

BJP promises 'Maa Samman' financial support, NC-Cong for snatching daughter's rights: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

CHENANI/JASROTA: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said here on Wednesday that BJP "Sankalp Patra 2024" for J&K Assembly election released by Amit Shah promises "Maa Samman Yojana", wherein the senior most lady in the family will be provided financial support of Rs. 18,000 per year.

On the other hand, the National Conference election manifesto, supported by Congress, speaks of restoring Article 370 and 35A, wherein the daughters of J&K would once again be deprived of claiming any right to the land and properties of their parents if any of them chooses to marry a spouse who is not a domicile of J&K, he said.

Addressing a mammoth public rally in support of the BJP candidate Balwant Singh Mankotia at Chenani and later another public rally at Jasrota in support of the BJP candidate Rajiv Jasrotia, Dr. Jitendra said, this is the difference between the BJP led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the opposition parties like Congress and their allies like National Conference.

He said, on the one hand, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, over the last 10



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh with BJP candidate Balwant Singh Mankotia during public rally at Chenani on Wednesday.

years, government has done everything possible to ensure welfare of women on priority regardless of caste, creed or religion and game changing women-centric schemes like PM Ujjawala Yojana, PM Awas Yojna have been rolled out, on the other hand, Congress and its allies look forward to reverse whatever equal rights were made available to women post abrogation of Article 370.

Appealing to a large component of women in the audience, Dr. Jitendra Singh asked, will you ever accept that your daughter is denied the property rights of her parents simply because she chooses to marry a person outside J&K. In response, all the women folk

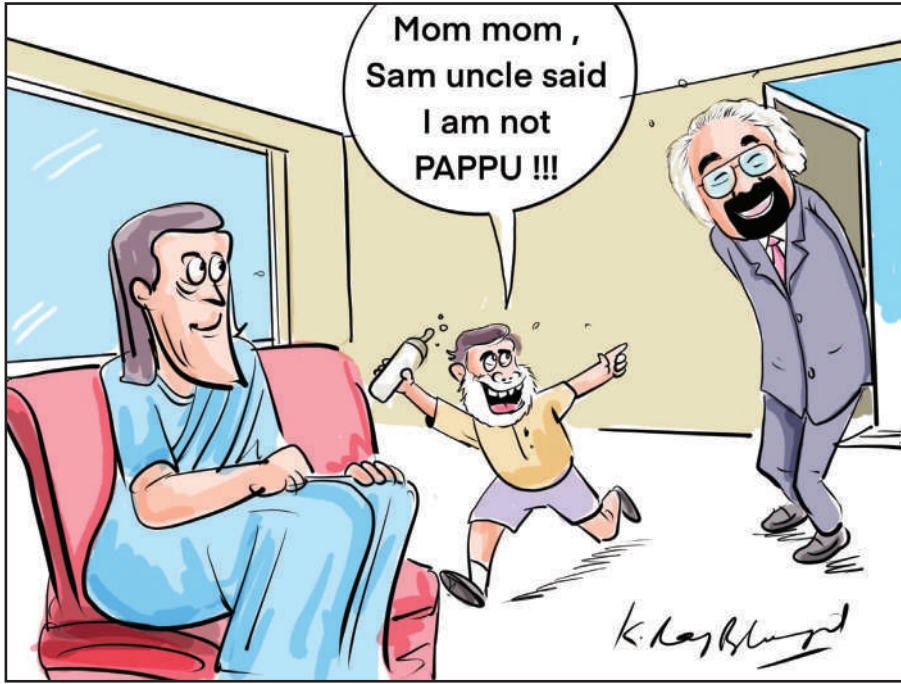
in the audience in one chorus shouted "No-No".

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, in the last 10 years Modi has given this region all that was denied by the previous Congress governments and its allies. Citing an example, he said, in the constituency at Chenani which has the holy shrine of Sudh Mahadev, a new national highway NH-244 is under construction connecting Suudh Mahadev with Kehlani and enroute catering to far flung villages which were in the past not even provided minimal road facility. At the same time, he said, in the nearby township of Mantalai which was developed by Swami Dhirendra Brahmachari, the Dharma Guru of late Prime Minister

Indira Gandhi, the structure was allowed to be reduced to shambles over the last three decades and it is only now that after Prime Minister Modi came, it has been reconstructed and developed into a modern Wellness Centre of international standards.

Speaking at Kathua, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, in the last 10 years, Kathua has been benefited with the development works which it had never expected simply because of the patronage of Prime Minister Modi. He gave the example of India's first ever Industrial Biotech Park, Engineering College, Medical College, Seed Processing Plant, etc. He said, when we have a vociferous BJP MLA from Kathua, it would be easier for the voice of Kathua to be conveyed to the ears of the powers that be.

Appealing for a vote for Balwant Singh Mankotia at Chenani and for Rajiv Jasrotia at Jasrota, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, when we have two strong BJP MLAs representing two key Assembly constituencies of the region, the development which is already taking place in the last one decade under the Modi government will receive a boost and there will be a fast-track progress with a "Double Engine Speed".



IAP Jammu hosts "EPILEPTOCON 2024 - An Update on Pediatric Epilepsy"

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) Jammu, in collaboration with the departments of Pediatrics at ASCOMS and GMC Jammu, organized a significant event titled "EPILEPTOCON 2024 - An Update on Pediatric Epilepsy." The conference, which took place recently, saw participation from approximately 250 delegates, including Pediatricians, Intensivists, Neurologists, Physicians, Residents, and MBBS students from various medical colleges across North India.

The event was inaugurated by Chief Guest Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal and Dean of GMC Jammu, alongside Guests of Honor Dr. A.S. Bhatia (Principal GMC Rajouri), Dr. Pavan Malhotra (Director Principal ASCOMS), Dr. S.K. Gupta (Eminent Neurologist), Dr. Sudheer Dhar (Senior Physician), Dr. Ashok Gupta (Ex-HOD Pediatrics, SMGS Jammu), and Dr. Rekha Harish (Ex-HOD Pediatrics, SMGS Jammu). Dr. Ashutosh Gupta praised the organizing team for their efforts and encouraged the continuation of such academic events for the benefit of young doctors.

The event featured a ceremonial lamp lighting with Saraswati Vandana and an engaging skit performed by MBBS students from ASCOMS, which effectively debunked common myths



Chief Guest Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal and Dean of GMC Jammu and other dignitaries at a programme.

about epilepsy. Dr. S.K. Gupta provided insights into the latest management strategies for Pediatric Epilepsy and commended the organizing team led by Dr. Ravinder K Gupta. The program commenced with an informative lecture on neonatal seizures by renowned neonatologist Dr. Anuj Bhattia.

A series of updates on pediatric epilepsy followed, delivered by experts including Dr. Pawan Kumar (Consultant Pediatric Neurologist, Nahan Medical College, Himachal Pradesh) and Dr. Surjeet Kumar (Pediatric Intensivist, GMC Jammu). The conference also featured interactive sessions with distinguished pediatric neurologists such as Dr. J.S. Goraya (DMC Ludhiana), Dr. Gurpreet S Kochar (Ludhiana), and Dr. Ashna Kumar (Amritsar). A quiz session led by Dr. Vivek Pandita (Assistant Professor, Pediatrics, ASCOMS Jammu) added a dynamic element to the proceedings.

A highlight of the event was the Dr. Ritu Gupta Oration, delivered by Dr. Suresh K Angurana (Pediatric Intensivist & Associate Professor, PGIMER Chandigarh), who discussed 'Status Epilepticus'. The session was complemented by a documentary showcasing the achievements and contributions of the late Dr. Ritu Gupta (Professor of Physiology) in the field of medicine.

The event was successfully organized under the supervision of Dr. G.S. Saini (Professor & HOD Pediatrics, SMGS Jammu) and Dr. Ravinder K Gupta (Professor & HOD Pediatrics, ASCOMS Jammu), with Dr. Vikas Mahajan and Dr. Sushil Sharma serving as the organizing secretaries. Faculty members, residents, and staff from the Pediatrics department at ASCOMS contributed significantly to the success of the conference, with Mihika and Aradita managing the stage.

Traders' unwavering support boosts Yudhvir Sethi's Campaign for Jammu East Constituency



BJP leader and Assembly candidate for Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi with traders at a programme.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a significant boost to his campaign, senior BJP leader and Assembly candidate for Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi, has garnered the full support of key traders' associations across the constituency.

The Purani Mandi Traders Association, Hanuman Mandir Traders Association, Vivekanand Traders Association below Gumat, and Central Basis Traders Association have all rallied behind Sethi, endorsing his candidacy with enthusiasm in the upcoming polls.

Yudhvir Sethi was warmly welcomed and assured of their unwavering support. The leaders of these associations praised Sethi's dedication to addressing the concerns of the trading community and his vision for the economic development of Jammu East.

In his address, Sethi expressed his gratitude and emphasized his commitment to fostering a business-friendly environment. "The support from our traders is invaluable. It not only strengthens my resolve but also highlights the collective aspiration for progress and development

in Jammu East," Sethi remarked. He assured the traders that their issues would be prioritized, and his efforts would be directed towards creating more opportunities and improving infrastructure for local businesses.

Yudhvir Sethi also took the opportunity to praise Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the remarkable transformation of Jammu and Kashmir over the past decade. He commended the PM's leadership for driving significant progress and development in the region, which has paved the way for a brighter future for its residents.

Yudhvir Sethi made a heartfelt appeal to the voters of Jammu East in the upcoming Assembly elections. "Your support is crucial for continuing the momentum of progress that has been achieved under the BJP government. I urge you to vote for me, so together we can build on this foundation and bring even more development and prosperity to our beloved Jammu East."

ADGP Jammu interacted with Central Paramilitary Forces/State Armed Police Forces arriving for Election Duty



ADGP Jammu Zone, Anand Jain interacting with officials.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Jammu Zone Jammu, Anand Jain, on Wednesday visited the Bari Brahmana Railway Station in Samba to assess the arrival of Central Paramilitary Forces (CAPF) and State Armed Police Forces deployed for election duty in the region.

The visit was part of a broader security review to ensure seamless coordination and preparedness ahead of the upcoming electoral process.

ADGP Jammu Anand Jain, was accompanied by DIG of Police JKS Range, Shiv Kumar, SSP Samba, Vinay Kumar, SDPO Bari Brahmana and other police officers of the jurisdiction.

ADGP Jammu interacted with the CPF personnel arriving at the Railway Station.

During the interaction, the Police officers welcomed the forces and briefed them on the security arrangements and the critical role they will play in maintaining peace and ensuring the smooth conduct of elections.

The ADGP Jammu Zone and other Police officers also reviewed the logistic arrangements made for the arriving units including accommodation, transportation, and operational requirements, to ensure that the personnel are well-equipped and supported throughout their deployment. They were assured full cooperation from the police in facilitating their stay and duties.

PM's special developmental initiatives have transformed Gurez: Andrabi

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GUREZ: Accompanying BJP candidate for Gurez Faqir Mohammad Khan, BJP National Executive Member & J&K Waqf Board Chairperson Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Wednesday joined the mega rally of Bhartiya Janata Party from Wanpora bridge to the office of the Returning Officer Gurez in the border valley which was attended by a huge gathering of people in a large cavalcade of vehicles passing through many localities and hamlets amid rousing welcome

by the people.

Eminent politician & BJP candidate for Gurez Faqir Mohammad Khan later filled his nomination papers in the office of the returning officer in presence of Dr Andrabi. Dr Andrabi said that this beautiful border valley lacked development during the past seven decades, but now BJP has made significant change in the lives of the people here.

"Prime Minister's special developmental initiatives have transformed Gurez. Very important road net-



BJP candidate for Gurez Faqir Mohd Khan filling nomination paper.

work has been laid in all parts of the valley. Many development initia-

tives have been taken and in the days to come Gurez will see more development envisioned by BJP", said Dr Andrabi.

"BJP has a clear developmental vision while as the dynastic parties are only selling hollow slogans and showing the people the castles in air as they did for exploiting people for votes for decades", said Andrabi.

She said that these elections provide us a chance to choose honest and dedicated representatives so that the corrupt dynasts are shown the door out.

BJP to start 'Rath Yatra' Campaign, assigns duties to leaders

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To take forward its campaign, the BJP has appointed leaders to manage the 'Rath Yatra' Campaign of the party for the upcoming Assembly elections.

Narinder Singh will be Incharge of the Rath Yatra' Campaign, while Lt. Col. (Retd) DV Sharma, will be the Co-Incharge. Balvinder Singh, Sub.

(Retd) Kamal Netar, and Jatinder Singh have also been appointed as Co-Incharges.

These appointments aim to ensure a well-organized and impactful election campaign by 'Rath Yatra' which will be a key part of BJP's outreach to the public and making the people aware about party's manifesto.

Should not those who change loyalties overnight for power sharing/self benefits be outrightly rejected by voter citizen?

Voter's belief in Multiparty Democratic System is weakening with MPs/MLAs frequently Shifting Loyalties

■ DAYA SAGAR

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (Chairman of the Constituent Assembly's Drafting Committee) in his concluding remarks while speaking in the Constituent Assembly on Constitution on November 25, 1949 among other things had said (< ""Indeed, if I may say so, if things go wrong under the new Constitution, the reason will not be that we had a bad Constitution. What we will have to say is, that Man was vile....""Independence is no doubt a matter of joy. But let us not forget that this independence has thrown on us great responsibilities. By independence, we have lost the excuse of blaming the British for anything going wrong. If hereafter things go wrong, we will have nobody to blame except ourselves. There is a great danger of things going wrong.">". Indians need to introspect how they have so far held to the democratic values enshrined in Constitution of India & ofcourse also as individual units of the Indian democracy.

Indians adopted to self a democratic multiparty system of parliamentary democracy enshrined in a well debated & discussed world's heaviest written constitution but he also feared that in case those who will be conducting the democratic system if care more for

their self it may lead towards a bad course for the people of India. In the electoral system that India has adopted the rulers change atleast every 5 years and the political affairs this day do reflect that the political leaders care more for remaining in the power seat than for the good of the common voter citizen.

In the political culture that is growing today the politicians very frequently change the loyalties, may be even thrice in a term. More people are found changing the associations / parties more during election days and bargain for tickets.

Leaders change loyalties, they change ideologies and they even change emotional ethics but still "carry" the confidence that their followers are not disturbed with their changing styles and will still vote for them. It is so unfortunate that such 'leaders' appear so firmly believe that their followers do not have any ideology of their own and would go with the 'turncoat' leaders as bonded 'voter'. In most of the cases the 'turncoat' leaders succeed making any analyst to believe that their followers are not aware of the power of their vote & responsibility towards preserving , protecting and defending the democratic values enshrined in the constitution of India .

It would not be wrong to say that some people these days appear voting only keeping in mind for whom to vote and not for what to vote which is unfortunate for preserving the democratic values of our system India observed 25th January2024 as India's 14th National Voters' Day (observed/ celebrated to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India, i.e. 25th January 1950.). In a function organized by Election commission of India in Delhi H o n ' b l e President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu was the the Chief Guest with NVD 2024 theme as - 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For sure' and a short voter awareness film - 'My Vote My Duty' produced by ECI was also screened focusing on evoking the spirit of democracy and the power of one vote.

The National Voters' Day(NVD) was first celebrated by the Smt. Pratibha Devi Patil, the then President of India on 25th January 2011 (63rd foundation day of Election Commission of India) with the objective of increasing voter enrolment focusing specially on new voters. On the 1st National Voters'

day the newly enrolled electors were given a badge with the slogan "Proud to be a Voter-Ready to Vote" and were administered a pledge that goes : "We, the citizens of India, having abiding faith in democracy, hereby pledge to uphold the democratic traditions of our country and the dignity of free, fair and peaceful elections, and to vote in every election fearlessly and without being influenced by considerations of religion, race, caste, community, language or any inducement". As a part of the run-up to NVD, the Election Commission has been running a comprehensive Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign to attract and educate voters across the country, especially the youth and the women.

So, Before we take on the subject further let us refresh our information that NVD is being celebrated with the objective of making the electoral process more effective, making democratic governments to be installed in India more concerning and above all improving the awareness & sensitivity in generations like Theme NVD "2013- -Inclusion. Theme-2014 - Ethical



A Look through the Mist PART-I

Voting. NVD Theme 2015: "Easy Registration, Easy Correction Theme 2016: "Inclusive and qualitative participation "Theme 2017: "Empowering Young and Future Voters "Theme 2018: "Assessable Elections" Theme 2019: "No Voter to be left behind" " Theme 2020: "Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy" Theme 2021: "Making Our Voters Empowered, Vigilant, Safe and Informed" Theme 2022 NVD ""Making elections Inclusive, Accessible and Participative", and Theme VBD 2023 has been 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure'.

Surely work has been done but so far it has been on ground more particularly for increasing voter registration and participation numbers but as regards awareness & duty for upholding the democratic traditions & voting without being influenced by considerations of religion, race, caste, community, language or any inducement what has been the achievement needs serious introspection particularly by Election Commission of India w.r.t to themes like 2014 "Ethical Voting", 2016: "Inclusive and qualitative participation " 2020: "Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy," 2021: "Making Our Voters Empowered, Vigilant, Safe and Informed"".

There is must need for making the voter citizen to and also the vote seeker too introspect how far the franchise is being cast in terms of the Pledge taken on 1st NVD and to introspect how far Vote seeker have been able to provide to the Voter Citizen environment worth voting in election fearlessly and without being influenced by considerations of religion, race, caste, community, language, any emotional inducement or material allurements.

And ofcourse the law makers and the Election Commission of India must earnestly deliberate on the procedures , rules and the checks installed for achieving the objectives the elders had kept in view for the people of sovereign democratic republic of India.

Should not those who change loyalties overnight for power sharing / self benefits be outrightly rejected by voter citizen in case they change loyalties when outside power or a few months before elections ?.

We in India are celebrating National Voters Day (NVD) every 25th Jan since 2011 , Election Commission of India must set the theme for NVD 2025 for voter education on similar lines.

(The writer is Sr Journalist / Analyst Jammu & Kashmir Affairs)