged the special status of the state of Jammu and Kashmir in terms of autonomy and its ability to formulate laws for the state's permanent residents. In the 1954 Presidential order, among other things, the Fundamental Rights in the Indian Constitution were made applicable to Kashmir with exceptions. The state legislature further modified the later amendments, as well as added "preventive detention laws", that it exempted, from human rights challenges for

twenty-five years. Further, the state gave special privileges to the permanent residents in matters such as residence, property, education and government jobs, which were unavailable to others.

Education and employment rights

The state government officials of Jammu and Kashmir issued "permanent resident certificates". However, these certificates differ by gender. The certificates issued to females are marked "valid only till marriage", while certificates for males have no such markings. If a woman married to an Indian outside of Kashmir, she was denied a new certificate. These certificates are required by the Jammu and Kashmir state officials from anyone seeking to acquire immovable property, education or employment within the state.

Women's rights

In 2004, the Permanent Residents (Disqualification) Bill – also known as the Daughter's Bill was passed in the lower house of the state legislative assembly. The new law sought to deprive daughters of the state's permanent residents of all their native-born rights and privileges if they marry someone who is not the subject of Jammu and Kashmir. This law applied only to the female descendants of Kashmir subjects, and did not apply to the male descendants. However, the bill was never passed in the upper house.

Article 35A

Following the adoption of the provisions of the Delhi Agreement by the Constituent Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir, the President of India issued The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954, through which Indian citizenship was extended to the residents of the state, and simultaneously the Article 35A was inserted into the Indian constitution enabling the State legislature to define the privileges of the permanent residents.

Article 35A of the Indian Constitution empowered the Jammu and Kashmir state's legislature to define "permanent residents" of the state and provide special rights and privileges to those permanent residents. The state of Jammu and Kashmir defined these privileges to include the ability to purchase land and immovable property, ability to vote and contest elections, seeking government employment and availing other state benefits such as higher education and health care. Non-permanent residents of the state even if Indian citizens, were not entitled to these 'privileges'. The privilege that permanent residents got under this article include:

- (i) Employment under the State Government;
- (ii) Acquisition of immovable property in the State;
- (iii) Settlement in the State; or
- (iv) Right to scholarships and such other forms of aid as the State Government may provide.

Constitutional changes and impact after revocation of 370 and 35A

1. J&K Constitution scrapped

Before Article 370 - It was the only state with its own Constitution. The article provided J&K provisions of the Constitution which were not applicable to other states of the country including special autonomy, separate state laws, etc.

After Article 370 - With the scrapping provisions of Article 370, the separate Constitution ceases to exist.

2. Separate flag

Before Article 370 - The J&K state had two different flags - India and the state.

After Article 370 - There would be no separate flag for the state.

(Sources, however, said that a decision could be taken on it as Karnataka too, has proposed its own flag)

3. Any Indian can now buy properties in J&K

Before Article 370 - Only residents of J&K could buy and sell properties in the state.

After Article 370 - Any Indian citizen will be able to buy and sell properties in J&K.

4. CRPC in, RPC out

Before Article 370 - Residents of J&K had separate laws related to citizenship, ownership of property, and fundamental rights.

After Article 370 - There will be no separate laws for the citizens of J&K. CRPC will be in, Indian Penal Code of the state will be out.

5. The state becomes a Union Territory

Before Article 370 - Jammu and Kashmir was a state with special status.

After Article 370 - J&K downsized to a Union Territory (UT) with legislature while Ladakh becomes the UT without any legislature.

Overall Impact

After Kashmir's special status is gone, people from anywhere in India will be able to buy property and permanently settle in the state. This has fuelled fear in the mind of Kashmiris — they think it would lead to the state's demographic transformation from majority Muslim to majority Hindu.

A separate Union Territory will be created for Jammu & Kashmir with legislature, Amit Shah has revealed via a notification. "Keeping in view the prevailing internal security situation, fuelled by cross-border terrorism in the existing state of Jammu & Kashmir, a separate Union Territory is being created", the notification said. Following Amit Shah's proposal, President Ram Nath Kovind promulgated Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019, stating that the provisions of the Indian Constitution will henceforth be applicable to J&K. The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019 comes into force "at once", and shall "supersede the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954".

The Debate around Abrogation of Article 370 & 35A

Proposition:

Many argue that putting restriction on the choices of residents of a state is patently illiberal and putting restriction on the basis of gender is discriminatory.

As the article 35 A empowered the J&K government to decide who could be a 'permanent resident'. Only a permanent resident could acquire land, get a government job, settle in the state, etc. Further, it prohibited women from J&K to be property owners if they marry an outsider. Also, due to Article 370 being in place many vital acts such as Prevention of Child Marriage Act, Right to Education, the Multiple Disability Act, etc could not be applied to the state of Jammu and Kashmir, hence many even refer to it as barbaric.

Other arguments in favor of abrogation are, India being a sovereign nation must have a single Prime Minister for the entire country and the practice of J&K having 'Sadr-e-Riyasat and Wazir-e-Azam ' are unacceptable and the Article 370 is responsible for separatism, terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir.

Opposition:

However, multiple arguments stand against the abrogation of Article 370 as well. Many argue that the relationship between India and the state of Jammu and Kashmir could not have been changed without the consent of the people and doing so is unconstitutional and violates the principles of justice. Also, citizens were kept in dark, fundamental rights under Article 14, 19, 21 have been violated and the Governor cannot be substituted for elected representatives.

Another argument against abrogation of Article 370 is that, Kashmir is India's only Muslim majority state and Article 370 protected its demographic character, and the abrogation of the article would disempower Muslims to the extent where they become second class citizens in their own state.

Current Scenario

It has been more than 100 days since Parliament, on August 5, approved the abrogation of Article 370, and decided to carve out of Jammu and Kashmir(J&K), the Union territories of J&K and Ladakh. J&K, however, still remains an enigma for the Centre. The non-stop clampdown in most parts of Kashmir, and the absence of any worthwhile interaction between Kashmir and the outside world has prevented any realistic assessment of the situation.

Many claim that the current silence masks deep –seated anxieties as also anger at the turn of events that is reflected at times in sporadic instances of violence, which was evident during the brief visit of Members of the European Parliament(MEPs) to Srinagar last month when the city shut down and a few incidents also took place. Irrespective of claims and counterclaims, the reality is our heritage of being the biggest democracy has taken a hit. This will carry on until the clampdown in Kashmir as well as the incarceration of former Heads of State ends.

Time has come, the Centre must bite the bullet and face the consequences of the step it has taken. Prominent leaders of other nations have shown concern such as German Chancellor Angela Merkel expressing her concern that "the situation for the people in Kashmir is not good and not sustainable", and the UNHRC affirming that it is "extremely concerned" that people in J&K continued to be "deprived of a wide range of human rights" and urged the Indian Government to make the situation normal again.

Pakistan's views on the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A and impact of its actions

Since the Narendra Modi government made moves to end special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution and bifurcate the state into two Union Territories. The decision left Pakistan unnerved with its Prime Minister Imran Khan calling a special session of parliament and launch an all-out campaign against India at all possible levels.

Imran Khan downgraded diplomatic relations with India, sent out emissaries to the UN, China and grouping of Islamic countries - Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) - in order to up ante against India. However, Pakistan's high-pitched campaign over the past one week has left the country more isolated than ever on Kashmir, where security situation remains tense over abrogation of special status. There have been, though, celebrations in Jammu and Ladakh regions since August 5, when Union Home Minister Amit Shah moved resolution for ending special status to Jammu and Kashmir and tabled a Bill for reorganization of the state.

OIC shock for Pakistan

However, the biggest failure for Pakistan came from the OIC, which raised its rhetoric objection to "human rights violations" in the Kashmir Valley but refused to get drawn in the diplomatic battle of Pakistan with India over abrogation of special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

Individually, powerful OIC members UAE, Saudi Arabia and Turkey have called for bilateral talks between India and Pakistan for settlement of Kashmir issue. UAE, on its part, has already termed abrogation of special status of Jammu and Kashmir by the Modi government as "an internal matter of India". Pakistan's failure at the OIC is a reality check for the country. The OIC members value India more for economic engagement and strategic partnership than to pay heed to Pakistan's knee-jerk reaction to an internal matter of India.

Pakistan gets colder shoulder in UN

Complaining against India, Pakistan wrote a letter to the United Nations regarding abrogation of special status of Jammu and Kashmir. But it found no weight in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) with its president Joanna Wronecka refusing to make any comments.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi had written to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres claiming India's move on Jammu and Kashmir violated UNSC resolution of 1949. Significantly, Guterres invoked 1972 Shimla Agreement in his response to Pakistan's complaint. The Shimla Agreement, signed after Pakistan's humiliation in 1971 war, states that India and Pakistan will settle all their issues through peaceful talks bilaterally.

INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK ON ABROGATION OF ARTICLE 370

After the historic move to abrogate special status of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, India moved to a diplomatic offensive, briefing different countries, including the P5 about its decision.

India informed that the proposals regarding Kashmir are internal to India, and are aimed at providing good governance, promoting social justice and ensuring economic development in Jammu and Kashmir.

The envoys of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council – China, France, Russia, the US and the UK – were briefed on developments related to Kashmir by foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale, while the envoys of other countries were briefed by secretaries of the external affairs ministry looking after territorial divisions.

China

China voiced "serious concern" over the Kashmir situation and stressed that Kashmir is "a legacy of history between India and Pakistan". Beijing also said that New Delhi should avoid actions to "unilaterally change the status quo" of the state, and termed the decision to reorganize Ladakh as a union territory as "unacceptable".

Chinese ambassador to Pakistan called Kashmir "internationally recognized disputed territory", and criticized the Indian government for unilaterally revoking its special status.

He said that de-escalating tension between Islamabad and New Delhi would be beneficial for the entire region, and hoped that both Pakistan and India would "take a suitable decision for the betterment of the Kashmiri people".

He said that being a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, China had special responsibilities in connection with restoration of peace and stability in the region.

France

France's foreign ministry said, "it is an internal matter of India and they have no right to say anything about other's domestic affairs".

Russia

Russian foreign ministry said, "We proceed from fact that the changes associated with the change in the status of the state of Jammu & Kashmir and its division into two union territories, are carried out within framework of the Constitution of the Republic of India."

Russia further said India and Pakistan should "not allow aggravation of the situation in the region due to the change by Delhi in the status of the state of Jammu and Kashmir."

United States

US didn't make a direct comment on abrogation of A370, and instead called for all parties to exercise restraint. It also refuted news reports that India had informed the US prior to revoking the special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

"We continue to be concerned by reports of detentions and the continued restrictions on the residents of Jammu and Kashmir," the State Department spokesperson said.

"We urge respect for individual rights, compliance with legal procedures, and inclusive dialogue with those affected." The US, the spokesperson said, calls on all parties to maintain peace and stability along the Line of Control, including "taking firm and resolute steps" to combat cross-border terrorism.

"We continue to support direct dialogue between India and Pakistan on Kashmir and other issues of concern," said a US State Department spokeswoman.

Bangladesh & Maldives

They said that Revocation of Article 370 for Jammu and Kashmir is an internal matter of India and they have no right to say anything about other's domestic affairs.

Britain

The British Parliament remained divided over the issue and British MPs expressed both "grave concern" and "strong support" over the abrogation of Article 370 by Modi government.

"We are following developments closely and support calls for the situation to remain calm," said a Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) spokesperson.

Scope of development in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh after abrogation of article 370

Since the abrogation of Article 370, the central government plans to end corruption, atrocities and violence in Jammu and Kashmir to make way for industries, private investments and employment.

Benefits for state government employees

The central government assured an immediate review of employees of the erstwhile state to extend benefits uniform with other UTs.

As a matter of priority, government employees of Jammu and Kashmir including Police will get the same benefits as government employees in other Union territories like LTC, HRA, education and health benefits.

Benefits for women, children and minorities

The abrogation of Article 370 allows children to reap the benefits of Right To Education and will give equal rights to women.

In different states of the country sanitation workers come under the sanitation worker act, but workers from J&K were deprived of it. In many states strong laws are there to stop atrocities against Dalits, but this was not the case in J&K, however now the situation will change and they would be given their rights.

Employment generation

Soon a recruitment drive will be started to fill the vacancies in government jobs that will provide jobs to youth. Private and public sector companies will be encouraged and PM scholarship yojana will be expanded to benefit maximum number of students.

Tourism and film industry

The central government has called upon Hindi, Tamil and Telugu film industries to think about investing in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, not just by shooting films in the region, but also setting up theatre and other infrastructures.

Also Ladakh has the potential to become the biggest centre of Spiritual Tourism, Adventure Tourism, and Ecotourism. Ladakh can also become a major centre of solar power generation. Now there will be a proper use of its potential and new opportunities will be created for development without discrimination.

IT sector investment

Public and private sector IT firms plan for expansion of the technology sector in Jammu and Kashmir. When digital communication will strengthen, it will make way for BPO centers, common service centers, more the technology will expand, more will it create ease of life for people in Jammu and Kashmir, as the expansion of technology sector will increase revenue and employment rate in the region.

Natural resources

The central government believes that the landscapes of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh were full of untapped natural gems, which can be converted into employment and revenue opportunities for the UTs, while promoting their culture.

Other industries

Several other industries including import-export, food processing, and health care will also flourish in the state with the scrapping of Article 370.

Now the innovative spirit of the youth of Ladakh will be promoted, they will get better institutions for good education, people will get good hospitals, and infrastructure will be modernized more rapidly.

This decision will support the economic progress of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh as well as the whole of India.

Stance of Parties on the issue

Bharatiya Janta Party

Abrogation of the Article 370 has always been one of the core electoral issues of the party and has always struck an emotional chord with its rank and file after its ideologue Syama Prasad Mookerjee died in a Jammu and Kashmir jail in 1953 to protest the state's special status and demand its complete integration with the Union. The first evidence of the party's disagreement on Article 370 can be traced back to the year 1984. The party believes that this will help end violence and militancy in the state and enable people to access government schemes such as reservation, right to education and right to information. They are of the view that the Article 35A of the Constitution is discriminatory against non-permanent residents and women of Jammu and Kashmir. They aspire to ensure a safe and peaceful environment for all residents of the state and fulfil the long standing promise of 'Integrating the nation'.

The Indian National Congress

The leaders of the Indian National Congress – India's main opposition party – were divided on the revocation of Article 370. Some Congress leaders condemned the government's arrest of Kashmiri leaders : Mehbooba Mufti and Omar Abdullah. Terming the revoking of Article 370 a "catastrophic step", some accused the BJP of taking the decision "for votes" and said it marks a "black day" in the constitutional history of India. CM of Punjab Amarinder Singh, termed the revocation of Article 370 as "totally unconstitutional" and said "this will set a bad precedent as it would mean that the Centre could reorganise any state in the country by simply imposing President's rule."

Rahul Gandhi criticized the Indian government for arresting the Kashmiri political leaders and called the detentions "unconstitutional & undemocratic. Other leaders of Rajasthan Congress and Gehlot's cabinet welcomed the revocation. The Indian National Congress party members even filed two petitions in the Supreme Court of India, requesting an urgent hearing, one challenged the revocation, while the other challenged the communications blackout and curfew in Kashmir region.

Aam Aadmi Party

The party and its leader (and Chief Minister of Delhi) Arvind Kejriwal supported the revocation of Article 370. He backed the Centre's decision and hoped it would bring "peace and development" in the state.

YSR Congress

The Telangana and Andhra Pradesh-based Party and its parliamentary party leader V. Vijayasai Reddy supported the scrapping of Article 370 and termed the step as a "courageous and daring" step by Amit Shah, adding that had Jawaharlal Nehru entrusted the task of handling Kashmir to Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, one would not have been discussing this issue.

People's Democratic Party

India has failed Kashmir in keeping its promises, PDP chief and former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Mehbooba Mufi said on Monday. Amid the ruckus in Parliament, PDP members Nazir Ahmad Laway and Mir Mohammad Fayaz shouted slogans and tore posters. Laway even tore the 'kurta' he was wearing. Later as the protests heated up, the duo tore copies of the Constitution, prompting their eviction.

National Conference

Terming the government's move on Article 370 "unilateral and shocking", former chief minister and National Conference leader Omar Abdullah said it was a total "betrayal of trust" of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Janata Dal (United)

Despite being an NDA ally, JD(U) said that it will not support the government's Kashmir provisions.

JD(U) spokesperson KC Tyagi mentioned that the party's chief Nitish Kumar was carrying forward the tradition of JP Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia and George Fernandes. They did not support the bill.

DMK

The DMK strongly condemned the Centre's move saying it was a "murder of democracy". Party chief MK Stalin accused the BJP-led Centre of being only concerned about implementing its ideological agenda and not respecting the sentiments of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who stood behind India.

Rashtriya Janata Dal

Opposing the move, Manoj Kumar Jha of RJD said the (abolition of) Article 370 was not possible to execute in this lifetime. He alleged that the government had opened the gates for Kashmir to turn into Palestine in five years.

Left

Left leaders also expressed their opposition. While CPI general secretary D Raja said the "regressive step will further alienate the people of J-K", CPI(M) termed it an "attack" on the Constitution.

All India Trinamool Congress

They mentioned that the party was against the Constitutional immorality and "procedural harakiri" committed. TMC MPs also walked out when Home Minister Amit Shah was speaking in Rajya Sabha.

Nationalist Congress Party

NCP MP Vandana Chavan on Monday criticised the "method" adopted by the Central government to push through its decisions on Jammu and Kashmir in the Rajya Sabha and said her party will abstain from voting.

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