BJP not to allow Congress, NC to push back J&K: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

RAMBAN: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressed an election rally in Ramban on Thursday, underscoring the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) commitment to safeguarding the progress made in Jammu and Kashmir under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

He emphasized that the BJP will not allow the Congress and National Conference (NC) to reverse the advancements and rights secured for the region since August 5, 2019.

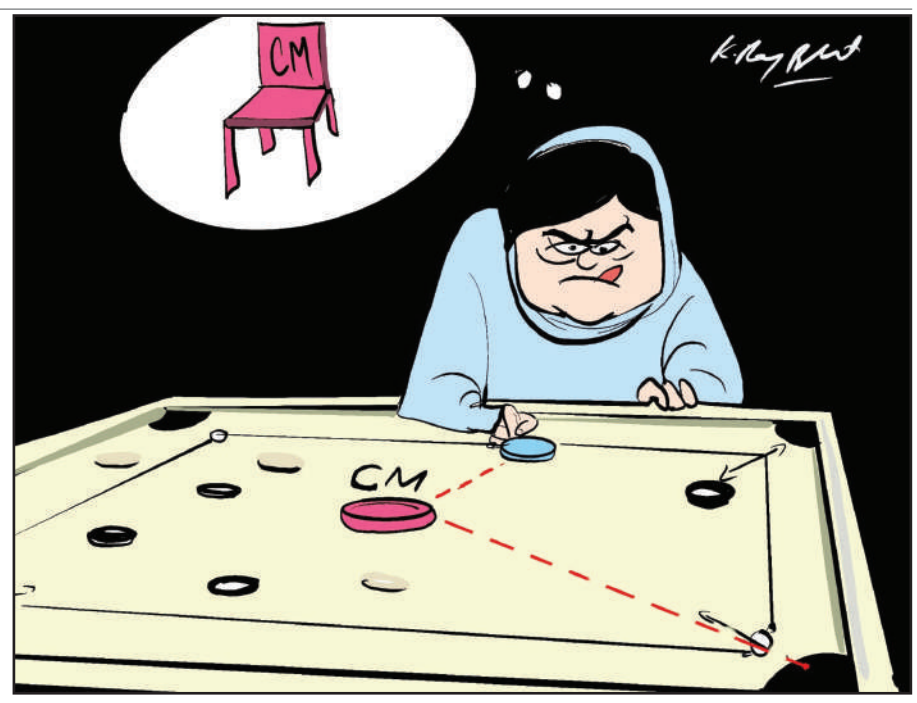
Dr. Singh posed a poignant question to the audience, asking if they would prefer to return to the conditions that existed before the historic abrogation of Article 370. He highlighted the detrimental effects of the past, questioning whether the people wanted to be deprived of their rights and potentially become refugees again. Addressing the women specifically, Dr. Singh queried whether they would want their daughters to lose property rights, which were secured after the abrogation. The women responded emphatically with a resounding "No."

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh campaigning for BJP Ramban candidate Rakesh Thakur at Sanasar on Thursday.

Dr. Singh accused Congress and NC of plotting to reinstate Article 370 and thereby strip women of their property rights. He described this as a ploy by these parties to further their own interests at the expense of women's rights. He asserted that such regressive policies are unacceptable in the 21st century, a time when India is integral to the global community. The BJP, he stated, is resolute in preventing any rollback of the progress achieved under Modi's leadership.

Turning to local issues, Dr. Singh praised the transformation of Ramban, which had previously been notorious for landslides and roadblocks that disrupted essential services and inflated commodity prices. He highlighted that, under Modi's patronage, Ramban has seen significant infrastructure improvements, including new bridges, road tunnels, and highways, reducing travel time to just two hours from Jammu. He criticized Congress and NC MLAs for their neglect of the area during their tenure, suggesting their lack of action contributed to past difficulties.

Dr. Singh urged voters to support BJP candidate Rakesh Thakur, stressing the importance of having a strong voice for Ramban in the Assembly. He assured that the BJP, with its "double engine" approach, will ensure that the benefits and progress of the Modi government are effectively realized on the ground. Emphasizing the BJP's dedication, he concluded by highlighting the party's commitment to putting the nation first and working collectively for its victory.



Will act as Chowkidar to safeguard interests of Jammu people: Sham Sharma

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and Candidate for Jammu North Assembly Constituency, Sham Lal Sharma on Thursday said that restoration of complete peace and holistic development with special focus on promotion of cultural and tourism activities in entire Jammu and Kashmir is the top most agenda of BJP.

He said BJP, immediately after formulation of next Government in Jammu and Kashmir will actively work to accomplish this agenda on priority.

Addressing the representatives of Janipur Beopar Mandal at Ward No. 35 and two well attended public meetings at Ward No. 38, Buta Nagar and Neter Kothi in Jammu North constituency, Sham Lal said that people of Jammu region have suffered hugely due to militancy that prevailed over past over three decades and with the discriminatory attitude of Kashmir centric politics, adding that the new Government headed by BJP with the active support of Central Government will take all necessary steps to boost the economy of this region.

He said Jammu was totally neglected by all successive regimes and created a complete vacuum among the people. He said this is the golden opportunity for the people to elect the BJP Government with absolute majority to fulfill their all aspirations and better future for the generations to come.

Senior BJP leader, Sham Lal Sharma speaking in public meeting.

Assuring the people to safeguard the interests of Jammu, Sham said that he will act as Chowkidar of the people and never compromise with the core issues concerning the common man.

He will ensure speedy development of Jammu North in particular and Jammu region in general and people will see the transformation on ground.

He said all the welfare schemes and programmes of the Central Government will be implemented in Jammu and Kashmir in letter and spirit and government machinery will be made more transparent and accountable to the people. The Government will reach out to the doorsteps of the needy people to address their issues, he promised.

He appealed the people to support his candidature and vote for him to ensure his victory. He asked the workers to work with extra zeal and dedication, reach out to the people in every nook and corner to the constituency, convince them about the programmes and policies of BJP Government in the Centre to ensure a landslide victory of the party in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

Those who accompanied and attended the meetings included, District President, BJP, Omi Khajuria, Mandal Pradhan, Ravish Mengi, Mandal Pradhan, Suresh Khajuria, ex-Corporators, Uttam Singh Chib, Yashpal Sharma and others.

CCI Jammu presents key issues to JMC Commissioner

CCI delegation members calling on JMC Commissioner, Devansh Yadav.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Arun Gupta, President of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI), along with his team of office bearers, met with the Commissioner of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Devansh Yadav, on Thursday to address several pressing issues affecting Jammu city.

The meeting focused on critical concerns that impact daily life and business operations in the region.

Arun Gupta highlighted the deteriorated condition of roads and by-lanes throughout Jammu, which are hindering traffic flow and pedestrian movement. He emphasized the urgency of repairing damaged patches and fixing potholes to prevent accidents and improve road safety.

The Chamber team also brought to attention the non-functioning street lights across various parts of the city. Gupta requested that these be repaired on a priority basis to ensure safety and security during nighttime.

Another significant issue discussed was the presence of stray dogs, particularly in areas frequented by children. The Chamber requested prompt action to address the problem, including the removal of stray dogs upon receiving reports from affected areas. The team pointed out the issue of individuals who frequently lodge complaints that may not always be genuine. They urged the department to verify complaints before taking action to ensure fairness and prevent misuse.

With the festival season approaching, Gupta requested that the business community not be subjected to unnecessary harassment. He suggested that any complaints involving businesses should be discussed with the relevant bazaar association to reach amicable resolutions.

Gupta expressed concerns about the allocation of funds for ongoing Smart City projects. He suggested that the focus should be on improving the drainage systems in areas like Gandhi Nagar, Shastri Nagar, and Trikuta Nagar, and that new areas should be considered for future projects if needed.

The Commissioner of JMC assured that all issues raised would be addressed promptly and that the business community would be treated fairly. The meeting included Anil Gupta (Sr. Vice President), Rajeev Gupta (Jr. Vice President), Manish Gupta (Secretary General), and Rajesh Gupta (Treasurer) from the Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

Excise Deptt conducts raids on brick kilns at Nowbugh

120 ltrs Lahan destroyed on spot; Brick Kiln owners, residents warned of legal, social consequences

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: On the directions of the Excise Commissioner J&K, Subash Chander Chibber , and under the supervision of Dy. Excise Commissioner Executive Kashmir, Tazayun Mukhtar along with the Excise & Taxation Officer Central Kashmir, officials headed by Excise and Taxation Officer, Showkat Hussain Bahar of Excise Range Central Kashmir on Thursday conducted a series of raids at brick kilns located in Nowbugh, Tehsil Chadoora, District Budgam.

During the raid, the team uncovered 120 liters of Lahan adjacent to one of the brick kilns. The illicit substance was immediately destroyed on the spot. The owners of the brick kilns were 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 any such illegal activities 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.

JU celebrates 55th Foundation Day with grandeur

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The University of Jammu (JU) celebrated its 55th Foundation Day on Thursday, marked by a series of events highlighting the institution's growth and achievements.

The occasion was graced by Padma Shri Prof. Dinesh Singh, former Vice Chancellor of Delhi University and Vice Chairman, J&K Higher Education Council, as the Chief Guest, whereas Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director of IIT Jammu, Prof. Bechan Lal, Vice Chancellor of Cluster University of Jammu, and Prof. Pragiti Kumar, Vice Chancellor of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University were the Guests of Honour.

In his address, Prof. Dinesh Singh reflected on the significance of such celebrations, emphasizing the need for introspection and continual improvement.

"JU is in my DNA," he remarked, describing the deep connection he feels with the university. He urged attendees to consider the purpose of Foundation Day, suggesting it offers a moment to pledge renewed dedication to the institution, state, and nation.

Prof. Singh also spoke about the evolving role of educators, stating, "A teacher should learn from his students and always strive for self-improvement, aiming to make a substantial change in society."

He lauded the leadership of JU's Vice Chancellor, Prof. Umesh Rai, for steering the university to new heights calling JU 'the new rising sun', particularly through initiatives like the "Design Your Degree" program, which he described as a pioneering effort for student empowerment.

Prof. Umesh Rai highlighted JU's remarkable achievements, including its rise in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF-2024), where it secured the 50th position among universities and 23rd among 11, 000 State Universities. He shared that the University's Business School earned recognition, ranking 18th in The Week's Government B-School category.

Padma Shri Prof. Dinesh Singh, former VC Delhi University and JU faculty releasing Jammu University Times', a monthly e-newsletter.

Prof. Rai introduced "Jammuriyat," a new term aimed at foregrounding the rich cultural diversity of the Jammu region.

He asserted that the pluralistic nature of this region should necessarily be developed, fore-grounded, preserved and celebrated to ensure its addition to the national pluralism. He announced that the club consortium 'UTSAH' shall organize a series of activities around it.

On the infrastructure front, Prof. Umesh Rai announced the initiation of several significant projects, including the Innovation Tower, a new facility for the Department of Journalism & Mass Media, and the Madan Mohan Malaviya Teachers' Training Centre.

"Sustainability initiatives such as campus digitization, the introduction of e-vehicles, and the creation of vertical gardens from recycled materials are important initiatives of the University," said Prof Umesh Rai, adding that the University has launched "GYANANJALI Journal" for language scholars and the QR Code System in the Dhanwantri Library, which will enhance resource accessibility.

The inaugural issue of the 'Jammu University Times', a monthly e-newsletter published by the media cell of the University was released as highlight of the occasion.

Prof. Rai shared that it will serve as an invaluable resource for JU fraternity and public about the University and provide internship opportunities to the students.

Prof. Bechan Lal commended the University's achievements under Prof. Rai's leadership, particularly the institution's impressive performance in the NIRF rankings and its role in implementing the National Education Policy (NEP).

Prof. Manoj Gaur highlighted JU's journey, saying these achievements are reminder of the glorious past. He praised the University's present NIRF ranking, attributing it to the dynamism of the Jammu University fraternity.

Prof. Pragiti Kumar congratulated all stakeholders, recognizing their contributions to JU's success and offered unconditional support for the further implementation of the NEP.

Earlier, Prof. Anju Bhasin, Dean Academic Affair presented a formal welcome address.

On the occasion, former employees including Prof YR Malhotra, former Vice Chancellor of the University of Jammu, Kulbushan Gupta, former Confidential Assistant in Examination, Raj Kumar, former section officer, Punjab Singh, former Jamadar, Dayal Chand, former maali, Kurku Ram, former Head Security and Shakina, former sanitation worker were felicitated.

Serving employees, Prof KS Charak and Vinod Bali were felicitated for their contributions in Design Your Degree and NAAC preparations, respectively.

Students from sports, NCC and NSS were also felicitated for their achievements.

The event was marked by the cultural performances in which students from the University departments participated. The dance was led by Neetika Aggarwal and song and Ghazal by Suraj Singh.

The formal vote of thanks was presented by Prof. Rahul Gupta, Registrar, University of Jammu and Prof. Garima Gupta, conducted the proceedings of the event.

Others prominent present on the occasion included Prof Vinod Kumar, Fellow of Indian National Science Academy, Prof. Meena Sharma, Dean Planning and Development, Prof. Neelu Rohmetra, Dean Research Studies, Prof Prakash Antahal, Dean Students Welfare, Prof. Pankaj K. Srivastava, Director DD&OE, Deans of various faculties, heads of various departments, faculty members and students.

NC, Congress used divisive & short-sighted politics to aintain their grip on power, says Yudhvir

Urges people to reject politics of disruption & choose a path of development, progress

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Yudhvir Sethi, Senior BJP leader and BJP candidate for East Constituency, accused the Congress and National Conference for decades of mismanagement, corruption, and stagnation that have severely hindered the development and prosperity of Jammu region.

He highlighted the failure of these parties to address the genuine aspirations of the people, particularly the youth, who have been left disillusioned by years of false promises and divisive politics.

The senior BJP leader was speaking while addressing a series of meetings at Jagti Proper Ward No. 6, Jagti Jarri Ward No. 5 and 3 and Jagti Dhammi Ward No. 9 falling under the East Constituency here on Thursday. Senior BJP leaders Rajinder Sharma Ex. Mayor, Bajalta Mandal Pardhan, Ajay Sharma, Naseeb Singh, Deewan Chand, Lambardar Puran Singh and Hari Om were also present.

Senior BJP leader, Yudhvir Sethi addressing public meeting on Thursday.

Sethi emphasized that the opposition parties have consistently prioritized their vested interests over the welfare of the people, allowing corruption to thrive and governance to crumble. "For years, these parties have used divisive and short-sighted politics to maintain their grip on power, leaving the people of Jammu and Kashmir to suffer. Their rule has only led to stagnation, with no meaningful progress for the common man," he stated.

The senior BJP leader praised the governance model of the BJP under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, which has brought about unprecedented development, transparency, and inclusivity in the Union Territory. He said that the BJP's vision is to uplift Jammu and Kashmir through robust infrastructure, employment opportunities for youth, and empowerment of women, making it a model of peace and prosperity.

"The BJP has delivered on its promises, bringing transformative changes that are visible to all. Our focus is on empowering every section of society and ensuring that the youth of J&K have a bright and secure future. The time has come for the people to reject the politics of disruption and choose a path of development and progress," Sethi said.

As a committed representative of the East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi assured voters that his leadership would ensure continued efforts to uplift the region, providing transparent governance and addressing long-standing grievances. He appealed to the people to support the BJP in the ensuing Assembly polls for a prosperous and united Jammu and Kashmir.

Teachers' Day celebrated across schools in Jammu Division

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a vibrant celebration of knowledge and mentorship, schools across the Jammu Division celebrated Teachers' Day, honoring the relentless efforts and dedication of educators who shape the futures of countless students, thus encouraging the importance of educational support and recognizing teachers as the backbone of the educational system.

The day was filled with various activities including cultural programs, debates, and art exhibitions showcasing students' appreciation for their teachers. Special assemblies were held in schools where students expressed their gratitude through performances, poems, and heartfelt speeches. In many schools the senior most class took on the role of teachers and conducted the activities throughout the day.

The celebrations also saw a mix of, games and interactive sessions in schools, showcasing the importance of teachers in students' lives. Parents and members of civil society also joined in to show their support and gratitude towards teachers.

Ashok Sharma, Director School Education Jammu, extended his heartfelt wishes to teachers throughout the division. He said that teachers play an unparalleled role in shaping the minds and futures of our generations. Their commitment to fostering an environment of learning and curiosity is commendable. On this Teachers' Day, let us celebrate their invaluable contribution and inspire a collective effort to ensure every child receives quality education, he added.

The celebration is not only a recognition of the teachers' hard work but also serves to motivate and inspire students to value education and the important role their teachers play in their lives. This day is a reminder of the crucial role teachers have in guiding the younger generation toward a better future, he further said.