

# Congress in dilemma whether to support or oppose Art 370: Dr Jitendra

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh on Friday said that Congress is in a dilemma in J&K Assembly Elections whether to support or oppose Article 370. They are supporting the abrogation in Jammu, opposing the same in Kashmir, he said.

Dr. Jitendra was addressing 'DD Conclave' organised by Doordarshan News here.

Dr. Jitendra said, the congress party should be clear in its stand on the abrogation of Article 370 as this was the most misused constitutional provision that gave nothing to



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh in an exclusive interview during "DD News Conclave" at Srinagar.

the people of Jammu & Kashmir but its revival is still manufactured by certain political parties in the Assembly elections for their vested interests. Article 370 is gone and gone forever, Dr. Singh emphasised.

Dr. Jitendra said, these Assembly Elections are important in many respects as many segments of J&K population would be able to vote for the first time like the people of Valmiki Samaj & West Pakistan Refugees. Their

political representation is witness to the fact that under PM Modi, every citizen of this country must be brought into the political mainstream without any discrimination, Dr. Singh stressed.

On the Assembly Elections in J&K, Dr. Jitendra said, the 8% mandate to the previous political representatives is gone, now the election contest has become stronger in J&K as people come out in large numbers to elect their representatives that was seen in the recently held parliamentary elections.

On the Self-Rule of PDP and Autonomy of JKNC, Dr.

Jitendra said, Self-Rule of PDP was nothing but was a 'self' of the PDP family and Autonomy of JKNC was to make a single family autonomous and sovereign so that their vested interests are met at the cost of J&K.

On the meeting of Rahul Gandhi & US Congresswoman, Ilhan Omar, Dr. Singh said, since Congress has lost its relevance in India, now this party is going abroad to harm the image of India but the mature statesmanship of BJP won't let this happen as for us the Country comes first and the Party last.



# Sham Sharma dubs Congress-NC power hungry, opportunist parties

Promises to develop Jammu North as modern constituency

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and party nominee for Jammu North Constituency, Sham Lal Sharma on Friday said that BJP is the need of the hour for strengthening sustained peace, development and overall security scenario in Jammu Kashmir.

Maintaining that Jammu Kashmir is a very sensitive on security point of view that has witnessed long period of militancy and uncertainty, Sham Sharma stressed that upcoming elections will rewrite the future of the coming generations.

He said the BJP has taken several steps to curb the terrorism and subversive activities in Jammu and Kashmir for the past over one decade that helped restoration of complete peace and normalcy. The overall scenario has substantially changed on ground after the abrogation of Article 370, he asserted.

Addressing public meetings in different wards of Jammu North constituency, Sharma said that those responsible for destruction of Jammu and Kashmir are again trying to grab power by making false promises, propaganda and misleading the people.



Senior BJP leader, Sham Lal Sharma addressing public meeting.

He cautioned the people against these opportunist and anti-national parties and said that they have a very dangerous game plan and intend to bring back the previous position and wash out the peace initiatives of the Central Government.

He called for thwarting the attempts of these anti-national forces and giving a befitting reply in the elections. Lauding the visionary leadership and holistic approach of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Home Minister, Amit Shah for tactfully handling the situation of this trouble torn part of the country, Sharma said that steps taken for the past over one decade have yielded positive results on ground. Now there is no curfew, no

harmful, no separatists' calendar, no closure of institutions, no restrictions for the public, and every activity is normal in Kashmir valley.

This is all because of the serious and relentless efforts of the Central Government. People don't afford to see the shadow of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir again, and this can only be possible, if these (Congress-NC-PDP), supporters of militancy and separatism are kept away from the power, he maintained.

Promising better amenities and services in Jammu North constituency, Sharma said that he will focus on developing the constituency on modern lines and upgrade the existing infrastructure to improve the efficacy of essential services like drinking water, power supply, road connectivity and health services, which are basic needs of common people. He said administration will be toned up and every government functionary will be made accountable for their job. All public welfare schemes will be implemented in letter and spirit on ground to ensure that their benefits percolate down to the needy sections of the society.

Urging the people to extend whole-hearted support to BJP in the upcoming elections, Sharma said that there is a strong wave of BJP in the entire Jammu and Kashmir, and there will be a BJP led government this time. He also called upon the party cadre to launch a micro level campaign by involving every voter to seek their support in the elections.

Those present in the meetings included Ex Rajya Sabha MP Shamsher Singh Manhas, Mandal President Suresh Khajuria, Ex District President Sukhdev Singh, Corporators, Kuldeep Singh, Rekha Manhas, Ashok Singh, Zorawar Singh, Surinder Singh Gilly and others.

# Will bring law to ensure security of jobs, land for J&K residents: Azad

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Former Chief Minister and Chairman DPAP, Ghulam Nabi Azad, on Friday asserted his commitment to protect the rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir by introducing a law in the Assembly that would ensure the security of jobs and land for the residents of the region.

"If elected to power we will bring a law where, no outsider would be allowed to buy land or secure jobs in J&K thereby preserving the rights and opportunities for the local people", Azad said while addressing three public gatherings in South Kashmir's Dooru, Qazigund and Devsar.

He said, in Parliament he had fought against the revocation of Article 370 and statehood.

However, he expressed disappointment with the current government, stating that nothing can be expected from them regarding these issues.

"People are suffering here," he said and stressed the need for immediate action to address the challenges faced by the local people.

He assured that if his party comes to power, the first priority would be to provide free electricity to the poor and waive off electricity bills for those who cannot afford to pay.

He also stressed the need to create jobs in various departments to tackle the growing unemployment crisis. "My aim is to uplift the weaker sections," he said, highlighting the dire conditions in rural areas.

"It pains me to see the condition in



Chairman DPAP, Ghulam Nabi Azad addressing rally at South Kashmir.

rural areas where the people are still without water, electricity, and proper roads. As Chief Minister, I tried my best to bring a revolution in development, but two and a half years were not enough. My government couldn't survive long. Now, I need a chance to complete those projects, which were my dream. I want to build roads to every village and alleviate the suffering of the people", he said.

Azad also voiced concern over the loss of many young lives due to the ongoing conflict and the rising trend of drug abuse, which he linked to the lack of employment opportunities.

"It is sad to see our youth turning to drugs, but we must first provide jobs to them," he said urged the people not to be swayed by false slogans and empty promises.

"We need to focus on real development. We should not work for anything but the betterment of our state," Azad stated while reiterating his commitment to creating jobs, improving infrastructure, and fostering peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

He asked the people to remain cautious of parties that raise false slogans to exploit the poor.

"These parties are doing politics for power, but my politics is to uplift the poor. No one is talking about development except my party", Azad said and recalled his party's efforts to fight against the land eviction order.

"We stopped the bulldozers", he added.

Azad promised to bring back the Roshni Scheme, a policy aimed at benefiting the poor by providing them access to land.

He underscored his focus on real, tangible development, saying, "We need more districts, tehsils, hospitals, roads, schools, and jobs. That is our only priority."

Among others present on the occasion included Mohd Amin Bhatt, Salman Nizami, Sofia Azad, Adv Saleem Parray, Bilal Deva and others.

# Excise Dept conducts raids on Brick Kilns at Nowvothoo-Anantnag



**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
ANANTNAG: On the directions of the Excise Commissioner, Subash Chander Chibber and under the supervision of Dy. Excise Commissioner Executive Kashmir, Tazayun Mukhtar, the Excise Range South Kashmir on Friday conducted a series of raids at brick kilns located in Village Nowvothoo of District Anantnag.

During the raid, the team uncovered 20 litres of Lahan adjacent to one of the brick kilns. The said Lahan was kept hidden and was destroyed on spot by the Excise Team.

The illicit substance was immediately destroyed on the spot. The owners of the brick

kilns were duly informed about the severe legal repercussions associated with illicit distillation.

In addition to the enforcement action, the senior citizens of the locality were sensitized regarding the social and health hazards of illicit liquor. They were urged to report if any such illegal activities happen in their area to the officials of the Excise Department promptly. This operation underscores the commitment of the Excise Department to curb the illegal production and distribution of illicit liquor in the region. Further actions will continue to be taken to ensure compliance with the law and to protect public health and safety.

# Yudhvir intensifies poll campaign, promises to make Jammu East a Model Constituency

Highlights BJP's commitment to good governance, transparency, development

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and contesting candidate from Jammu East Assembly segment, Yudhvir Sethi, has intensified his election campaign ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections.

Known for his proactive approach in addressing public grievances, Yudhvir Sethi on Friday held a series of meetings across various wards in the constituency, engaging with the people and discussing their concerns. Earlier, he conducted door to door meetings at KL Sehgal Chowk, Ward No 3 and Near Gulshan Naan Ward No. 1; public meetings at Jagti Ward No 6, Jagdamba Jagti Ward No. 2, Bajalta and many other localities in East constituency. He also warmly welcomed by the traders of Lakhmeta Bazaar and assured full support to him in the upcoming polls.

During these meetings, Yudhvir Sethi highlighted



Senior BJP leader and contesting candidate from Jammu East Assembly segment, Yudhvir Sethi with others.

key initiatives undertaken by the Modi Government in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasizing the abrogation of Article 370, which has opened new avenues for development and integration of J&K with the rest of India. He also discussed the implementation of various Central Government schemes that have directly benefited the people, including Ayushman Bharat, PM Awas Yojana, and the recent industrial policy that promises to generate employment opportunities for the youth.

Sethi also underlined the BJP's commitment to good governance, transparency, and development. He praised the party's focus on infrastructure development, strengthening local governance, and improving public services. "The BJP has always been at the forefront of bringing change, and our policies reflect the aspirations of the people," he said.

Widely regarded as a people's favorite leader, Yudhvir Sethi has always been at the

forefront in addressing local issues, from improving civic amenities to resolving public concerns swiftly. His hands-on approach and constant presence among the people have earned him widespread admiration.

In his address, Yudhvir Sethi appealed to the people of Jammu East to vote for him in the upcoming Assembly polls, promising to continue his work towards the overall development of East constituency. "I seek your support to take our constituency to new heights of progress. With your trust and votes, I promise to bring more development, create more jobs for the youth, and ensure Jammu East remains a model constituency for the entire state," he said.

The meetings saw enthusiastic participation, as supporters and voters expressed their confidence in Sethi's leadership and his ability to deliver on his promises.

# J&K Cong issues show-cause notices to party leaders who filed nominations as Independents

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: The Congress in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday issued show-cause notices to several party leaders for breach of alliance unity after they filed nominations as Independent candidates for the assembly elections in the Union territory.

J-K Congress has taken notice of the breach of alliance unity by various party leaders, a spokesperson of the unit said.

He said the party has sought explanations from these leaders within three days, failing which strict disciplinary action would be initiated against them.

Many Congress leaders, including Ganderbal district President Sahil Farooq, have entered the poll fray as Independent candidates after the party announced a seat-sharing arrangement with the National Conference (NC).

Farooq is contesting from the Ganderbal assembly segment against NC vice-president Omar Abdullah.

**Truck falls into deep gorge in Doda, 2 dead**

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: Two people were killed on Friday, when a truck skidded off the road and rolled down into 250-foot gorge in Doda district, officials said.

A truck, which on its way to Doda to Kishtwar, met with an accident near Mahlori area, they said.

The truck skidded off the road and fell into a 250-foot gorge. Two people, including the truck driver, were killed in the accident, police said.

The deceased have been identified as Amir and Asif, they said.

# LG visits Chotay Taray Foundation Centre in Srinagar



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha interacting with hotay Taray Foundation Centre office bearers.

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday visited Chotay Taray Foundation Centre at Bemina, Srinagar. During his visit, the Lt Governor met with the children with special needs. The Lt Governor toured the facility and interacted with office bearers of the foundation. He

appreciated the members associated with the Chotay Taray Foundation for their endeavours for the education, speech therapy, development and welfare of the children with special needs. Arjumand Makhdoomi, Founder President and other members of the Foundation were present on the occasion.

# NC-Cong brought gun culture in Kashmir, promoted terrorism & separatism: BJP

'J&K is of Modi & will remain so'

**■ STATE TIMES NEWS**  
JAMMU: The J&K BJP Chief Spokesperson, Sunil Sethi accompanied by J&K BJP Spokesperson, Arun Kumar Gupta (media center Incharge), on Friday said that NC and Congress brought 'gun culture' in Kashmir and promoted separatism and terrorism and now these 2 parties have again come together to bring destruction here.

"J&K is of PM Modi and will continue to remain so," said Sethi while addressing a press conference at BJP media centre, here today. J&K BJP Spokesperson Abhijeet Jasrotia and BJP media Incharge, Dr Pardeep Mahotra were also present on the occasion.

"In these elections, only BJP is talking of development, peace and



J&K BJP Chief Spokesperson, Sunil Sethi talking to reporters.

welfare of the people," Sethi said, and added, "Other parties like NC, Cong and PDP are only talking about bringing back Article 370 and revive terrorism and separatism".

Sethi said that NC, Cong and PDP have no development programme for the people of J&K. "There is race among these 3 parties as to who abuses BJP the more and who gives more anti-national statements," Sethi said.

"PM Modi Established peace here and ensured all round development and he has a vision and roadmap to make J&K the most developed State of the country", Sethi said.

Sethi said, "Kashmir is of Modi and will remain so (Kashmir Modi

ka hai aur rahega)". He said NC, Cong and PDP are united on one thing that is to talk against BJP but BJP is talking about development and peace.

"There was a time when Yasin Malik used to have lunch in former PM Manmohan Singh's residence," he said and added, "BJP adopted zero tolerance policy against terrorism and established peace".

"BJP is the only target of NC, Cong and PDP," he said and added, "BJP is lion and these 3 parties put together can't fight with it".

Sethi also said that BJP has nothing to do with Er Rashid. Sethi also said that Indian Constitution will be strengthened in J&K in the coming days and all its provisions will be fully implemented here. "BJP will form next government in J&K," he said.

Arun Kumar Gupta said, "Will anyone in the three families talk about development? Does Jammu and Kashmir need only terrorism or development? BJP talks about doing all the work in its manifesto, why don't other parties say so? We can say with full strength that BJP is the only party which talks about development when it comes into the electoral process. A question to other parties - what is your agenda for development? Will you tell the people? Enough of terrorism in the last twenty-three years, now talk about development."

Bharatiya Janata Party only talks about development. We believe that the main work of political parties is to solve the problems of the people and work for the progress and welfare of the people. But these political parties only talk against BJP and the country. Our commitment to development is completely firm, we can go to any extent for the people.