

Modi's reference to 'Kalari' reflects govt's sensitivity for Udhampur: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

UDHAMPUR: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's reference to local cuisine "Kalari" during his address at the public rally here on 12th April reflects the government's sensitivity for Udhampur.

Stating this here on Tuesday, Union Minister and BJP Candidate for Udhampur-Doda-Kathua Lok Sabha constituency Dr Jitendra Singh said that Udhampur is lucky that we have a Prime Minister who is not only absolutely familiar with the topography as well as the advantages and constraints of this region but has also been always forthcoming in giving priority to the development of this region in order to make up for the lapses of over a half of century of Congress rule and bring up this entire region at par with the developed regions of the country.

In his address during a mammoth public rally here today in Udhampur city, Dr. Jitendra said, it is not an ordinary thing that Prime Minister of the country thinks of Udhampur and its people in such minute



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing a mammoth public rally in Udhampur city on Tuesday.

detail that he also hoped to come back next time to be served with a Kalari dish which also happens to be officially designated as "One District One Product" of Udhampur.

Dr. Singh said that for nearly 60 years, Udhampur had been deprived of all the development and most of the representatives elected from here preferred to nurse their own vested interests instead of taking up the people's cause. It is only during the last ten years after 2014, he said, that Udhampur got a network of roads and for the last three consecutive years, this district has been rated among the top

three districts of India as far as the construction of the rural roads under Central PMGSY scheme is concerned.

It is during these 10 years, said Dr. Jitendra that with the personal indulgence of Prime Minister Modi, the national level Shahpur-Kandi project was revived after 30 years, which found a reference in Prime Minister Modi's speech during Udhampur rally also. He said, the future historians will ask the Congress rulers why they had held back this project for so many decades while this project is going to benefit the entire belt covering districts

of Udhampur, Kathua and Samba or was it their policy of appeasement which held them back from going ahead with this project even though India's share of water from River Ravi kept flowing into Pakistan.

In the last ten years only, Dr. Jitendra said, Udhampur city got a Radio Station, a Passport office, centrally funded Medical College and above all, the Rs. 190 Crore national level River Rejuvenation project for River Devika. Today, roads and toilets have been constructed upto the upper reaches of this hilly district while Degree Colleges have been opened even in the rural areas like Neeli Nallah and if we talk of the entire constituency, we have Degree Colleges in far off places like Kashtigarh, Batote and several distant places.

The credit also goes to the Modi government, said Dr Singh, that the Railway Link from Udhampur to Srinagar was expedited and very soon Udhampur which is being developed as "Amrit Railway

Station" and is named as Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan, will become an important railway junction between Kashmir valley and the rest of the country.

Dr. Jitendra said, the first five years after 2014 were spent in making up for the lapses of the past and addressing the requirements which were left unattended by the Congress governments and its allies. The second term of five years was spent in building institutions like Medical Colleges, Industrial Biotech Parks, Homoeopathic College, Ayurvedic College, etc. The next five years from 2024 onwards, he said, will be dedicated to consolidating the gains of the last ten years and developing Udhampur as an attractive destination for education revenue and health.

Sharing dais with Dr. Jitendra at the rally were former Minister Pawan Gupta, BJP District President Arun Gupta, BDC Balwan Singh, DDCs, PRIs and local leaders. All of them hailed Dr Jitendra as Man of Development.



MD HADP visits projects, interacts with progressive farmers



Mission Director HADP, Yasha Mudgal releasing a book on PGS INDIA Organic Certification at Srinagar on Tuesday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Yasha Mudgal on Tuesday conducted an extensive tour of Srinagar district to assess the agricultural scenario of the district.

During the tour, the Mission Director visited hi-tech polygreen houses at Maloora Qamarwari, vegetable mandi Lalmandi Srinagar, controlled crop growing unit HMT. She held interaction with vegetable farmers and agripreneurs of different areas of the dis-

trict.

Interacting with farmers, the Mission Director reiterated departments commitment to socio-economic development of the farming community of UT of J&K. She highlighted the importance of HADP and asked the farmers to come forward and avail the benefits of this scheme. The Mission Director directed the concerned officers to ensure maximum awareness among the farming community across the UT regarding the projects implemented under HADP.

Earlier, Mission Director

visited vegetable mandi at Directorate of Agriculture Lal Mandi here and inspected vegetable stalls and community seed bank. She also held interactions with progressive farmers.

The Mission Director also released a book on PGS INDIA Organic Certification on the occasion. Director Agriculture Kashmir Chowdhury Mohammad Iqbal, Joint Directors, Sectoral officers, Chief Agriculture officer Srinagar and other senior officers of the department were present on the occasion.

RRC meets representatives of Kashmiri Migrant community

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a meeting with Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (RRC) Migrants J&K, Dr. Arvind Karwani, group of representatives from the Kashmiri migrant community presented a series of proposals aimed at enhancing the efficiency of the ration distribution system.

The delegation highlighted the challenges faced by migrants due to current monthly ration distribution framework and proposed shift to an annual distribution model.

The representatives also put forth several alterna-

tives and recommended the exploration of technology-driven solutions. These measures are expected to streamline the process and ensure that the distribution is conducted without any discrepancies, directly benefiting the legitimate relief recipients.

Dr. Karwani provided a thoughtful and attentive response to the delegation, assuring them that their valuable suggestions regarding the improvement of ration distribution system will be considered and discussed with higher authorities for potential implementation.

Annual Hawan ceremony of Durga Ashtami celebrated by KPS

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Annual Hawan ceremony of Durga Ashtami (Part of Navreh Samaroh) was celebrated with full religious ethos on Tuesday by Kashmiri Pandit Sabha, Ambphalla, Jammu.

The Hawan started on 15th April 2024 and culminated on 16th April 2024 with Puran Ahuti.

On the occasion entire executive body led by its President K.K Khosa was present. Besides a large number of devotees, including life member of sabha, the prominent members of the community who graced the occasion



Kashmiri Pandit Sabha members performing Hawan.

were P.K Zalpuri, A.K Braroo, T.N Bhat, Anil Koul, Vijay Sadhu, J.L Zutshi, S.K Koul and many others. After Puran Ahuti, the

devotees were served with Prasad.

During Hawan continuous Bhajan and Kirtan were sung by ladies and all other devotees.

Institution of President as Preserver Protector Defender of COI weakened after Art-74 was amended during Emergency

One may ask from whom President has to preserve, protect & defend constitution in terms of Art - 60 ? Amendments made to Art-74 through 42nd and 44th CAAs are not fair to the spirits of Oath enshrined in Art-80 of COI Team Ambedkar provided checks & balances on Elected Leadership going Undemocratic/ Autocratic With President as Head of ;State' & Prime Minister as head of Govt. all actions are taken in name of President President of India is designated on Oath as Preserver, Protector and Defender of Constitution.

DAYA SAGAR

This the week of birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar Tributes are paid to Baba Saheb by one and all political parties but on this day too the political leaderships are seen trying to look more in race to prove their self as 'real' Ambedkarite instead of introspecting what have yet to do for 'our' people. May be most appropriate tributes to Baba Saheb would be try to have a feel of the spirits infused in Constitution of India by Team Ambedkar and work for going by that.

A very typical and unique feature of the constitution of India that was drafted & adopted by the Constituent Assembly of India on 26 November 1949 has been that though The President of India for general legislative purposes / governance appeared like a nominal head of 'State' but he/she is in a way given the very special responsibility under oath to Protect & Defend the Constitution of India { Art-60 of COI }. Not only that although like US President the Vice President of India can hold the office of the President during his/ her absence but the vacancy if there, has to be filled by a fresh election with in prescribed time (6 months).

It was in June 1947 that British Parliament finally enacted Indian Independence Act 1947 which was assented by the British Crown (King of Britain) on 18-07-1947 where Section-1 of the Act said " 1.-(i) As from the fifteenth day of August, nineteen hundred and forty-seven, two independent Dominions shall be set up in India, to be known respectively as India and Pakistan. (2) The said Dominions are hereafter in this Act referred to as the new Dominions ", and the said fifteenth day of August is hereafter in this Act referred to as " the appointed day ". Section-7.--(1) of Indian

Independence Act 1947 said As from the appointed day- (a) His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have no responsibility as respects the government of any of the territories which, immediately before that day, were included in British India ; (b) the suzerainty of His Majesty over the Indian States lapses, and (c) there lapse also any treaties or agreements in force at the date of the passing of this Act between His Majesty and any persons having authority in the tribal area... So the task of drafting a constitution for Independent India was unimaginable uphill task with many Princes outside India and Pakistan Dominions still holding to their 'country rights' free from any other suzerainty . Constitution of India emerged out of a well reasoned draft sketch which had taken the leads particularly from "unwritten" British Constitution and the Constitution of United States, the Government of India Act 1935 and drip in wisdom of drafting committee headed by Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar (Baba Saheb) so as to give people of India a 'socialist' democratic republic

The Constitution of India has the distinction of being the first (rather only) very detailed & voluminous written document adopted by people of a country aspiring to live in a democratic system of governance comprising of very heterogeneous mass of religions / traditions / geographical identities / economic diversities / social and linguistic regions but well knit with 'yarns' of humanitarian culture & traditions of times immemorial who had just come out of 'foreign rule' (after having been governed by the foreigners (British for about two centuries) but still had many (

nearly 565) Princely States ruled by Princes (monarchs) of Indian origin left around by retreating British with the impressions that rulers of Princely states outside the while British India could take them as sovereign identities outside the 'dominion' even on 15 August 1947 would they not have acceded to Independent 'India Dominion' before 15 August 1947. . Those entrusted with the task of drafting the constitution of India i.e Bharat were in principle desirous of giving to their self not only a well meaning parliamentary system of democracy suiting all the diversities & needs of Indian people but also wanted to provide checks & balances / safeguards for ensuring that the elected governments always work within the provisions of Constitution and at no time even any elected Parliament could amend the Constitution to 'conservative' democratic system / 'autocratic' system / or the Executive could misuse the 'authority' (constituent authority provided in Art368) for which the 'institution' of Judiciary for judicial review of actions of executive as well as legislature elected/installed for a particular term, 5 years max , { see Art-13 < Laws inconsistent with or in derogation of the fundamental rights>, Art32 < Remedies for enforcement of rights conferred by Part-III of COI , Art-124 of Part-V Chapter-IV The Union Judiciary < Art 124. Establishment and constitution of Supreme Court.-< (1) There shall be a Supreme Court of India > , Art-129< Supreme Court shall be a court of record and shall have all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself>, Art-131 < . Original jurisdiction of the

Supreme Court >, Art-220 < Restriction on practice after being a permanent Judge >, Art 143 < . Power of President to consult Supreme Court>, Art 147.< Interpretation> } and institution of President of India (also as part of Parliament <Art Article -79 which says There shall be a Parliament for the Union which shall consist of the President and two Houses to be known respectively as the Council of States and the House of the People) was incorporated in Constitution so as to best of his/ her ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution & the law and devote his/her self to the service & well-being of the people of India Article-60 where under the President elect before entering office on oath says "I, A.B., do swear in the name of God that I will faithfully execute the office solemnly affirm of President (or discharge the functions of the President of India and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law and that I will devote myself to the service and well-being of the people of India". The Indian constitution although focused on all the powers resting in the representatives directly elected by the common citizen of India but at the same time also kept an inherent check on the elected representatives / their elected leader to prevent them from curving the authority of common man as a unit of republic at any later date with President of India as Head of ;State' and the Prime Minister as the head of government where all actions of the Government are taken in the name of President who is designated as preserver, protector and defender of the constitution. To be continued.. (The writer is Sr Journalist, social activist and analyst J&K affairs)



A Look through the Mist Part-I



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
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