

Cong undermined dignity, honour of Maharaja Hari Singh: Rana

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Thursday lashed out at the Congress for compromising with the dignity and honour of Maharaja Hari Singh, whose benevolent rule is even now considered as the golden era of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Driven by the policy of appeasement, the Congress under the leadership of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru undermined the aspirations of the people to fulfill the ambitions of 'National Conference', Rana said while addressing the public meetings at Malpur and Seri Panditan in Amb-Gharota Mandal along with former Minister and Sr BJP Leader Sham Lal Sharma, DDC Chairman, Mr. Bharat Bhushan and District President Jammu North, Omi Khajuria.

He said the Congress and the successive governments ignored the contribution of the Maharaja Bahadur in bringing about social and religious reforms and it was only the BJP that not only acknowledged his devotion and dedication towards the people but also declared public holiday on his birth



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana addressing the gathering at Jammu.

anniversary. The Maharaja was the unifying force who devoted all his life towards welfare and progress of the largest state during the Dogra rule, he added.

Devender Rana said history will never forgive the Congress for its regressive role in dividing the people, differentiating between the regions and indulging in worse type of appeasement that brought Jammu and Kashmir to a situation of morass. But for the course correction by the BJP as per its cherished agenda of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas, things would not have been what they are now, he said adding that even the adversaries of the BJP are

now publicly acknowledging the discernible change in the overall scenario and hoping that the upcoming elections would witness active voter participation.

He said that Jammu and Kashmir has undergone a remarkable journey of transformation, marked by significant shifts in governance, security, and development under the forward looking leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. From the restoration of peace and stability to the empowerment of marginalized segments and women, the region has witnessed tangible progress and positive change, the notable feature of which is holistic development and opportunities of progress to all, irre-

spective of region or religion, caste or the social status.

Rana called for continued support to the BJP for steering the nation in general and

the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in particular to new heights of progress and development. While challenges remain, these can be met by collective efforts. He stressed the need for maintaining unity that is imperative to build trust among the people at large. The BJP has been striving and is committed to address socio-economic disparities and the path forward is defined by resilience, determination, and a shared commitment to building a brighter future for the people of J&K, he added.



Congress habitual of insulting women: Priya Sethi Appeals women to vote against Congress



Senior BJP leaders, Priya Sethi addressing a press conference at Jammu on Thursday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Taking serious exception to recent derogatory comments of Congress leaders against the women of the nation and also against the senior BJP leaders, Priya Sethi, BJP NEM & former Minister, said that the Congress party is habitual of disrespecting the women.

Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, J&K BJP Media Incharge, Neha Mahajan and Reena Padha, General Secretaries, BJP Mahila Morcha, Anuradha Sharma, Program Incharge, Meenakshi Jamwal, Office Secretary, Snehlata, Protocol Incharge accompanied Priya Sethi, while she addressed the media persons in a press conference held at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, here.

Congress leaders have repeatedly disrespected the women and their statements show their mentality against the Mahila Shakti, said Priya Sethi and added that this disrespect is not against some particular section of women but against the whole women community and also against the "Bharat Sanskriti", where women are held with high esteem.

Priya Sethi said that the language used by senior leader of Congress Randip Surjewala against senior BJP leader Hema Malini is not acceptable and is rather obnoxious.

Rahul Gandhi, the senior Congress leader disrespected women in Vadodara. Digvijay Singh

labeled MP Meenakshi Natrajan as "100 Taka Tanch Maal". Supriya Shreenate disrespected the MP candidate Kangna Ranaut, using "Mandi" in a disrespectful way. Congress MLA Shammur Shivshankar said that women only belong to the kitchen. Congress MP (Rajya Sabha) Manu Singhvi was involved in the Sex CD scandal. Renuka Choudhary had said 'Rape is common'. Senior leaders of Congress have shown utter hate and disrespect for women hundreds of times and the women will now make the Congress party beg for their votes in this election, said Priya Sethi.

This disrespect is not only to a section of women but to the whole community of women in the nation. She lamented that Congress including their leader Rahul Gandhi have disrespected women on every platform.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has empowered the women of this nation in every way. PM Modi has exemplified how women should be respected one can respect women and the Congress leaders must learn from the BJP how to respect the 50% population of this country".

Priya Sethi appealed to all the women especially of Jammu & Kashmir to show their strength and teach the lesson of dignity to Congress by voting against this family-based party in this Parliamentary election. She asked them to vote for BJP candidates to further empower the women folk.

Illegal mining poses major threat to water, other resources in Kashmir

MASROOR AHMAD

SRINAGAR: Acting tough against the persons involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, in major operations the Jammu and Kashmir Police arrested 13 persons and seized 14 vehicles, mostly trucks, in Kulgam and Baramulla districts during the past 36 hours.

In Kulgam, on April 2 a police party led by SHO Police Station Devsar during patrolling at general road Peepora, Pahloo crossing seized two tractor trolleys and arrested drivers involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals from Nallah Vaishow, police said, adding that the accused drivers have been identified as Zubair Ahmad Rather, son of Hamidullah Rather, resident of Sopat, Tengpora and Danish Ahmad Ganie, son of Manzoor Ahmad Ganie, resident of Bona Devsar.

On April 3, a police party led by IC PP Mirbazar seized three Tippers at Mirbazar Chowk and arrested their drivers for their involvement in illegal



extraction and transportation of minerals. The accused drivers have been identified as Muzaffar Ahmad Lone, son of Abdul Salam Lone, resident of Shankarpura Dooru, Anantnag, Mohammad Aarif Dar, son of Noor Mohammad Dar, resident of Hetiwara Lethpora, Avantipora and Aadil Ahmad Lone, son of Gull Mohammad Lone, resident of Shankarpura Dooru, Anantnag.

In Noth Kashmir's Baramulla district, on April 2 a police party under the supervision of SDPO Tangmarg, Pattan and Kreeri, assisted by SHO PS Kunzer, Incharge Police Post Palhallan and Incharge Police Post Wagoora, seized eight

tractors and arrested seven drivers at Kunzer, Shrakwara and Dargam area of Baramulla involved in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, police said, adding that they have been identified as Adil Akbar Rather, son of Mohd Akbar, resident of Ogmuna; Mudasir Ahmad Thokar, son of Ab Ahad, resident of Chek Khahtangan; Yaseen Ahmad Malik, son of Habibullah Malik, resident of Hurchak; Mohd Rafiq Bhat, son of Ab Rehman, resident of Pakipora Pattan; Mushtaq Ahmad Wani, son of Ab Khaliq and Umar Salaam Parra, son of Ab Salaam, both residents of Tapper Payeen and Mohd Hussain

imposed on mining in the Kashmir valley. The mining mafia, however, is engaged in the illegal activity right next to the foundation of natural resources, they added. A few local residents claimed that they had brought the issue to the notice of the mining authorities and the local administration, but to no avail.

Despite tall claims by the local administration and the Mining Department, a large number of mules can be seen carrying extracted from these areas. The illegally mined material was transported on mules to certain points from where it was shifted to vehicles by the mining mafia for further sale, said an environmental activist.

The government must come up with a proper policy on the extraction of minerals like sand in the UT and ensure that licenses are granted on the basis of merit. All vehicles ferrying the mineral illegally extracted or obtained must be seized by the law enforcement wings, he felt.

NGO's play great role in social welfare: Darakhshan

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chairperson of Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Thursday distributed relief material to the poor at a mega programme organised by Hussain A A Foundation.

This NGO headed by eminent social worker Mrs Rukhsana, organises this programme every year during the holy month of Ramadhan. The relief material included Rice, Flour, blankets and other daily essentials.

The programme was attended by hundreds of needy people from the city



Chairperson JKWB Dr Darakhshan Andrabi with others at relief distribution programme.

and the adjoining areas. Speaking on the occasion Dr Darakhshan Andrabi said

that NGO's shoulder a huge part of the responsibility to serve people and take up

impressive social welfare activities in our country. "Sharing the social respon-

sibilities, non-profit private sector plays a big role in reaching out to the people in need and helping them out financially and in kind so that they are also, able to meet their basic needs", said Dr Andrabi.

She said that while as the govt has taken many steps and measures to help marginalized people of the society, the individual and collective help from civilians also plays a good role in helping the people in need.

Dr Andrabi thanks Rukhsana and her foundation for her very kind initiative.

Why even 'Top Grade' Engineers from IITs rush for IAS stream & not even IES as first preference?

J&K Gazetted Engineering Services not provided even Non-Functional (M) Grade Promotions

DAYA SAGAR

Before the possible answer to the question <" Why even "Top Grade" Engineers from IITs rush for IAS stream & not even IES (Indian Engineering Service) ?"> it would be better to have the career progress for IAS services and that for Gazetted Engineering services in States/ Uts like J&K. No doubt the service rules do provide some time schedule for some regular progress in service for State engineering services but that is not adhered to even to it half value where as in IAS cadre the laid down limits of career progress are the 'highest' and that are cared on ground also with the years in service (almost assured on ground). Many cases could be quoted where a officer entering gazetted service through PSC is "promoted" as I/C Executive Engineer subject to clearance by DPC, is again promoted as I/C Superintending Engineer without formal regularization as Executive Engineer, is again promoted from I/ C Superintending Engineer as I/C Chief Engineer subject to clearance by DPC and even retired as I/C Chief Engineer with pension in the grade of AEE & getting pension in grade of AEE even 10 years after retirement before his/her service file is cleared by administrative department worth raising pension to level of Chief Engineer Grade (there may be cases where one has worked as I/C Chief Engineer before retirement but finally he is formally regularized as only EE or SE even when one had Gazetted Cadre service of more than 30 yrs) ...

Undue delay in promotions of those in government services not only stunts the growth & progression of government officials and also leads to demotivation among the elements of government machinery in addition to pecuniary loss to individuals during their active service even to the extent of sufferings from damaging mental stresses for those who are on the verge of retirement feeling that on superannuation they may have to remain content with the reduced pension/supporting reserves. Ofcourse due to inadequately timed human resource management for those in government services surely affects the quality & quantity of direct / indirect services that the government targets to deliver in time to the citizens.

The officers in Provincial / State Services like that in J&K State had started sensing such like discouraging environment after independence in early 1980s. To some relief SRO 14, dated 15.01.1996 issued by Finance Department J&K Government had put in place Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Higher Standard Pay Scale Scheme) Rules, 1996 (effective 01-01-1995) ensuring atleast some growth in wages if not in status for a government employee but that was made applicable only to all categories of non-gazetted Government employees except as provided elsewhere in the said rules where under a government employee was made entitled upto 3 higher grade promotions during his/her service career (in pay and not status/ level) notified as Higher Standard Pay at length of service intervals of 9/18/27 yrs from the date of appointment or any regular promotion in grade as the case may be. No doubt Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Higher Standard Pay Scale Scheme) Rules, 1996 (effective 01-01-1995) did not surely provide guarantee for due advancement in status with time to some non gazetted employees but the provision surely took them out of pecuniary stresses during the active service or on superannuation. But those in State Government Gazetted Services like General Services/ Medical Services/ Veterinary Services/ Engineering service etc though had laid down service regulations / provision for promotions through DPCs/ PSC recommendations kept on suffering due to improper human resource management at the administrative levels with no effective nominated time schedules for career advancement as per service regulations (localized exceptions could be expected a but not only casual performances) and no any performance assessments for PSC/DPC as regards ensuring truthful management of State Gazetted Service Cadres recruited through State Public Service Commission. Many cases could be quoted where a officer entering gazetted service through PSC is "promoted" as I/C Executive Engineer subject to clearance by DPC, is again promoted as I/C Superintending



A Look through the Mist

Engineer without formal regularization as Executive Engineer, is again promoted from I/ C Superintending Engineer as I/C Chief Engineer subject to clearance by DPC and even retired as I/C Chief Engineer with pension in the grade of AEE (Sh. S. K. Raina appointed as AEE in J&K PDD on 17-11-87 / appointed EE on 26-04-2001/ was promoted as I/C SE in 2006 / further promoted as I/C Chief Engineer had retired in 2008 without regularisation and was getting pension in the grade of EE even in 2022).

Even in 2024 the position with regard to the UT / State gazetted cadres like Engineering Gazetted Service has not improved on the overall worth appreciation (No doubt in recent years with intimate interest shown by officers like Shailendra Kumar IAS (1995) as Principal Secretary PWD (R&B) back log of files of some retired senior engineers and even working engineers is said to have been cleared) even when lately provisions for Time Bound grade Promotions / Non-Functional (Monetary) Scheme - NFS {some thing like Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Higher Standard Pay Scale Scheme) Rules, 1996 (effective 01-01-1995)} have been created for some Gazetted services (like Allopathic Doctors in the form of Non- Functional (NF) / Time Bound Grade Promotions {G.O No:595-HME of 1988 dated: 2/07/1988 & G.O No.388-HME of 2005 Dated : 30-06-2005 (10,15,20yrs) , ISM Doctors (G.O No.493-HME of 1999 dated 05.10.1999 & G.O No.242-HME of 2008) , Veterinary Doctors (After 10,15,20 years SRO 43 No. A/98(2001)-115 dated 17/11/2005 & in terms of a Cabinet Decision vide G.O no.3- ASH of 2010 of January 2010) , JKAS Officers Jr Sclae -9300-34800 G P4800 (Notification SRO-198 Dated 25-04-2018 < after 10yr- Senior Scale (NF)15600-39100 GP6600 [Level 11 (67700-208700)] after 14 yrs Selection Grade (NF) -15600-39100 GP7600 Level 12 (Rs. 78800-209200) after 18yrs Special Scale -37400- 67000GP8700> level 13 (Rs. 123100-215900)) and JKPS officers-9300-34800GP4800 SRO-215 of 18-05-2018 <10yr Junior Scale of JKPS -15600-39100 GP6600,14 yrs Selection Grade-II -

15600 -39100GP7600,18yrs Selection Grade-I -37400-67000GP8700>}} , where in, where ever the promotions in line with service regulations are not provided some relief in time (upto 3 non functional grade promotions without status) have been put in place which remains with the officer even after superannuation for pension even if the status equivalent to grade held is not accorded while in service . But J&K Gazetted Engineering Service which has been a service of 'prime' category even in early 1960s with Graduate Engr. entering Service through PSC in pay scale which was higher { refer J&K Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 1962, sanctioned vide Notification No. SRO-160 dated 6-8-1962. Astt Engineer pay scale was upto 300-700/750 till grade was revised to 540-950 wef 01-07-1972} than the pay scale for those entering general state services like "KCS"/ VAS/Dental service/ Ayurvedic Service / Statistical service / and like but the J&K Gazetted Engineering Services have not been given relief like Non-Functional (Monetary) Scheme - It was reported on 11-05-2018 that J&K Cabinet had accorded sanction to implementation of something like the Assured Career Progression (ACP) Scheme in respect of the Gazetted Engg Services so as to ensure a minimum of 3 Time Bound promotions in a span of 20 years and had authorised the Finance Department to notify the Scheme . But that had remained a paper news only. There are a very few cases on record where a Assistant Engineer has been promoted to AEE in two yrs or AE promoted as EE in 8 yrs in terms of service rules. Not only that on date the pay scale of SE and Chief Engineer is same and even after 33 yrs of service one entering via PSC can rise to Level 13 only.

So, question is why the position with regards to service matters , mostly with "other services", is irrational and frustrating for many and the Human Resource management for gazetted levels in State Services / Provincial services is not so encouraging ("wages wise) particularly for the Gazetted Engineering Services with J&K Government.

To be continued (The writer is a Sr Journalist and Social Activist).