

Congress, NC spread misgivings about BJP to polarise votes: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDHAL: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said here today that Congress and National Conference (NC) are spreading misgivings about Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in a bid to polarise the votes on communal lines.

Addressing a series of meetings in the Budhal Assembly constituency of district Rajouri, Dr Jitendra Singh said, BJP government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the only political party which has sought to give a governance based on justice and fair deal to each section of society regardless of caste, creed or even vote bank consideration. However, he said, this is something which does not fit into the scheme of things of Congress and its allies like the National Conference who have over the last six decades managed to get votes by provoking one community against the other; Hindus against Muslims and Muslims against Hindus.

Speaking to a crowd consisting a mix of Hindus and Muslims, Dr Jitendra Singh cited his own example and



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing a BJP election public meeting in Budhal Assembly constituency of district Rajouri on Friday.

said, he has been consequently elected thrice from a Lok Sabha Constituency which comprises more than 35% of Muslim votes and his successive three victories with decisive margin were possible because the people residing there are convinced about the fair play and equitable treatment meted out to them.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, Congress and National Conference always tried to create a fear psychosis against BJP in certain sections of society but this trick will not work any more. Citing his experience as Incharge of the

North East, he recalled that when he was first sent to North East in 2014, all kinds of misinformation and misgivings were spread about BJP and people of different communities were very apprehensive about the treatment they would be getting under the Modi government. But, he said, very soon they realised that the propaganda spread by Congress and its allies was only designed to keep them away from BJP; and very soon when they got to understand the truth they rejected the Congress and its allied parties, as a result of which today, out

of eight North Eastern States, seven States are having BJP-led governments.

Dr Jitendra Singh asked the crowd if there was any discrimination in the distribution of the welfare scheme benefits by the Modi government, whether it be the construction of pucca houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna or delivery of gas cylinder under PM Ujjawala scheme. He asked, was any household denied of these benefits because it belonged to a particular religion or did the officials distributing these benefits asked about the religion of

the household. In response, the entire crowd in a single voice loudly said "No-No". At the same time, he said, while distributing these benefits nobody asked whether the household voted for BJP or not and even though in this constituency of Budhal, the last MLA did not belong to BJP but the benefits received by the people here are the same as the other constituencies represented by BJP MLAs.

This, said Dr Jitendra Singh, is the difference between the BJP dispensation and other parties. He said, it is the Congress culture that even if they had to lay down the drinking water pipes, they would abandon the colony which had not voted for them.

Appealing for a vote for the BJP Candidate, Choudhary Zulfiqar, Dr Jitendra Singh said, a vote for BJP is not only for a political party but it is a vote for governance based on justice and fairplay under Prime Minister Modi which is essential for the bright future of our children and for ensuring equal opportunities to the youth regardless of their background.



Nadda to hold Roadshow in support of Yudhvir Sethi in Jammu East on Sep 22

Yudhvir intensifies Door-to-Door Campaign ahead of Assembly Polls

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and contesting candidate for Jammu East constituency, Yudhvir Sethi today ramped up his door-to-door campaign, reaching out to residents and conducting several public meetings across the constituency. With the Assembly elections fast approaching, Sethi is leaving no stone unturned to connect with voters and present the BJP's vision for the development of Jammu East.

During his interactions, Yudhvir Sethi listened to the concerns of local residents, assuring them of swift action on key issues such as infrastructure development, youth employment, and improved civic amenities. He emphasized the importance of strong governance and the BJP's commitment to fulfilling the aspirations of the people of Jammu.

"Our focus is on transforming Jammu East into a model constituency. The BJP's developmental agenda, coupled with Prime Minister Modi's vision for a



BJP contesting candidate for Jammu East constituency, Yudhvir Sethi carrying out door-to-door campaign.

prosperous Jammu & Kashmir, will bring unprecedented progress to the region," Sethi stated during his campaign stops.

In a major show of strength, Union Minister for Health and Star Campaigner of BJP, J.P. Nadda, is scheduled to conduct a grand roadshow in support of Yudhvir Sethi on September 22. The roadshow is expected to draw large crowds and showcase the growing momentum behind Sethi's candidacy. The upcoming roadshow is set to energize the campaign further and consolidate the

BJP's standing in the constituency, he added.

He appealed to the people of Jammu East to participate in the roadshow and make it a grand success.

Yudhvir Sethi urged the people of Jammu East to vote decisively for him and BJP with an aim to ensure continued development and a prosperous future. "I appeal to every voter of Jammu East to support me in this crucial election. Your vote will pave the way for stronger infrastructure, better opportunities, and a brighter future for our children," he added.

Cong's hatred against SCs, STs, OBCs came to fore after Rahul Gandhi's statement: BJP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The BJP SC Morecha National General Secretary, Sanjay Nirmal, on Friday said that Congress, since independence, has always been against the SCs, STs and OBCs and it did not even give due respect to architect of Indian Constitution, BR Ambedkar.

"The Cong's hatred against SCs, STs and OBCs has again come to fore after Rahul Gandhi, on foreign soil, said that they will scrap reservation of the SCs and other backward communities," Nirmal said, while addressing a press conference at BJP media center, here today.

BJP's State SC Morecha General Secretary, Adarsh Jathiar and Media In-charge, Dr. Pradeep Mahotra, were



BJP SC Morecha National Gen Secy. Sanjay Nirmal talking to reporters.

also present in the press conference.

Nirmal said that Cong hatched conspiracy in 1952 and 54 elections to make sure that the architect of Indian Constitution, BR Ambedkar does not enter the Parliament. "This shows anti-SC, ST and anti OBC stand of the Cong," he said.

Cong has no respect for the constitution, he said, adding, "It used Article

356 for 90 times to topple opposition govts". Is this the respect, Congress has for constitution?, Nirmal questioned.

Modi Govt amended Indian constitution 8 times and that only for the welfare and upliftment of SCs, STs, OBCs and other backward classes, he said and added that Congress made numerous amendments for their political benefits.

After 2014, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, not only was the spirit of the Indian Constitution upheld, but the principles of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar was also respected, making the welfare of weaker sections of society a priority, he said.

"NC-Cong are planning to snatch reservation of SCs, STs and OBCs but people will teach them a lesson in these elections as they have realized that only BJP can take care of their interests," he said.

Nirmal said that Congress and National Conference enforced Articles 370 and 35A through the backdoor in Jammu and Kashmir: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, by revoking these, ensured the rights of the weaker sections, he said.

Sham hails high voter turnout in Kashmir: A New Era for Jammu Kashmir Democracy

BJP leader credits peaceful elections to PM Modi's leadership, urges voters to reject dynastic parties

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Expressing satisfaction and happiness over the brisk polling percentage in the first phase of elections, senior BJP leader and party candidate for Jammu North constituency, Sham Lal Sharma has said that the current elections will write a new chapter in the history of Jammu Kashmir: The higher poll percentage, particularly in Kashmir Valley is a healthy sign of stronger democracy and it could be possible with the hard and serious efforts of the BJP Government headed by Pradhan Mantri, Narendra Modi in Centre, Sham asserted.

Addressing a series of public gatherings in Jammu North segment, Sham said that top leadership of National Conference (NC), Congress and PDP are desperate to see the high percentage and peaceful polling in Kashmir valley for the first time after the three long decades of militancy. Earlier, the elections were being held under the shadow of militancy in Kashmir; without any enthusiasm and dismal involvement of people and only selected people and agents of NC, Congress and PDP used to cast their votes with a symbolic percentage and representatives were being elected even with 5 to 10 percent polling. The elec-



BJP candidate for Jammu North constituency, Sham Lal Sharma addressing public meeting.

tions were marred with blasts, threats and violence, but it is for the first time after the eruption of militancy that the polls have been held in a very peaceful and cordial atmosphere and without any incident of violence in any party of Jammu Kashmir, Sharma observed.

Sham said that those who were shedding the tears of crocodile after the abrogation of Art-370 from Jammu Kashmir and saying that there will be bloodshed and no one would pick the national flag in Kashmir must have got the appropriate answer of their questions after witnessing the huge participation of voters in the election. This is also an acknowledgement of people in favour of abrogation of Article 370, which was used as a tool to befool the Kashmiri people. The higher poll percentage could be a sign of danger for these parties as the mood of the voters has been totally changed

in the Valley and they have locked the destiny of representatives of their choice without any fear and threat, he added.

Holding fully responsible to NC, Congress and PDP for the bloodshed in Kashmir during the past over three decades, Sham said that these parties misled the people and only made false promises and hollow slogans in the name of so-called Self Rule and Autonomy in Jammu Kashmir: Instead of working for the welfare of people and providing justice to the needy, they supported the pro-Pak agenda, anti-national forces, promoted separatism, communalism and incited peoples' sentiments against India.

The people of Jammu Kashmir, particularly from the Valley have suffered a lot, witnessed long spells of hartals, closure of educational institutions for months together which spoiled the future of thousands of young children and shattered

the economy. Now, after the abrogation of Article 370, the entire situation has substantially been changed, people are leading a peaceful life, developmental activities are going apace normally, educational institutions are functioning normally, tourist flow has increased many-fold and there is no takers for the hollow slogans and false promises of the parties any more.

Now the people have understood the reality of NC, Congress and PDP who are again talking about restoration of Article 370 and bringing back the era of militancy, but they will not succeed in their design and people will defeat them badly in the current elections, Sham asserted.

Urging the people to reject these dynastic parties in the current elections for misusing the power and playing with the sentiments of voters for decades together; Sham sought wholehearted support for BJP to form the next government for a strong, secured and prosperous Jammu Kashmir.

Those who spoke and present in the meetings included Mandal Adhyakshs Ravish Mengi, Suresh Khajuria, Ex Corporators Yashpal Sharma, Subhash Sharma, Er Dilbahadur Singh, Zorawar Singh.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: JKPC Working President and Congress contesting candidate from RS Pura Jammu South constituency Raman Bhalla on Friday accused the BJP of putting the Union Territory's interests and development "subservient to the pleasure of its vested interests".

This was stated by him while addressing election gathering at Rangpur Sidhra, Tinda Kalan, RS Pura Ward-10, Bandhu Rakh, Gandha, Mehsian in RS Pura Jammu South constituency.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhalla said the "lack of cohesion and vision" has made the people of Jammu and Kashmir suffer on the development front.

He dared BJP leadership to list its achievements with regard to fulfilling the developmental needs of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Despite being in power at the Centre and in Jammu and Kashmir, the party has failed miserably when it comes to governance and let Jammu and Kashmir down on all fronts," he said, adding that the BJP has nothing to showcase as its achievement.

"We will keep pursuing and highlighting every issue, major or minor, to see Jammu and Kashmir



JKPCC candidate, Raman Bhalla addressing public meeting.

progress and prosper, notwithstanding the odds," the Congress leader said, adding that the support, cooperation and feedback of people will be useful for the party to get their grievances addressed timely and properly.

Bhalla reminded the BJP of the massive 2014 Jammu mandate for development and welfare and said that instead of doing a little bit in this regard they pushed the entire region to the wall. The developmental machinery came to a grinding halt and the utility services suffered major jolt due to the self-centred approach of the BJP leaders.

Referring to the issues confronting to RS Pura constituency, Bhalla said if chosen representative of the people, he would pursue all those connected with development

for giving push to the schemes and projects aimed at overall development and welfare of various areas and different segments of society.

Bhalla called upon the youth to become agents of change and said that J&K is passing through very difficult times where on one hand the youth of the state are being pushed against the wall and on the other hand a conspiracy is being hatched to vitiate communal harmony in the state and it is the youth who have an important and a valuable role to play in addressing some of the most significant and inter related challenges faced by the people.

He hoped the people have not forgotten the BJP duplicity while expressing confidence that they will put their decisive decision on the day of reckoning.

This was discernible by the mood prevailing during Parliament elections, he said, adding that this has set a tone for the entire electoral process. "In fact, the present dispensation has lost the will to govern", he said, adding that the slogan of development is just a façade, as the major concern of the insensitive govt is how to remain glued to power.

He said that the government has lost trust and confidence of the people, who are highly dejected due to misgovernance, nepotism, favouritism and lack of development. He said the present dispensation is scripting a very sad saga of reversing the process of development and pushing J&K to backwards. He slammed Govt for its insensitivity towards the multitude of problems facing people.

With elected popular government in sight distantly placed J&K subjects atleast now hope for administrative & legislative rationalization

■ DAYA SAGAR

Union Minister and senior BJP leader Dr Jitendra Singh had on 7th April 2024 while addressing a public meeting in Billawar (District Kathua , J&K) opined that Congress 'deliberately' denied district status to Billawar where as some areas with lesser geographical spread and smaller population were given district status. No doubt the reorganization of district administrative units had remained under question mark right since 1979 when so irrationally the 3 districts (Anantnag, Srinagar, Baramulla) were split (Sh. Sheikh Mohd Abdullah lead NC Government (SRO 306 of 6/6/1979) into 6 districts (Anantnag, Pulwama, Srinagar, Badgam,

Baramulla, Kupwara) where as the then already existing 6 districts (Jammu, Kathua, Udhampur, Doda, Rajouri, Poonch) which had much larger geographical spread / larger populated area / bad terrain & connectivity were not split further. Not only that Js. Wazir Commission (1981) had in 1984 recommended that 3 more districts be carved out in Jammu Division taking the number from 6 to 9 and districts in Valley could be increased from 6 to 7. The Wazir commission recommendations were not implemented but instead it was in 2007 that the then PDP- Congress Government in J&K (vide SRO 185 of 22 May 2007 lead by Sh. Ghulam Nabi Azad) so irrationally dismantling even the recommendations

that Wazir Commission had made after 3 yr study in 1984 so abruptly created 4 more districts in Valley (as against only 1 recommended by Wazir Commission i.e 300 % more) making total 10 districts in Valley and in Jammu division also created only 4 more districts (as against 3 already recommended by Wazir commission i.e just 33 % more) making total as only 10 in Jammu Division also. No doubt where and how new district could be carved out in Jammu Division to the irrational reorganizations done in 1979 (SRO 306 of 6/6/1979) & 2007 (SRO 185 of 22 May 2007) could be decided

after intimate study and may be Billawar too qualifies for HQ of new district (when created) as opined by Dr. Jitendra Singh. Though late, it can be still hoped that he may be working for getting the corrections applied on priority for carving out more districts out of existing districts of Rajouri, Kathua, Udhampur, Doda (before 2007). It is not out of place to quote here that in 2007 Rajouri District was spread over 2630 sq km (Digest of statistics 2007-2008 mentions it as 2727 Sq. km) & already had 7 Tehsils where as a new district like Shopian comprising of



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almost one tehsil and spread over an area of nearly 400 sq km (312 sq km as per 2011 Census / Digest of statistics 2007-2008 says 313 Sq. km where as District website on 16 Jan 2024 mentioned it as 612.87 sq.km). It was in 2017 /18 the people of Nowshera, Sunderbani, Kalakote held demonstrations /candle marches demanding atleast one more new District Administrative Unit for them by reorganizing the existing revenue district of Rajouri and adjoining areas. But the demands even then did not receive adequate attention and support from the political parties for getting a very very genuine demand executed. Some reorganization was done at district levels in 2014 without increasing districts Let

Dr. Jitendra Singh take the requirements further for getting a high power Reorganisation Commission (with private members also) appointed for examining the demands & recasting some more district administrative units in UT of J&K as demanded by the people of the backward areas like that of Bani/Basohli/ Billawar, Nowshera/ Sunderbani/ Kalakot, Akhnoor ; Rajouri, Buddal/Mendar/ Mohore/Gool, Ramnagar; Bhaderwah / Thathri/ Gandoh, Gulabgarh/Paddar, Hiranagar, R.S.Pura; Ramban, Kargil , Zanskar, Lesh , Nubra, Changthang , Sha, Dhahan, Doda, Kishtwar and like

To be continued... (The writer is Sr Journalist and social activist & analyst J&K affairs)