

Those responsible for KPs' exodus, now shedding crocodile tears: Dr Jitendra

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NEW DELHI: Taking a dig at certain political leaders, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said here on Sunday that those who were responsible for the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits (KPs), are now shedding crocodile tears and demanding an enquiry into the genocide and killings of Kashmiri Pandits.

He said, it is hilarious to see that after the release of "The Kashmir Files", some of the leaders who were an essential part of the ruling dispensation over the last 20 years, but are today either out of power or have defected to other political parties, now ask for instituting an enquiry without explaining as to why when they were at the helm of affairs for over three decades, even the daylight killers of Tika Lal Taploo, Lassa Kaul or Sqd Leader Khanna went scot free.

Speaking as Chief Guest at a programme organised by Vishwa Kashmiri Samaj, Dr Jitendra Singh said, it is a



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, as Chief Guest, addressing a programme organised by 'Vishwa Kashmiri Samaj', at New Delhi on Sunday.

matter of vindication for BJP that some leaders of the then ruling parties are today speaking the same language which the BJP spoke even 25 years ago, but at that time these same leaders accused BJP of indulging in so called divisive politics.

He said, history bears testimony that the then ruling political parties and their leaders benefitted from Kashmiri Pandit exodus and the overwhelming atmosphere of terror that followed because it

facilitated their continuance in power.

Dr Jitendra said, he and several other youth activists of his generation were eye-witness to each sequence of exodus beginning from the arrival of first batches of Kashmiri Pandits at Geeta Bhawan Jammu and makeshift Camps at Mishriwala and Nagrota, where they lived in most unhygienic conditions with the drains passing through the kitchen area and hardly any toilet facility available.

It was pathetic to see upper middle class Kashmiri Pandit families forced to live in a makeshift single room shed without any basic amenities.

Dr Jitendra said, he vividly recalls the summer of 1990 which was most harsh for the displaced Kashmiri Pandits who had never seen the summer of plains, as a result of which there were a series of Heat Stroke cases happening, and as a young medico, he and his colleagues would physically lift heat struck Kashmiri

Pandits and place them on ice-slabs.

On the occasion, the Union Minister also felicitated winners of a letter writing competition for KP Children who never lived in Kashmir organised by Global Solace (NGO) Jammu with Vishwa Kashmiri Samaj and other partners sometime back.

The theme of competition was, 'My Kashmir, My Roots: My Dream, Sweet Home'. He also released the Calendar, Book and Panchang (almanac) prepared by Puneet Joshi.

The event was also addressed by Chander Mohan, Mayor, Jammu and Raj Nehru, Vice Chancellor, Vishwakarma Skill University, Haryana.

Among those felicitated on the occasion included community hotelier Ramesh Kumar Kiehloo, Shali Rupali, Vanshikha Bhat and Sagar Koul.

Vote of thanks was presented by Kanwal Peshin, Founder, Athrott Group.



Strengthen PM's hands for J&K's development, peace & prosperity: Kavinder

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JAMMU: Former Deputy Chief Minister and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Kavinder Gupta has appealed to the people to further strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the overall development, peace and prosperity of the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory and its people.

He voiced this appeal during a programme organized as part of the fortnight celebrations of the Bharatiya Janata Party's Foundation Day, where he along with Vinay Gupta, District President BJP distributed old-age pension cards among the fresh 200 beneficiaries.

The senior BJP leader handed over pension cards to the aforesaid beneficiaries during a simple yet impressive programme organized in this connection, by Bharat Bhushan, President Satwari Mandal, Bharatiya Janata Party J&K and Corporator Pawan Singh at Nai Basti in Ward No: 23 of Jammu city.

While addressing the gathering on the occasion, the former Dy CM reiterated that the BJP Govt is committed to launch more and more schemes for the welfare of the people in future too. He asked the party cadre to disseminate information about Modi Govt's flagship schemes in each and every household of Satwari Mandal so that the



Former Dy CM Kavinder Gupta, addressing a gathering.

every section of the society including the old age people who figure among the priorities of the government. He asserted that the BJP activists and workers are leaving no stone unturned in making the people aware about various schemes launched by the Govt besides its achievements right upto the grass roots level.

Enumerating some of the schemes to make the people aware about the same, he appealed to the people to come forward and avail the benefit of the scheme best suited to them.

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benefit of such schemes reaches right upto the tail ender in the line of common people.

Highlighting the achievements of the BJP Govt at the Centre, Kavinder Gupta said that BJP believes in the overall development of every nook and corner of the nation and the people of this Union Territory can easily feel the difference with development works going on at unprecedented pace.

Moreover, the terrorists and their supporters stand reined in by the security forces. He appealed to the people to strengthen the hands of PM for overall development, peace and prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir.

Prominent among those present on the occasion were Narinder Koki, Naveen Gupta and Tehsil Officer (Social Welfare), Manjit Kumar.

Rakesh Gupta questions working of CCI President, warns 'No Confidence Motion'

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former CCI President and President of Jammu Pharmaceutical Distributors Association Jammu, Rakesh Gupta has questioned Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), President Arun Gupta for his alleged unconstitutional working /misuse of funds and cautioned him to take immediate corrective steps in larger interest of CCI Jammu or face 'No Confidence Motion'.

In a press statement issued here on Sunday, Rakesh Gupta said that besides sending a formal letter to Arun Gupta, President CCI Jammu and other members regarding minutes of 1st Executive Members Committee Meeting held in a phased manner & misuse of CCI funds including Grant-in-Aid, the copies of the same have also been sent to the Principal Secretary to Lt Governor and Principal Secretary, Industries &



Commerce along with Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Director Industries & Commerce for their information over the matter related to welfare of business fraternity.

As per the communication, the former CCI President, while referring to Minutes of first Executive Members Committee Meeting held on November 18, 2021, signed by Gaurav Gupta, Secretary General CCI, raised certain discrepancies with regard to decisions by CCI, which included non-circulation of List of Executive Members Committee till date, conven-

ing so called Executive Members Committee meeting in a phased manner citing COVID as reason, as there is no such provision in the Constitution of CCI, inordinate delay in holding Executive Members Meeting, no projection of exact money figures against 'Budget Allocations', details of approval for completion of unfinished portion of Chamber Building along with source of funds, ignoring the issue regarding pending approval of membership of 461 members as per deliberations in Court, surrendering back parking space to JDA in front of Chamber House, deliberately ignoring the suggestions made by former President over parking space issue, shelving plan for construction of a proposed JCCI CLUB despite contribution of approximately Rs. 5.5 crore by members etc.

The communication by Rakesh Gupta further reads, "I had participated in the first

so called Meeting of the Executive Members Committee on September 4, 2021 just to caution you not to proceed any further without settling major pending issues of approval of membership of 461 members and refund of Proposed JCCI Club's Membership Fee to more than 500 Members but you are hell bent on destroying our prestigious Institution. Please note that your team has no right to use funds contributed by 461 members as Membership Fee to CCI Jammu as well as those contributed by more than 500 members as JCCI Club Membership fee, both totaling to almost Rs 4.5 crore approximately, lying in the different bank accounts of CCI Jammu. I am of the opinion that you are pushing your self-created agenda undemocratically and in total violation of the constitution of CCI Jammu. You must not forget that you were elected by getting 34 per cent votes in your

favour in a triangular contest and majority of 66 per cent voters voted against you and that too because 20 per cent of members could not cast their valuable votes at that point of time because of a Court Order. I kept mum for the last one year so that the present team of office bearers gets ample time and free hand to prove themselves, but now I am forced to act and expose your nefarious designs so that the Prestige of CCI Jammu may not suffer further. Moreover, because of your complete failure in handling all the major issues that came up, I can't be a mute spectator anymore. I will never drag my own Institution to the court of law as done by you along with others in the past, but if you go on working against the larger interest of CCI Jammu and its worthy members, then I shall be left with no other option but to move a No Confidence Motion against you and other office bearers of CCI."

Randhawa terms peace & harmony as preconditions for development

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The administration of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir under the guidance of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has taken many steps to create supportive infrastructure, schemes and policies to meet the aspirations of young population.

Former Legislator and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Vikram Randhawa stated this during Booth Sampark Abhiyan at Booth Number 196 Deeli of Gandhi Nagar Assembly Segment.

He criticized the PAGD constituents for pursuing divisive and negative politics that has been a major contributing factor to discontent among the people, particularly the youth. He said that the BJP has come up



Senior BJP leader Vikram Randhawa along with others during a meeting.

with an inclusive agenda of development, growth, investment and creating opportunities for the youth-skilled, unskilled and educated.

The initiatives put into action will transform Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of region, religion, caste or ethnicity.

He said the BJP believes in Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas,

which has been guiding force behind governance.

While referring to the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi about Jammu and Kashmir, former Legislator said that while the economically marginalised segments of the society have been brought under Ayushman Bharat scheme as part of health for all across the country, it has

been made applicable as Ayushman Sehat in the Union Territory with benefits of Rs 5 lakh medical cover to every family without any economic slab.

This reflects the intent of the BJP to ensure holistic progress of Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

Former MLC said that various flagship schemes were launched by the Central

Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi including Ayushman Health Card, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJ-BY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, etc for the benefit of the common masses.

"Bharatiya Janata Party under the leadership of great Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working on the theme of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' and is committed for the overall development of the areas of Jammu", Randhawa said, adding that no ward will be deprived of basic amenities and development of every citizen is our main motto.

He said that many projects are in pipeline for Jammu which will change the face of the city.

He said that J&K has a large pool of excellent human resources and a favourable demographic profile, which is receiving more and more attention from India Inc, interested to transform UT's economic landscape.

Terming peace and harmony as preconditions for development, the Former Legislator lauded the security forces for their sustained efforts towards maintaining peace and also bringing misguided youth back on to the right path.

Bharat Bhushan Mandal President, Ajmer Singh, Ashok Sharma, Rahul Kumar, Ashok Singh and many others were present on the occasion.



Glimpses of impressive Shobha Yatra taken out on Ram Navami in Jammu.