

Congress responsible for halting development, denying district status to Billawar-Basohli: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS
BASOHLI/BILLAWAR: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh alleged here today that Congress was responsible for halting the development of Billawar-Basohli region and also for denying the district status to this region.

On the sidelines of "Har-Ghar-Bhajpa, Door-to-door" campaign and after addressing a massive public rally at Billawar in support of the BJP nominee Satish Sharma, Dr. Jitendra Singh, while speaking to the media, said that unfortunately Basohli suffered primarily because over the last 10 years, it was represented by legislators who were busy in jumping from one political party to the other and had no time to devote on the development of the region. At the same time, he said, Congress MLAs from Basohli and Billawar were



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing a BJP election rally at Billawar on Tuesday.

more keen to keep their Kashmir-centric masters in good humour to ensure from themselves perks and privileges of office and were always cautious that if they speak for their constituency, they may invite displeasure of their masters and lose the loaves and fishes of office.

Dr. Jitendra also accused Congress Party of denying district status to Basohli and Billawar. He said, when the District Reorganisation

Committee was constituted, it was the Congress government in the State and the BJP had very vociferously demanded separate district status for the region but the Congress Party in order to keep its Kashmir-centric masters happy followed an approach of appeasement, as a result of which, while smaller districts were carved out judiciously, this region was deliberately denied a district status.

When the BJP govern-

ment comes to power in Jammu & Kashmir, said Dr. Singh, one of the first decisions would be to grant the district status to Billawar and Basohli. He said, this has been a BJP resolve and in the BJP organisational structure, this region is already treated as a separate district.

Whatever development has happened in the region, said Dr. Jitendra, was possible only in the last 5 years under the Modi government

after the abrogation of Article 370. He said, during this period, Basohli paintings and Basohli shawls gained GI tag. It was also during this period, said Dr. Jitendra Singh that a number of new roadway links were constructed and Degree colleges allotted.

Appealing for a vote for BJP, Dr. Jitendra said, the only option to ensure a fair deal for this region is that we have a BJP MLA to articulate the concerns of the region in the next J&K State Assembly. When the MLA, MP and the local body representative... all happen to be from BJP which in turn is guided by the principles and values of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this would be an assured way of ensuring development of the region and also defining an important role for the region in J&K's growth story, he said.



PM Modi empowered women of J&K, gave them dignified life: Priya Sethi

'Our Sankalp Patra promises socio-economic upliftment of women'



Former minister, Priya Sethi talking to reporters.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Former minister, Priya Sethi, on Tuesday said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi empowered the women of J&K, who had earlier been denied their constitutional rights for seventy years.

"The Prime Minister Modi by abrogating Article 370 on August 5 2019 empowered the women of J&K and they are now living a dignified life," Priya Sethi said, while addressing a press conference, here today.

J&K BJP Chief Spokesperson, Sunil Sethi, BJP Mahila Morcha General Secretaries, Neha Mahajan and Reema Padha were also present on the occasion. Prior to abrogation of

Article 370, Sethi said that girls of J&K were denied their constitutional rights if they married outside J&K. "Now, after the abrogation of Article 370, the girls do get their constitutional rights even if they marry outside J&K," she said and added that the women are living a dignified life under PM Modi's regime.

She said that NC, Congress and PDP denied constitutional rights to women of J&K for 70 years but BJP ensured that they get equal constitutional rights.

"Only BJP government can ensure dignity of women," she said, adding that BJP rolled out several schemes for the welfare of women and

large number of women are getting benefitted.

Sethi said that 1.61 lakh girls got benefit of 'Ladli Beti Yojna', while 4.12 lakh girls of J&K have been benefitted under 'Matra Vandna Yojna' launched by Modi government.

Sethi said, similarly, 70,000 girls have been benefitted under Marriage Assistance Scheme, also launched by BJP Government. Sethi said that the BJP 'Sankalp Patra' released by Home Minister Amit Shah also takes care of the women, especially the elderly.

In our 'Sankalp Patra', we have also promised the socio-economic upliftment of the women of J&K, she said.

"In our 'Sankalp Patra' we have promised Rs 18,000 per year to senior most women of every family in J&K and free cylinders to women under Ujjawa Yojna," She said, while adding, "we will also give 50% reservation to women in local body elections".

Apart from this, we have also promised to strengthened Self Help Groups (SHG), she said.

CS Dulloo pitches for promotion of off-beat tourist destinations with World Bank

STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo on Tuesday held an interactive session with the team of World Bank to have detailed deliberations over the development and promotion of several off-beat tourism destinations across the UT here.

The session besides the team members from the World Bank (WB) was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Tourism; Director Tourism, Jammu/Kashmir; Director, Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir; MD, JKTDC and other officers.

Chief Secretary took this occasion to highlight various initiatives taken by the administration. He remarked that this region has its unique strengths and challenges to deal with. He maintained that the three core areas where J&K wants to march ahead are Horticulture, Hospitality and Handicrafts for which it is well-known all over the world.

Dulloo urged the WB team to extend their assistance and expertise to help J&K devise a robust tourism promotion plans for several off-beat tourism desti-



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo with other officers at a programme.

nations in both the divisions here. He pitched for framing of roadmap for all these places keeping in view the ecology and environment and hence a sustainable development plan for all these new tourism destinations.

In her presentation Commissioner Secretary, Tourism, Yasha Mudgal gave out the detailed overview of the tourism scenario of J&K. She also justified the need for development of these additional tourist spots to relieve pressure on the traditional ones which are being explored beyond their carrying capacity. She gave an overview of current

trends of tourist visits and future projections thereof.

She then went on to enumerate the potential destinations across J&K that can be taken up for sustainable development in association with World Bank. She also threw light on the areas of development at these new places besides apprising the WB team about gap analysis done by the Department and inherent strengths of these locations in terms of attracting the tourists.

The vision for sustainable tourism was shared with the team for their sug-

gestions. The selection criteria of these destinations was too revealed along with their phasing, process of their development, methodology, project timelines along with the kind of support needed from Ministry of Tourism and World Bank together.

Later a presentation was made by Director, Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir; Mehmood Shah to support the Handicrafts sector here in the UT.

He highlighted the need for having a world class consultancy for formulating a strategy to optimally tap its potential here. Besides, the team was apprised about the requirement of developing an e-commerce platform where genuine handicrafts could be marketed exclusively.

The other proposals that came up for discussion in this regard included development of handicrafts-clusters, branding, marketing of handicraft products, establishing common facility centres (CFCs) and enhancing the capacity of artisans in addition to strengthening the training institutions meant for transferring skills of these art forms from old to younger generations.

NCB arrest two traffickers with 0.410 Kg Heroin at Chadwal

One trafficker arrested from Delhi in another case

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Keeping its commitment to combat drug trafficking in the region, NCB Jammu seized 0.410 Kg. Heroin on September 9, 2024 at Chadwal, Kathua and registered case CR-17/2024 and in this connection, arrested two persons namely Shahid Hussain and Murad Ali both resident of Kathua. The team has also seized the Motorcycle which these traffickers used in illicit trafficking of the seized Heroin. Initial investigation has revealed that the seized Heroin was supplied from 'Taran Taran district of Punjab and further it was destined to Hiranagar, Kathua. Another team of NCB Jammu arrested main supplier Shahbaz, resident of Okhla Vihar Delhi on September 9, 2024 in connection with case



CR-15/2024, in which various Narcotics and Psychotropic substances were seized.

NCB Jammu Zonal Unit recovered and seized 3000 Alprazolam Tablets, 14106 Spasmo Proxyvon Plus (Tramadol) Capsules, 221 Bottles of Codeine based Cough Syrup (100 ml each) and Approx 5 Litres of Codeine based Cough syrup in water bottles at Near Zamindara Dhaba, Ring Road, Samba, J&K from the possession of 02 accused persons namely Mohd

ECI conducts virtual conference to review SVEEP activities

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In order to review the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) activities organised for the awareness of the voters and the Assured Minimum Facilities (AMFs) to be provided to the electorate ahead of the much awaited Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Elections 2024, the officers of Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday conducted a virtual conference of District Nodal Officers at district level across the union territory.

The meeting was chaired by Santosh Kumar, Secretary SVEEP in presence of Love Kush Yadav, Under Secretary SVEEP and R.K Singh and Aradhana, Senior Consultants SVEEP.

The conference primarily focused on key thematic issues like smooth, efficient and voter friendly services, integration of IT Applications for voter awareness, extensive voter outreach program, Media and Communication strategy, EVM and VVPAT storage related infrastructure, training and capacity building.

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Pandurang K Pole, accompanied by Akther Hussain Qazi, Nodal officer of SVEEP J&K; Sapna Kotwal, Nodal Officer for Media J&K;



CEO, Pandurang K Pole chairing virtual conference.

Namisha Abrol, IT Expert and others attended the conference. Meanwhile, the respective designated District Nodal Officers for SVEEP also joined the conference through virtual mode at their respective district headquarters.

While taking stock of the activities initiated under SVEEP for voters' awareness and participation in the upcoming Assembly Elections, the ECI Officials directed the Nodal Officers to focus on technology driven awareness for targeted intervention to enhance the voter turnout in the upcoming Assembly Elections.

ECI officials directed the officers to impart awareness regarding the use of the mobile voter friendly applications including eVIGIL,

Know Your Candidate, Suvidha, Voter Helpline App, among others to ensure that the voting experience for the electors all across the J&K UT is easy and smooth.

During the conference, the focus was also laid on establishing "Theme Based Polling Stations" in addition to the Model Polling Stations to attract youth and first time voters. The ECI officials also suggested the officers of Srinagar district to organize an election based Quiz Competition at the famous Lal Chowk which will attract the attention of youth towards the electoral process.

Moreover, the directions were also given to document the similar activities in video format which can be showcased at various platforms

including social media and web to attract the voters.

With a focus to enhance women participation in the electoral exercise, the ECI officials directed the Nodal Officers to take sufficient steps in this regard and to ensure an increased voter turnout. The ECI officials also gave instructions to increase the SVEEP activities to attract the Kashmiri Migrants for polling and focus should be laid to make hassle free arrangements for them at respective designated polling stations across the J&K UT.

Earlier, all the District Nodal Officers showcased the activities undertaken by them through power point presentations during the conference. Directions were given to them by the ECI officials to enhance the SVEEP activities and to make the voters aware regarding the nine AMFs being provided at the Polling Stations for their smooth voting experience.

The Nodal Officers assured that the SVEEP activities will be accelerated at maximum level and efforts will be made to provide the awareness to the electorate so that the voter turnout in the upcoming Assembly Elections 2024 will surpass the record voting percentage of recently concluded Lok Sabha Polls 2024.

SPIC MACAY to hold activities to promote J&K heritage: Tiwari



National President of SPIC MACAY, Radha Mohan Tiwari talking to reporters.

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: To enhance the organization's impact on cultural heritage among youth, the National President of SPIC MACAY, Radha Mohan Tiwari, and National Executive member Ankit Babbar engaged with key institutions including IIT Jammu, IIM Jammu, Cluster University, and Jammu University to discuss expanding SPIC MACAY's activities. Prominent social worker and former Registrar General of the High Court, Suresh Sharma, has been requested to take on the role of Coordinator for SPIC MACAY in Jammu and Kashmir: "We visited Jammu to enhance the organization's impact on cultural heritage among youth," Radha Mohan Tiwari told reporters. He was flanked by newly appointed Coordinator for Jammu and Kashmir, Suresh Sharma and National Executive member Ankit Babbar. "SPIC MACAY, founded 47 years ago by IIT Delhi Professor Kiran Seth, organizes nearly 5,000 programs annually to promote Indian classical music, dance, folk arts, theatre, and more. The initiative aims to deepen youth engagement with their cultural roots," Tiwari said. During the visit, he said, commitments were made to implement a 17-day Heritage Series at IIT Jammu, a week-long heritage event at IIM Jammu, and to broaden SPIC MACAY's activities at Cluster University. Additionally, a week-long heritage festival is set for Jammu University, he added.

Rahul Gandhi must tell compulsion to forge alliance with NC: Jasrotia

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The J&K BJP Spokesperson, Abhijeet Jasrotia, on Tuesday questioned Rahul Gandhi to make it clear as to under which compulsions the Cong Party entered into an alliance with the National Conference for Assembly elections in J&K.

This was stated by Jasrotia, while addressing a press conference at BJP election Media Center, here today J&K BJP spokespersons, GL Raina, YV Sharma, Gen (Retd), Rakesh Sharma and Media Incharge, Dr Pardeep Mahotra were also present in the press conference.

"Does the opening of Mohabat Ki Dukan mean giving ticket to a Separatist and hardcore anti-nationals



J&KBJP Spokesperson, Abhijeet Jasrotia talking to reporters.

like Irfan Hafeez Lone?" Jasrotia questioned Rahul Gandhi.

We all know, Jasrotia said, "Irfan Hafeez Lone is a Separatist and anti-national and Cong must make it clear that under what compulsions it has given mandate to him".

Referring to the statement of Omar Abdullah that the Chief Minister cannot transfer even SPO, Jasrotia said

this shows total confusion prevailing within the NC-Cong alliance.

It may be mentioned that Mian Altaf, MP of NC, has said that the NC-Cong alliance will push NC 30 years back. "The statement of Mian Altaf clearly shows that there is some compulsion which forced both NC and Cong to enter into alliance," Jasrotia said while

adding, "Rahul Gandhi must tell what was the compulsion for the Cong to ally with NC".

He said the decision taken on August 5' 2019 was a historic decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as terrorism has been wiped out and there are no hartals and no more stone pelting in Kashmir.

After the abrogation of Article 370, J&K is moving on the path of development at a fast pace and peace is restored here in J&K, he said adding, "Rahul Gandhi is enjoying ice cream in Kashmir due to peace restored by PM Modi".

The credit of the completely changed environment in J&K goes to PM Modi, he said.

Dr. Karan Singh appoints three members to Maharaja Gulab Singh Memorial Trust Management Committee

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Dr. Karan Singh, Chairman Trustee of the Maharaja Gulab Singh Memorial Trust, has appointed three distinguished members to the Management Committee. The newly appointed members are Shri Neeraj Rohmetra, Executive Editor of Daily Excelsior, Shri

Rajan Singh Happy, Ex-President of Yuva Rajput Sabha and Shri Raghbir Singh, SSP (Retd.).

The appointment letters were formally handed over to all the newly appointed members today by Trustee Shri R.K Ranvijay Singh. The appointments are valid until March 31, 2026.

In his address, Ranvijay Singh expressed confidence that the experience of the newly appointed members will benefit the Trust in the coming years. He said that the Trust, which has a legacy of preserving the historical and cultural heritage of Jammu & Kashmir, continues to play a pivotal role under the leadership of Dr. Karan Singh.

