

Modi Govt ended discrimination against border area people: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Accusing the earlier governments at the Centre and in Jammu & Kashmir of deciding their priorities on vote bank consideration, Union Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh on Friday said that in the last over 9 years, the NDA government headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi ended discrimination against people living in border areas and ensured justice to all.

Interacting with a delegation of Seema Jagran Manch that called on him, Dr Jitendra said, the blatant discrimination by the Congress-National Conference government was evident from its decision to provide 4 per cent reservation in higher education institutions and jobs to those living along the LoC but denying the same to those living along the International Border (IB), mostly along Kathua and Samba districts.

This, he alleged, was done because Congress-NC thought they had more votes to gain



A delegation of Seema Jagran Manch calling on Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh.

from areas along LoC while people living along IB were inclined towards BJP.

What could be the worst example of inhuman discrimination between one section of youth and the other, between one part of the border and the other, he asked.

It was only after PM Modi took over; that this anomaly was corrected and youth along IB also given the same benefit, reminded the Minister who is also the Lok Sabha MP representing Kathua-Udhampur-Doda. Dr Jitendra said, Prime Minister Modi will go down in history for having brought justice to the Pakistan refugees

settled in J&K who were deprived of their constitutional rights of citizenship and owning the property. Even as two of them, Dr Manmohan Singh and IK Gujral went on to become Prime Ministers, the refugees settled in J&K were not even given voting rights because there was apprehension that they may not vote for Congress and National Conference.

"West-Pak refugees have also been sanctioned Rs. 5 lakh per family" he said. Dr Jitendra said the Central Government approved funds for construction of 13,029 Individual bunkers with capacity of 8 persons each

and 1,431 Community bunkers with capacity of 40 persons each in the border areas of J&K. Stating that development has been brought to the last man in the last queue under PM Modi, Dr Jitendra said, the border areas which were neglected earlier have now become the models of development, the best example being the border district Kathua which is now being cited as an example of unprecedented development which was never seen before. Today there is road connectivity right upto the last point on IB, which was also done in the last 9 years, he said. From his

MP Fund, he recalled, over 300 toilets had been constructed within the premises of border area houses in district Kathua. Dr Jitendra said, the Central Government approved the raising of nine new battalions in the Jammu & Kashmir Police, including 2 Mahila battalions for women employment. Out of the 9 new Battalions, two of which are exclusively for border area youth and in another 5, 60% is reserved for the border area youth. "New SPOs are being recruited, 50% from border areas. Crops destroyed by border shelling have been included for compensation under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Beema Yojana. Compensation for firing victims increased etc," he said.

Dr Jitendra said the government made provision of Rs 50,000 compensation for each cattle / livestock lost in border shelling, no limit on number of cattle and 5 Bulletproof Ambulances provided for border areas.



Bukhari vows to empower J&K people politically, economically



JKPAP President S.M.A Bukhari with party leaders at a public rally at Shanpora.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari said on Friday that the traditional political parties and their leaders, who have remained at the helm in Jammu and Kashmir for years and decades, are responsible for pushing this region into instability and deprivation.

He stated that people in most areas across J&K are grappling with issues caused by an infrastructural deficit and political apathy.

He pledged his commitment to ensuring the political and economic empowerment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Apni Party President made these comments while addressing a public rally at Shanpora Habb in Srinagar's Hazratbal constituency.

Junaid Azim Mattu, the youth leader of the party pointed out how the traditional political parties had neglected the people of Shanpora and adjoining areas for their own political gains, leaving them impoverished and isolated.

He presented facts and figures to highlight how this particular area has been left with a disproportionate share of developmental activities. He stated that this was deliberately

done to benefit a specific political party that stole the mandate in this constituency to attain and remain in power for decades.

On this, Bukhari vowed that the Apni Party, when it gets a public mandate to form the government, will strive for equitable development across all regions within Jammu and Kashmir. Moreover, he pledged to redress the developmental imbalances that have adversely affected this specific area, Shanpora in Hazratbal.

He stated, "I assure you that we will spare no effort to ensure that you receive your rightful share of development. We are committed to delivering justice to the people of this area by rectifying the long-standing denial of their due share."

He went on to emphasize that the primary agenda of the Apni Party revolves around the pursuit of sustainable peace, lasting prosperity, and the comprehensive development of Jammu and Kashmir.

Regarding the current political situation in Jammu and Kashmir, Bukhari stated, "The credit for the existing peace and stability in Jammu and Kashmir goes to its people, who unwaveringly contributed to peace

and harmony as they realized that we require a sustainable peace here to get political and economic dividends."

"New Delhi may or may not require peace here, but we, the people of this land, certainly do. A peaceful environment is indispensable for us to lead dignified and secure lives. We cannot afford any more destruction and bloodsheds on this land, especially when the future of our youth is at stake," he added.

Expressing his hope that the Supreme Court, which is currently hearing the petitions challenging the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A, will deliver justice. He said, "I hope the court will deliver justice to the people of Jammu and Kashmir regarding the events of August 5, 2019. The people of J&K regain what was taken from them on August 5."

However, he cautioned people not to let any political party attempt to claim credit for this issue. He said, "When they come to you, promising to restore the abrogated articles, you must be aware that they are making false promises because they do not have the authority to reinstate these constitutional articles. Only the Supreme Court has the power to restore them."

Hangul Kashmiri Stag needs more attention, conducive environment, population did not improve as expected: Survey

SHAKEELA ANDRABI

SRINAGAR: To find out the actual number of Hangul or Royal Stag, the Department of Wildlife Protection conducted a survey in the month of March this year along with many NGOs in and around Dachigam National Park.

Hangul is stable, there is no considerable improvement in its population due to various concerns, the department of the Wildlife Protection, Jammu & Kashmir has said in a report. "The species is under threat based on the vulnerability of population w.r.t population viability, population structure, dwindling population, habitat vulnerability and possibility of inbreeding. The species needs considerable immediate global attention." The present population monitoring exercise results show a marginal increase in population from the past estimates (2019: 237; 2021: 261; 2023: 289). "The basic demographic ratio of male: female and female: fawn ratios are skewed. The number of Hangul which

were not distinctly identified by the participants may have also accounted for the more skewed ratios," the report adds. Hangul was once widely distributed in the mountains of Kashmir and parts of Chamba District of Himachal Pradesh in an arc 65km in width to the north and east of Jhelum and lower Chenab rivers. Hangul is a critically endangered species as per IUCN, Red List Data, a Schedule I Species in Indian Wildlife Protection Act 1972. During the recent past, the distribution range of Hangul appears to have been drastically reduced, possibly due to habitat fragmentation and associated factors. Some small or relic populations are also reported to be present in some areas in Kupwara, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Pulwama and Anantnag Districts, according to the survey.

The Department of Wildlife Protection, Jammu & Kashmir in collaboration with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and local research institutions, has been regularly monitoring the

Hangul Population in the Dachigam landscape since 2004 through scientific methods. The report says that till date nine such annual exercises have been carried out during March of 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021. The Hangul population estimates in the past were 197 (2004), 153 (2006), 127 (2008), 175 (2009), 218 (2011), 183(2015), 214(2017), 237 (2019), 261(2021).

The survey further revealed that the population of Hangul has shown a marginal increase. However, due to Habitat fragmentation and poaching, Livestock Grazing, Ecological threat, Predation etc, there is no considerable increase in population numbers. The report notes that owing to the large scale biotic interferences in Hangul's habitat, in the form of excessive livestock grazing in its erstwhile summer habitats, grass cutting, fuel and firewood collection, human trampling owing to men and poaching

habitat degradation and hence decline of the Hangul during the recent past.

It further says that the livestock grazing in Upper Dachigam has been considered to prove harmful to Hangul in the long run. Apart from competition for food resources, chances of transmission of disease also exist as there has been confirmed evidence of transmission of John's Disease to Hangul in Dachigam in 1978. The report says that the recent scientific studies on the current Hangul population trend have indicated that the species could go extinct if serious management and Conservation interventions are not made immediately.

"However, these measures need to be augmented by the existing conservation efforts of successful captive breeding. There is still a dearth of vital information on basic ecological knowledge on this important species. Research is needed to understand the skewed demographic ratios and the reasons associated," the report said.

ADGP Jammu adheres new rank to SSsP

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Director General of Police, Jammu Zone, Jammu, Mukesh Singh on Friday decorated three SSsP who have been elevated by pinning new rank in a simple function held in Zonal Police Headquarters Jammu this morning.

The officers who were decorated include Shaheen Wahid-JKPS, Mater Popsy-JKPS and Rannish Gupta-JKPS.

Mukesh Singh congratulated



ADGP Jammu Zone, Jammu, Mukesh Singh adhering rank to SP Jammu South Shaheen Wahid.

ed the officers for their elevation and stressed the officers to work with zeal and zest in future also.

DIG JKS Range Shakti Pathak, Chandan Kohli SSP

Jammu were also present on the occasion.

Chakka Jam by transport association partially hits normal life in Jammu



Transporters raising slogans during a protest rally at Jammu on Friday.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Normal life was partially affected here Friday due to a 'chakka jam' called by the All Jammu and Kashmir Transport Welfare Association (AJKTWA) to press its demand for the removal of a toll plaza along the Jammu-Pathankot highway in Samba district.

Public and private transport was off the roads, hitting the movement of the people in the city. Lack of transport facilities also affected attendance in educational institutions.

However, shops and business establishments remained opened.

Led by AJKTWA Chairman Ajit Singh, hun-

dreds of people from various associations assembled in the Bhagvatnagar area, and held protest demonstrations against the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) over bad condition of the highway. They demanded abolition of the newly set up Sarore toll plaza.

Raising slogans against the NHAI, they took out a protest rally to the toll plaza. Hundreds of vehicles remained lined up in one tube of the highway during the protest rally.

"We are protesting against the NHAI in view of the bad condition, damaged bridge and toll plaza issue. We are taking a rally to Sarore toll

plaza to support the demand," Singh told reporters here.

He said that despite protests for months by various organisations, the "NHAI is yet to wake up and resolve the issue".

The hunger strike by Dogra Aketa Front organised at Samba continued for 9th consecutive day on Friday.

A day-long bandh was observed on the issue last Saturday on a call given by the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industries (JCCI) and was supported by several political parties in Jammu and Kashmir, including the Congress, the Peoples Democratic Party.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL, Jammu has informed that the power supply to District Doda and Kishtwar will remain affected on September 03 from 6 am to 11 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Industrial area Bari Brahmana and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 03 from 7 am to 10 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Seora,

Kunjwani, Bandurakh, Shanker Colony, EktaVihar, Dental Colony, Bakshi Colony and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 03 from 6 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Shakti Nagar, Patel Nagar, Kailash Nagar, Canal Road, Rajpura, PHE, AG Office, Polytech College, Bakshi Nagar, Shiv Nagar and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 05 from 6 am to 10 am.

Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Baba Chambiyal and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 02 and 04 from 6 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to BSF and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 04 from 6 am to 10 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Jerda and adjoining areas will remain affected

on September 02 from 6 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Dyalachack, Pathwal, Dhali, Jandi, Sanyal, Changal, Gurah, Srakari and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 02 and 04 from 8 am to 12 noon.

Likewise, the power supply to Chack Ludan, GMC, Chack Sajjan, Kharote Morh and adjoining areas will remain affected on September 02 from 8 am to 9 am.

Jammu aspirations will never be compromised: Rana

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Reiterating that there will be no compromise on Jammu's distinct aspirations, Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Friday said the UT of J&K is witnessing a discernible transformation on socio-economic and developmental fronts with the people feeling hugely empowered.

Interacting with the various delegations and individuals from across the region during the weekly public hearing at the BJP headquarters at Trikuta Nagar here along with Veenu Khanna, BJP State Secretary, Rana referred to the sense of empowerment being felt post political developments of August 5, 2019 by the people of Jammu region, irrespective of religion and caste, who had suffered a long spell of ignominy and discrimination due to mis-governance of the elite political class.

The Jammu interest, like other parts of the Union Territory, will always remain



Senior BJP leader Devender Rana listening to public issues.

equally sacrosanct, Rana said, adding that there is no question of undermining the interests of Jammu as the BJP is committed to fulfill the urges and aspirations of the people of this region.

He dwelt in detail about the developmental initiatives across the region and said that Jammu is all set to become the most developed city of northern India in next five years. He also referred to the coming up of infrastructure, especially the IIT, IIM and AIIMS on a fast track basis.

Rana referred to the new

dawn of peace and normalcy in Kashmir and said this has hovered darkness of wilderness over the political enterprise of the PDP, Congress and the National Conference that did no good to people of Jammu and Kashmir during the past over seven decades except inflicting miseries upon them.

They always played the politics of obstruction and benefitted from the cult of violence. Now that the dream of the people across the Union Territory stands realized in terms of huge transformation, large scale development, politico-economic

empowerment and end of stone throwing and Hartal culture, these elite political outfits find themselves irrelevant in the J&K politics, he added.

Devender Rana said the people of Jammu and Kashmir wanted a change in the stereotype political management which had thus far remained the exclusive domain of the selected few and benefitted the elite political class alone. This is happening now.

The change is the essence of democracy and the people here too want devolution of power to enable them to shape their socio-economic destiny. He reiterated the BJP stands guarantee to equitable opportunities of progress and development, as also equal role in decision making, to all the regions and the sub-regions, which is discernible now in immense measure.

"This has become possible post repeal of Article 370", he said and referred to the rights bestowed upon the displaced

people of POJK, Valmikis, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe besides other segments of the society. He said the development scenario across the Jammu region is getting huge impetus with focus on various utility services.

Referring to growing stature of India at the global landscape, Rana said all eyes are watching with rapt attention how Prime Minister Narendra Modi is steering the country to unprecedented economic resurgence with glory amid huge global challenges post pandemic era. He also referred to the tireless initiatives being taken to steer out Jammu and Kashmir from the three-decade morass caused due to foreign sponsored and abetted terrorism.

"While growing international stature of the country stands testimony to statesmanship of the Prime Minister, heralding peace and normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir speaks of his sincerity in intent and decisiveness in action", Devender Rana said.