

Rajouri-Poonch deliberately neglected by Congress-NC governments: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KALAKOTE: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said here on Tuesday that Rajouri-Poonch region was deliberately neglected by successive Congress/NC governments in the past as a part of their appeasement policy and Kashmir-centric approach.

Addressing a mammoth rally here on the occasion of filing of nomination paper by BJP candidate Thakur Randhir Singh in the presence of the local Lok Sabha MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, Dr Jitendra Singh said, over the last half a century or so, there has not been a single occasion when the MLAs elected from this region on Congress or NC mandate did not find an important ministerial berth in State government and in spite of this, the region did not get its due, then who is responsible for this.

He said, it is for the ana-



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing a public rally at Kalakote, district Rajouri on Tuesday.

lysts to find out whether it was done deliberately because the Congress or NC MLAs elected from this region preferred to dance to the tune of their Kashmir-centric masters so that their Ministerial berths could be preserved and they could continue enjoying the loaves and fishes of office.

The result of this, said Dr Jitendra Singh, was that this region suffered from

basic amenities like proper road network for as long as till 2014 when Narendra Modi took over as Prime Minister at the centre and an era of equitable development began.

Most of the PMGSY roads and rural connectivity has taken place in the last 10 years, he said. Most strikingly, he said, the national highway being constructed in the region was also initi-

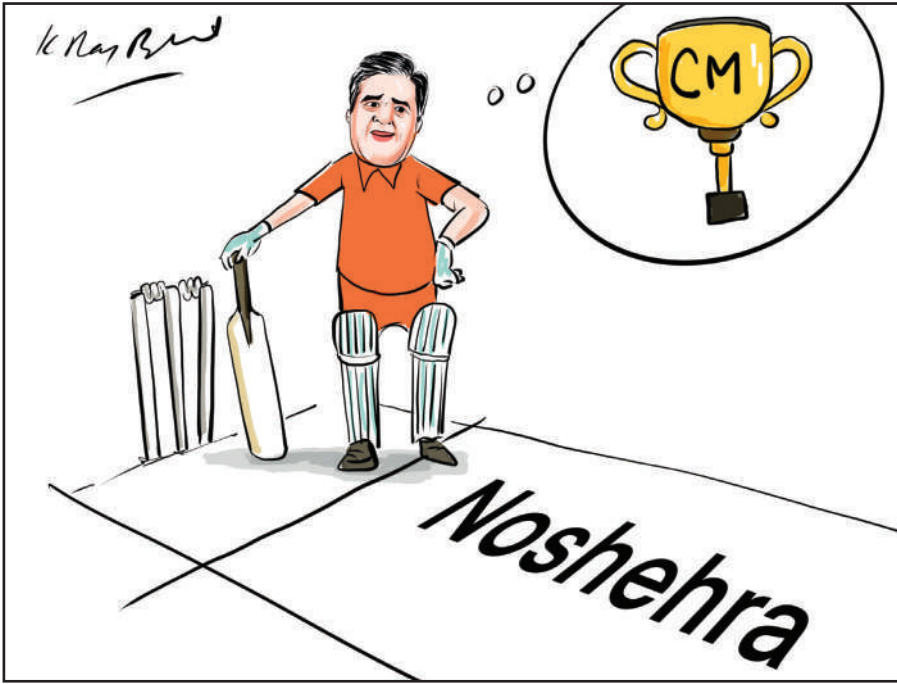
ated and undertaken only after the Modi Government undertook.

Not only this, at the social level, alleged Dr Jitendra, for petty vote bank politics, the Congress and its allies denied equal rights to different sections of society. It is only the Modi government, which not only provided political reservation to Scheduled Tribes but also addressed the legitimate

demands of the Gujjars and Pahadi communities living in the region, who had been reduced to second class citizens by their own elected representatives, he said.

It is only today, said Dr Jitendra, the benefits of Modi's welfare schemes like Ayushman Bharat Insurance Cards, PM Awas Yojna to construct pucca houses and Ujjwala scheme to provide Gas connection to house wives reaching every households regardless of whether the house belongs to Muslim or a Hindu or a Rajput or a Brahmin or a Schedule Tribe.

Dr Singh said, by sending a BJP elected representative from here, we would be able to send the message that this region is a part of the development journey led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and look up to him for undoing the injustice meted out in the past.



J&K Assembly Elections 2024; Sukhnandan says 'Lotus' will blossom in J&K



Senior BJP leader Choudhary Sukhnandan Kumar with others at public meeting in Marh.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Highlighting Congress's failure to secure any seats in Jammu and Kashmir during the last Lok Sabha elections, the Senior BJP leader and former Minister Choudhary Sukhnandan Kumar took the opportunity to critique rival parties, particularly the National Conference (NC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP), stating, "We aren't the party of father and son or mother and daughter that everything will be decided in a closed room."

Ch Sukhnandan Kumar said this while addressing the gathering in Marh constituency, in presence of Chief Guest MLA Ladpura Kota, Rajasthan Kalpana Devi, who is Election Incharge Marh constituency.

Speaking on the occasion, she appreciated the work done by Ch Sukhnandan Kumar in his constituency as MLA and in the entire J&K as Minister for Public Health Engineering,

Irrigation and Flood Control.

Addressing the gathering, Sukhnandan emphasized that BJP leaders are fighting these assembly polls under his directions and guidance of PM Modi.

Targeting Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, Sukhnandan pointed out their recent defeats in the Lok Sabha polls, suggesting that the people of Kashmir have decisively rejected them.

"They will face the same wrath in these elections as well," he warned.

He dismissed the NC-Congress alliance as an "expired election," highlighting Congress's failure to secure any seats in Jammu and Kashmir during the last Lok Sabha elections.

Sukhnandan criticized the NC's manifesto as misleading, pointing out contradictions within the party regarding Article 370.

He remarked, "On one side, Omar Abdullah says they

will bring back Article 370, while on the other, his father claims it won't return for 100 years."

The former BJP minister said that the BJP is contesting the assembly elections on development basis. The people of Jammu and Kashmir will shower their blessings on PM Modi, and the BJP lotus will blossom in the Valley also.

Those who spoke and were present on the occasion include BJP State Secretary Vikas Choudhary, DDC member Marh Balbir Lal, DDC member Phallian Mandal Geetu Aulakh, District Secretary Deepak Pandey, Mandal President BJP and Sarpanch Vikramjeet Singh Manhasa, Sarpanch Parshotam Sharma, Sarpanch Daljeet Singh, Sarpanch Balbir Singh, Sarpanch Narinder Singh, Sarpanch Shiv Salaria, Sarpanch Sham Lal Sharma, Sarpanch Neena Anand, Sarpanch Smt Amarjeet kour, Sarpanch Pooja Devi, Sarpanch Om Parkash Verma, Municipal Committee Ghou Manhasa Chairaman Jatinder Singh, Sarpanch Shama Devi, Sarpanch Deepak Jalotra, Sarpanch Tilak Raj Choudhary, Sarpanch Lal Singh, Sarpanch Om Parkash Verma, Sarpanch Sat Choudhary, Harbans Singh, Kuldeep Singh and prominent residents were also present.

In 2014, Omar offered unconditional support, agreed for full term BJP CM: Rana

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a pin pointed attack on former Chief Minister of J&K, Omar Abdullah, the BJP on Tuesday said that in 2014 Omar met senior most leaders of the BJP and RSS at Delhi and offered unconditional support to BJP for government formation in J&K and also agreed for a full term BJP Chief Minister.

This sharp attack on Omar Abdullah came from none other but a former senior National Conference (NC) leader, Devendra Rana, during a press conference at Jammu today.

Sardar R P Singh, BJP National Spokesperson, Arun Gupta, J&K BJP Spokesperson & BJP War Room Incharge and Dr Pardeep Mahotra, J&K BJP Media Incharge were also present on the occasion.

Rana said that today Omar is saying that all political parties of Kashmir are part of BJP and are close to it where-



Senior NC leader, Devendra Rana addressing a press conference at Jammu on Tuesday.

as the "reality is completely opposite".

Rana said, "Now, you (Omar) are saying that Ram Madhav is close to PDP but the truth is that you repeatedly approached top BJP and RSS leaders for forming government in J&K".

Rana further reminded Omar that he was the union minister in Vajpayee government but today he is saying that NC has nothing to do with BJP.

Rana said, "In 2014, when NC had 15 MLAs, Omar went to Delhi and met senior most

leaders of the BJP and also knocked the doors of RSS leaders including Home Minister Amit Shah and the then J&K Incharge, Ram Madhav and offered unconditional support to the BJP for forming government in J&K".

Omar also agreed for a full term Chief Minister of the BJP in J&K, Rana said.

"I also accompanied Omar that time and he (Omar) offered on the table unconditional support to the BJP for forming government in J&K and also even extended unconditional support for a full term

Chief Minister of the BJP in J&K," Rana said.

Rana said that the BJP, however, rejected the proposal of Omar Abdullah. Rana further said that after this rejection by the BJP, Omar repeatedly kept on approaching the BJP top leadership and also knocked the doors of RSS for government formation in J&K.

"NC wanted to be in power in J&K at any cost," Rana said, while adding that after the death of former Chief Minister, Mufti Mohd Sayeed, Omar Abdullah again started approaching top BJP and RSS leader at Delhi offering unconditional support to the BJP for government forma-

tion in J&K and also agreeing for a full term BJP Chief Minister.

"Farooq Abdullah was at Katra at that time and told Omar Abdullah to meet BJP and RSS leaders at Delhi and offer unconditional support to BJP for forming government in J&K," Rana said, adding, "The BJP rejected NC's offer at that time also"

Rana said that today Omar is saying that all political parties of Kashmir are part of BJP except NC. "NC is just trying to build narrative by saying that NC has nothing to do with BJP," Rana said adding, "rather than fooling people NC should draw future roadmap for the betterment of people."

He also accused NC saying that it talks about releasing jailed stone pelters which shows that NC wants unrest in J&K. "Have they forgotten 2009 and 2010?" Rana questioned.

He also said that BJP will never allow NC to play with sentiments of Hindus as it has mentioned in its manifesto to rename Shankaracharya as Takht-e-Suleman.

BJP will emerge as strongest political force in J&K during these elections: Darakhshan



Senior BJP leader Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi during an election rally.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
PULWAMA: BJP National Executive Member & senior party leader Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Tuesday addressed a youth rally in Rajpora constituency of Pulwama held as a part of the election campaigning for the BJP youth leader & party candidate Arshid Bhat.

The rally was participated by youth in large numbers. Many prominent youth voices of the area joined BJP.

After the joining of the new youth brigade into the party, Arshid Bhat said that the public support and response was truly encouraging and he was sure of making mark during the elections.

Welcoming the new entrants into party, Dr Darakhshan said that Arshid Bhat has won over the people's trust and faith by his social service activities during the past few years. He has a strong support base among the youth. She

appealed to the people to vote for this dynamic young candidate.

"BJP will emerge as the strongest political force in J&K during these elections. The people are fed up with the rhetoric of dynasts and want a change", said Dr Andrabi.

Reacting to the hollow manifestoes and lectures of the dynastic politicians, Dr Andrabi said that they were a desperate lot as they list the grip at the ground level after August 2019.

"These dynasts in tune with separatists, nourished on the bloodshed and disturbing situations for decades and ruled to loot without any accountability but now the situations are altogether different. We can never allow the loot politics to continue in J&K as we are now in the journey for a Viksit Jammu & Kashmir", said BJP National Executive Member.

Yudhvir slams Congress for neglecting rural populace of Majeen, surrounding areas

Says Only BJP can fulfill aspirations of common masses



Senior BJP leader, Yudhvir Sethi addressing public meeting at Majeen.

Congress party did nothing for the welfare of the people in these underserved regions," Sethi stated emphatically. He accused the Congress of ignoring the basic needs and development of Jammu's rural areas while in power.

In stark contrast, Yudhvir Sethi praised the BJP for its relentless efforts in providing essential amenities and implementing welfare schemes. He underscored the achievements of the Modi government, noting that in

just ten years, the BJP-led Central Government has brought about a significant transformation in Jammu and Kashmir. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, we have worked day and night to ensure that every citizen

has access to basic facilities and benefits from welfare schemes," Sethi declared. Emphasizing the high expectations the people of Jammu have from the BJP, the senior BJP leader called on the voters to support BJP in the upcoming Assembly polls. "The people of Jammu have placed their trust in us, and we have delivered on our promises. It is now time to build on these successes and continue the journey of progress and development," he said.

Sethi appealed to the electorate to vote for the BJP, assuring them that the party remains committed to advancing the welfare and prosperity of the region.

JU to celebrate Foundation Day with major milestones and new initiatives

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The University of Jammu is set to mark its Foundation Day with a celebration of significant achievements and the introduction of new initiatives that highlight its dedication to academic excellence, cultural preservation, and innovative education.

Vice Chancellor Prof Umesh Rai shared the University's impressive accomplishments, noting its rise in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF-2024), where it secured the 50th position in the University Category and 23rd among State Public Universities. He also highlighted the Business School's success, ranking 18th in The Week's Government B-School category, solidifying its reputa-

tion as a leading management institution.

In a bid to protect and promote the rich cultural heritage of the Jammu region, Prof Rai introduced "Jammuriyat," a thematic series designed to preserve, celebrate and disseminate local traditions. This initiative not only aims to safeguard Jammu's culture but also to strengthen the University's connection with the community.

Prof Rai also spoke about "Goonj-2024," an initiative aimed at encouraging the holistic development of students through a combination of cultural, sports, and academic activities. He emphasized the impact of the newly implemented Samarth ERP system, poised to enhance efficiency and transparency across the University's



Vice Chancellor Prof Umesh Rai addressing a press conference at Jammu.

administrative processes.

Highlighting the University's collaborative efforts, Prof Rai informed about the partnerships with key organizations such as the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, the FICCI Ladies Organization J&K and Ladakh Chapter, and the Airports Authority of India. These collaborations aim to advance elec-

toral awareness, empower women, and provide students with unique internship opportunities. Additionally, new agreements with BSE Institute Limited and Growbyte IT Providers Pvt. Ltd. will further develop skills in finance and technology.

On the infrastructure front, Prof. Rai noted the completion of several major

projects, including the Innovation Tower, a new facility for the Department of Journalism & Mass Media, and the Madan Mohan Malaviya Teachers' Training Centre. The University has also embraced sustainability, implementing eco-friendly initiatives like the digitization of campus flora, the introduction of e-vehicles,

and the creation of vertical gardens from recycled materials. He also shared the upcoming project of a lecturer hall complex to be constructed in the University.

In the academic arena, the University has launched the "GYANANJALI Journal," a pioneering publication for language scholars. Additionally, the Dhanwantri Library now features a QR Code System to enhance resource accessibility for both students and faculty.

In a significant academic development, Prof Rai announced the upcoming introduction of a range of undergraduate programs under the "Design Your Degree" initiative. This program, aligned with the NEP 2020, offers students the flexibility to tailor their aca-

demic journey according to their interests and career goals.

To commemorate the Foundation Day, the University will also launch its monthly newsletter "Jammu University Times", an initiative of the Media Cell of the University, which will provide updates on the University's activities, achievements, and events, serving as a key resource for the University community.

Others who spoke during the event included Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies who spoke of the path breaking research initiatives, including Research Policy and Research Manual, among others. Prof. Anju Bhasin, Dean Academic Affairs shared the increased integration of technology in the aca-

demies of the University through LMS, Prof. Parkash C. Anthal, Dean Student Welfare acquainted the media about the evolved format of the flagship programme of Display Your Talent taking it to zonal level for more participation by remote colleges Prof. Rahul Gupta, Registrar spoke about the various initiatives and achievements by the University marking its presence in the National Academia.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks from Prof. Garima Gupta, Head, Department of Journalism and Media Studies. Among others present included with Prof. Dushyant Rai, Dr. Suvidha Khanna and Dr. Pradeep Bali. The event was well conducted by Mansi Mantoo Media Officer JU.