

Rahul making provocative statements to revive militancy in J&K: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: In a scathing critique of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh accused Rahul Gandhi of making provocative statements mischievously aimed at reviving militancy in Jammu & Kashmir.

Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, Dr. Jitendra Singh questioned the motive behind Rahul Gandhi's irresponsible observations made at Ramban on the eve of Assembly election during his J&K visit today and lambasted his misleading accusations against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Rahul Gandhi's statements are a deliberate attempt to spread false rhetoric for vested interests which find militancy convenient to continue the Congress's dynastic politics," Dr. Jitendra Singh asserted. He emphasised that the Congress has always been uncomfortable with the flourishing democracy in Kashmir, resorting instead to terror and militancy to limit voter turnout to 8-10 percent, ensuring their unconstitutional mandate for generation after generation.



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing a Press Conference at Srinagar on Wednesday.

Dr. Jitendra Singh hailed Prime Minister Modi for bringing back peace and normalcy to the region, ensuring the safety and development of the common citizens of Jammu & Kashmir. "Rahul Gandhi should thank PM Modi for the peace that now allows him to freely move around and enjoy having 'Kabab' at Srinagar's Residency Road- something that was impossible during the Congress rule," Dr. Jitendra Singh remarked cryptically.

The Union Minister also posed a

critical question to the citizens of Jammu & Kashmir: "Do you want the Congress to push your youth back into the turmoil that plagued the region for three decades, or do you want to be part of the development ushered in by Prime Minister Modi and join the mainstream?"

Dr. Jitendra Singh accused the opposition of harbouring ill-intentions aimed at disturbing the peace and tranquillity of the region, depriving its citizens of their rights and development. He highlighted the

"age-old tricks" of Kashmir-centric politicians, who he said carry three different speech copies-one for Srinagar; another for Jammu, and a different one for Delhi. "These tricks will no longer work. The days of fooling the voter are over," he declared.

He further stated that the return of democracy in Jammu & Kashmir has been harmonious, with no incidents of stone-pelting-an outcome that, according to Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Congress finds difficult to digest. He accused the Congress of facilitating the import of terror from foreign soil for their own vested interests and willing to sacrifice the well-being of Kashmiris to retain political power.

Concluding his remarks, Dr. Jitendra Singh reiterated that the people of Jammu & Kashmir now have a clear choice: to reject the Congress's attempts to drag the region back into chaos or to embrace the peace and progress brought about by the BJP under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. "The Congress can no longer manipulate the people of Kashmir; they have moved on, and so should the Congress," Dr. Jitendra Singh stated emphatically.



Yudhvir visits market representatives, pledges to prioritize traders' concerns

Promises inclusive growth & business-friendly environment for traders of East Constituency

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: In a significant move to strengthen his grassroots connect, senior BJP leader and the party's contesting candidate from the East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi on Wednesday held a series of meetings with representatives of various markets and bazaar associations in East Constituency.

During the interactions, the BJP contesting candidate Yudhvir Sethi met with Ashish Mahajan, President of Kanak Mandi Association; Rajesh Raina, President of Hari Market Association; B.R. Rajwal, President of Lower Jain Bazaar Association; Kulbushan Anand, President of Centre Jain Bazaar Association; Arun Sethi, President of Upper Jain Bazaar Association; Harish Gupta, President of Paeca Danga Association; Chandan Gupta, President of Moti Bazaar Association; and Subash Abrol, President of Mubarak Mandi Association. He sought their collective support for the upcoming Assembly elections, emphasizing the pivotal role these associations play in the economic and cultural fabric of Jammu.

Senior BJP leaders Surinder Sharma, Sanjay Mahey, Hariom Sharma, Arun Sethi, Surinder Anand, Shailesh Gupta,



BJP candidate from East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi meeting with markets, bazaar associations representatives.

Vijay Chopra, Majid Khan, Rahul Gupta and others accompanied with Yudhvir Sethi.

Yudhvir, a dedicated advocate of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a progressive and developed Jammu and Kashmir, assured the market representatives that under BJP's leadership, the region would witness unprecedented growth. He highlighted the achievements of the BJP-led government, particularly in improving infrastructure, ensuring business-friendly policies, and fostering a secure environment for traders and small businesses to thrive.

Sethi said, "Markets are the backbone of our economy, and I believe that the prosperity of our traders is key to the overall development of our region. I seek your support to continue our shared mission of making Jammu a model constituent-

ey under the BJP's leadership. We have already laid the foundation of a New India, and together, we will take Jammu and Kashmir to new heights of development."

Sethi further emphasized the BJP's commitment to addressing the concerns of traders and businessmen, including better road connectivity, uninterrupted power supply, and improving market infrastructure. The market representatives voiced their appreciation for the work done under Sethi's leadership and expressed their willingness to stand by him in the upcoming elections.

Yudhvir Sethi reiterated his promise to ensure that the concerns of traders remain a top priority and that his vision for the East Constituency revolves around inclusive growth, employment opportunities, and creating a business-friendly environment.

Cong - NC will not be allowed to tinker with reservation of SCs, STs, Gujjars, Paharis, OBCs in J&K: Rana

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NAGROTA: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Tuesday said that the BJP will not allow Congress and the National Conference to tinker with the SCs, STs, Gujjars, Paharis and OBCs in Jammu and Kashmir, as both these allies are frustrated over the political empowerment of these communities in J&K, as ensured by the visionary Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi in true spirit of Babasaheb Dr B R Ambedkar's Constitution.

Addressing a well-attended rally, organized by Senior BJP leader Nand Kishore Sharma here, Rana said that under sheer frustration, the National Conference has made its venom against these marginalized segments by brazenly declaring in their manifesto that the reservation guaranteed under Babasaheb's Constitution of India will be reviewed and repealed, inferring that the SCs, STs, OBCs, Gujjars and Pahari youth will be deprived of their legitimate share in jobs, admissions in professional educational institutions and other amenities as enjoyed by the weaker sections across the country.

Devender Rana said the Congress has volunteered to further the NC's agenda against the reserved categories of the society, which is not only



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana at a well-attended rally in Nagrota.

against the spirit of the constitution but also dangerous, aimed at jeopardizing the nation's fight against social injustice. He said the BJP will never allow such sinister designs to succeed and the people of Jammu and Kashmir will give a befitting reply to such divisive machinations during the ongoing assembly elections.

He said the major political initiative post abrogation of Article 370 about empowerment of weaker sections of the society is a sacred mission for the BJP, which is committed

to protect their rights at all costs. He cautioned the NC and the Congress not even to think about marginalization of the SCs, STs, OBCs, Gujjars and Paharis, who have every right to progress and prosper-politically, economically, socially and in every field like education and jobs.

Devender Rana lauded the Senior BJP leader Nand Kishore Sharma for his unflinching commitment in accomplishing the pro-people mission of the party and steering Jammu and Kashmir to peace, progress and prosperity.

Rana assured the audience that Member Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma, Senior leader Nand Kishore Sharma and his self will jointly dedicate ourselves to the betterment of the Nagrota Constituency.

Urging the electors of Nagrota assembly constituency to ensure the victory of the BJP, Nand Kishore Sharma said every vote will strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to accomplish his vision of making Jammu and Kashmir a proud part of the country's growth story that is poised to achieve the distinction of becoming Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Nand Kishore Sharma described the NC-Congress as an unholy alliance, and criticized their mutual agenda of talks with Pakistan while opposing the historic initiatives like abrogation of Article 370, terrorism, supporting separatist tendencies. Though the situation demanded all political parties to speak in one voice over important national issues, especially to foil Pakistan's sinister agenda, the two allies of the INDI Alliance are playing complement and supplement to Pak interests, he added.

Later Rana also addressed meetings in Panchayat Kathar Upper, Kathar Lower and Pounthal.

Everybody is celebrating elections like festival as BJP gave freedom from violence, killings and coercion to people: Darakhshan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: BJP candidate for prestigious Lal Chowk Assembly segment Engineer Aijaz Hussain was accompanied by the BJP National Executive Member & senior party leader Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Wednesday in a mega rally from Balhama to the office of the Returning Officer Srinagar through Lal Chowk in which hundreds of vehicles full of the party supporters participated.

After the culmination of the rally Engineer Aijaz Hussain filled in his nomination papers for Lal Chowk constituency in presence of Dr Andrabi. Speaking to media during the rally Dr Andrabi said that the young leadership of the party has filled our cadres with the enthusiasm and energy.

"BJP has infused fresh & soothing air into the political arena of Kashmir: We don't



BJP candidate for Lal Chowk Er Aijaz Hussain along with senior party leader Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi taking out mega rally.

believe the political rhetoric but have a clear cut agenda of peace and development in J&K", said Dr Andrabi.

She hailed the supporters of Engineer Aijaz Hussain for beginning a very positive impactful campaign and hoped that his candidature will give historical result from the pivotal Lal Chowk Assembly seat.

Andrabi said that J&K is now celebrating the election time like a festival as now we

don't have Curfews of Abdulla's & Muftis, stone pelting & threatening of separatists and we are free of the violence and coercion now.

"PDP, NC & Congress want and speak about the reversal of the correction measures of the country and they dream to land Kashmiris into the old days of destruction and bloodshed again but peace times are now irreversible and they should understand this sooner the better", said Andrabi.

BJP demands 'unconditional apology' from Rahul Gandhi for insulting Dogra rulers, promoting 2 nation theory

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The BJP on Wednesday demanded an unconditional apology from the Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi for insulting former Dogra rulers of J&K and promoting 'Two Nation Theory' and warned that BJP will not tolerate this and will launch an agitation.

While addressing a press conference here on Wednesday evening, the BJP National Spokesperson, Shazia Ilmia, and J&K BJP Vice-President, Sham Lal Sharma, said that Rahul Gandhi has come here in J&K from Delhi to defame Dogra rulers and the Dogra Community.

"Rahul has insulted Dogra rulers of J&K which the Dogras will not tolerate at any cost," Sham Lal said, while adding, "Rahul is a non-serious politician and he



BJP National Spokesperson, Shazia Ilmia and J&K BJP Vice-President, Sham Lal Sharma talking to reporters.

needs to be reminded that it is due to the Dogra rulers that J&K is integral part of India today".

Despite J&K being a Muslim majority State, the Dogra Maharajas maintained communal harmony and brotherhood in J&K, Sham Lal said, adding, "Rahul said that we dethroned Dogra rulers which is insult to our Dogra rulers".

Shazia and Sham Lal said, "Rahul must immediately

Government," Shazia said and added, "The Government of India (GoI) has already announced that Statehood would soon be given to J&K".

The BJP leaders also questioned from Rahul Gandhi about his stand on the manifesto of National Conference (NC), which has entered into alliance with Congress.

"Rahul talks about reservation but his father and great grandfather opposed it," Shazia said and added, "Rajeev Gandhi kept Mandal Commission in cold storage for 10 years and his grandmother made sure that Jagjeevan Ram does not become Prime Minister".

Rahul needs to know this all before talking about reservation, Shazia said.

Cong-NC alliance expired injection, will cause harm to people: Chugh

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
SRINAGAR: The BJP National General Secretary, Tarun Chugh, who is also the party in charge of J&K, on Wednesday said that PDP and NC-Congress alliance will meet the fate like the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

"Both Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti lost elections in 2024 Lok Sabha polls," Chugh said, and added, "These leaders will meet the same fate like in 2024 Lok Sabha polls".

In a sarcastic note, Chugh said, "Cong-NC alliance is like an expired injection and will benefit no one except causing harm to the people".

He said that 3 families

brought unrest in J&K and made it a terrorist capital while PM Modi made "J&K a tourist capital".

Congress is dancing to the tunes of Pak's ISI, he said.

Addressing the people at Habbakadal, Chugh said that the Congress, in league with the NC and PDP, has been waging a proxy war in J&K to spread violence and disturbance to deprive the youth of employment opportunities.

"It has been a calculated design of the Congress to support divisive forces and to let down the Kashmiri Pandits", Chugh said, adding that there have been signals that the Congress is mostly speaking the language of the cross border forces led

by ISI.

Reacting strongly to the statement of senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for misleading the people on statehood issue, Chugh said the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has already promised to restore the statehood as soon as law and order situation improves. "We will work hard to bring Bhaderwah on tourist map", he said.

Earlier, a rally was taken out by the BJP in Srinagar led by Tarun Chugh in favor of Ashok Kumar Bhatt for Habbakadal Assembly constituency after which Bhatt filed his nomination amid heavy sloganeering by the BJP workers.

DEO Jammu reviews elections preparedness

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: District Election Officer Sachin Kumar Vaishya on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Returning Officers of all 11 Assembly Constituencies of Jammu district, focusing on a comprehensive review of election preparedness.

ADDC Jammu, the Nodal Officer for MCC and Law & Order, Sher Singh was also in attendance in the meeting, which was convened to assess the district's readiness for the upcoming elections. The DEO took detailed assessment of the functioning of Static



DEO Sachin Kumar Vaishya chairing a meeting.

Surveillance Teams and Flying Squad Teams. Security measures across the district were a significant point of discussion, with the DEO emphasising the need for a robust and

coordinated approach towards maintaining law and order during the electoral process.

In addition to security concerns, the meeting thoroughly reviewed opera-

tional procedures, ensuring that all protocols are in place and efficiently executed. An exchange of information among the officers was aimed at optimising coordination and addressing any potential challenges that may arise.

The course of nominations, the scrutiny process, and the special needs of certain voter groups were also discussed.

Addressing the officers, the DEO stressed the paramount importance of conducting the elections in a free, fair and transparent manner. He called for strict adherence to the guidelines issued by the

Election Commission of India, underlining that the integrity of the electoral process must be upheld at all costs.

The DEO urged the Returning Officers to maintain the highest standards of professionalism and vigilance as the district prepares for the polls, ensuring that every aspect of the electoral process is executed smoothly and efficiently.

Nodal Officer ETPBS/IT, (Director IT and DIO Jammu) Sanjeev Kapoor and Deputy DEO, Rameshwar Kumar were also present in the meeting.