

Congress, NC intend snatching rights of daughters of J&K: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

HIRANAGAR: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said here ON Friday that at a time when Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given women the highest priority in every sphere of life and by abrogating Article 370 and 35A he ensured that the daughters of Jammu & Kashmir also be entitled to claim the land and property share of their parents which they were deprived of for almost seven decades under the garb of Article 370, it is unfortunate that Congress and National Conference (NC) intend snatching legitimate rights of the daughters of Jammu & Kashmir by denying them parental property rights through revival of Article 370 and 35A, according to which any daughter choosing to marry an individual who is not a citizen or State Subject of Jammu & Kashmir would be denied claim to the land and property rights of her parents.

Addressing a public rally to mark the filing of nomination papers by BJP candidate Advocate Vijay Sharma, Dr Jitendra said, in today's age and time when India has assumed a global position in 21st Century, Congress and National Conference still seek to revert to male chauvinism of medieval era and



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh addressing a BJP election rally at Hiranagar on Friday.

deny equal rights to women in Jammu & Kashmir.

Cautioning the people of this mischievous design, Dr Jitendra Singh cited Prime Minister Modi who has not only rolled out a series of schemes like Ujjwala Yojna providing gas cylinders, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna providing pucca house in the name of housewife but who also took the bold step of ensuring 1/3rd reservation for women in Parliament. Dr Jitendra also cited the BJP Sankalp Patra for J&K Assembly which promises support of Rs 18000 for women. In contrast to Prime Minister Modi's emphasis on women-led development contributing to the making of

Viksit Bharat, Dr Jitendra Singh lamented that the Congress and National Conference wish to create gender-based division in the society. He said, BJP will never allow such disenpowerment of the women of Jammu & Kashmir and the entire society will collectively rise against this design.

Over half a century, alleged Dr Jitendra Singh, Congress and National Conference sought to perpetuate their Party rule by creating division in the society in the name of religion, community and caste. Now that people have seen through this design, they have gone one step further trying to create divisions based on gender and that too at a

time when Prime Minister Modi has repeatedly reminded the countrymen that for India to rise to world pedestal and to become third largest economy in next few years, contribution of each and every citizen is expected regardless of whether the individual is a men or women.

Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that Hiraagar is a land of patriots and from here Prem Nath Dogra had initiated the movement of total integration of Jammu & Kashmir with India. It is also the land where Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Prem Nath Dogra gave a call for "Ek-Pradhan-Ek Vidhan-Ek Nishan". The spirit of national integration was inspired from here. Later on, it took the form of a countrywide movement that was also a part of Bharatiya Jana Sangh ideology.

Therefore, Dr Jitendra said, Hiranagar has a special responsibility and duty to keep the legacy of Prem Nath Dogra and Syama Prasad Mookerjee alive. He said, victory from Hiranagar constituency is a foregone conclusion but we have to work to break all the previous records of victory so that it could be a lesson for the enemies of the nation.



Chadoora Constituency: This time vote for development not slogans

■ MASROOR AHMAD

BUDGAM: With Assembly elections return to the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir after a decade, the residents of Chadoora Assembly Constituency are voicing their expectations for solutions to long-standing local issues, including water shortage, stray dog menace, and brick kilns pollutions and curbing of illegal mining.

The scarcity of parking space in the town is a pressing concern, especially during the office hours when vehicles are parked along both sides of the main roads and in lanes across the segment. This situation causes significant inconvenience, often leading to traffic jams and accidents, particularly during peak hours.

"Our only concern is regular water supply and good road water connectivity" said Masarat Shah a housewife. She questioned the claims of development, asking, "If there is development, why are we receiving water only two hours in a day?"

Nissar Ahmad, a retired official, echoed these concerns. "Apart from water shortage, stray dogs, dilapidated roads are major issues for the residents of this constituency, which falls under the jurisdiction of Chadoora constituency," he noted.

Chadoora is one of the important Assembly segment of District Budgam. In Chadoora Tehsil there are 2 Assembly seats Chadoora and Charar-e-Sharif. The people faces variety of civic challenges that voters hope will be addressed by the elected representatives.

People also want to redressal of one of the biggest issue -- closure of illegal brick kilns which is more harmful to human lives, horticulture and agriculture sectors.

Residents, particularly youngsters, have highlighted these issues as critical in determining their vote. "We will review the manifestos of the political parties to see who is committed to resolving the water shortage, lack of parking space and brick kelin problems in our constituency," said Nissar Ahmad and Farooq Ahmad, both residents of the constituency.

Ahmad criticized the authorities for its failure to control the stray dog population, which poses a threat to the elderly and children. He also highlighted illegal mining in the area and said many functionaries have not taken any note till date.

A senior citizen of Gowherpora told STATE TIMES that these kilns are producing toxic smog, which is responsible for chronic diseases in older generation, so we want to get rid of these kilns.

In several Gowherpora, Kuzweera Magraypora, Khanda and Bugam residents face irregular water supply, with the situation becoming especially dire during the peak summer months.

As the election approaches, the voters of Chadoora Constituency are keenly awaiting the release of party manifestos, hoping to find promises that address these urgent needs. Their decision at the polls will hinge on which party they believe can deliver on these critical issues. Voters said, "this time there are no hollow slogans, we will give vote for the party which will work for the welfare of the people."

CGPWA organises musical evening for Senior Citizens

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Central Govt Pensioners' Welfare Association, Jammu (CGPWA) organised a musical evening to celebrate the World Senior Citizens' Day at K L Sehgal's Writers' Club in Abhinav Theatre Complex.



Artists of Bharatiya Sangeet Sansthan with office bears of CGPWA after an entertaining musical evening for senior citizens.

The young and budding artists of Bharatiya Sansthan presented 90-minutes vintage songs of Bollywood which mesmerised the senior citizens, present in a large number. The ever-green old hit song which were sung by the young artists under the guidance of Vijay Kumar Sambhal alias Guru ji, took the audience of senior citizens to their hey days and gave them a nostalgic feeling of their young age. Full of entertainment, it was a memorable evening for them.

The musical evening started with a 1958 hit song of Dilli Ka Thug - Yeh Raaten Yeh Mausam, originally sung by Kishore Kumar and Asha Bhosale. This song was presented by a young artist Kashish Sharma. She also presented another popular song - Jo Wada Kiya Woh Nibhana Padega, of 1963 film 'Taj Mahal', followed by another popular Dogri song, Chura Kun Ghareya Meri Jaan Chura Kun Ghareya. Another artist, Krishna Purnam, a police employee, regaled the audience with a song of 1969 film Yakeen, Gar Tum Bhula Na Doge followed by another hit song Dilluba Maine Tere Pyar Mein of film Dil Diya Dard Liya and Suro Sajna Papihe Ne kaha Sab Ko Puakar Ke of 1966 film Aaye Din Bahaar Ke. A female artist, Devangi, sung a popular song of Guddi film, Bole Re Papihara.

A well-known artist, Ridima Bajpai presented two popular songs O Sajna O Sajna of Oonche Log and phul gendwa na maro lagat karejwa of film Dhoj Ka

Chand of 1964.

Superhit old song Nainon Mein Badra Chhaye of film 1966 Mera Saaya originally sung by Lata Mangeshkar was presented by Dr. Roshni Sammotra. She also sung Rudaali's hit song, Dil Hoom Hoom Kare. This film was released in 1993. Nirmal Sufi who was at harmonium, entertained the senior citizens with 1983 hit song, Lambi Judai chaar dina da pyar ho rabba Badi Lambi Judai from film Hero originally sung by Reshma. The musical bonanza concluded with patriotic spellbound group songs Aye Mere Pyare Watan of film Kabuliwala of 1961 and Jahan Dal Dal Pe of Sone Ki Chidiya of film Sikander-E-Azam.

The accompanists at the program included Prabhat, Reagon and Aakash Bhat while Disha Bhagat conducted the program. The CGPWA presented gifts to

the artists as a token of appreciation of their talent. The senior citizens carried home nostalgic feeling of good old days with a mix of patriotism, thanks to the song of Kabuliwala. In this connection, Dr Ashok Bhan former DGP, rightly flagged a stanza of this film's song Aye Mere Pyare Watan that created a patriotic feeling - Tere daaman se jo aaye, Un havaon ko salaam, Choom loon main us zubaan ko, Jispe aaye tera naam, Sabse pyari subah teri, Sabse rangen teri shaam, Tujhe dil qurbaan, Tu hi meri aarzu, Tu hi meri aabroo, Tu hi meri jaan.

Among those present included Ashok Angurana, Dr Sudarshan Kumar, Prem Gupta, J K Vaid, S S Bijral, V K Padha, B B Magotra, O P Sharma, Upender Pachanda, K L Sharma, Sunil Sharma and K B Jandial.

Yudhvir intensifies door-to-door campaign in Jammu East, pledges to maintain development momentum

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Yudhvir Sethi, senior BJP leader and contesting candidate from Jammu East Constituency, has significantly intensified his election campaign with a robust door-to-door outreach, receiving a rousing reception from residents of Ward 5 Pargalta.

His engagement with voters has been met with enthusiasm as he continues to build strong connections with the local community in the run-up to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls.

In addition to his door-to-door campaign, Sethi conducted several well-attended public meetings in Bharoli Upper, Bharoli Lower, and Kuppada areas of the constituency.

During these interactions, Yudhvir Sethi highlighted the transformative initiatives of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, which he said have made a significant impact on the lives of the people. "The overwhelming response to Bharatiya Janata Party shows a clear indication that the people are impressed with the work of the Modi government.

The development, security, and prosperity brought by BJP have resonated with every household," he remarked during a public meeting.

The local residents of Pargalta and surrounding areas expressed their



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

strong support for Yudhvir Sethi, praising his consistent commitment to addressing their concerns and spearheading developmental projects in the region. "Yudhvir Sethi has always responded to our calls, ensuring that the needs of the people are met. Under his leadership, numerous development works have been carried out, making him the right candidate for Jammu East," said a community leader.

Even first-time voters have been deeply influenced by the works undertaken by Sethi, expressing their motivation to support him in the upcoming elections. "We are inspired by his dedication and the visible progress in our area. Yudhvir Sethi's leadership has had a positive impact on our community, and

we believe he is the best choice for our constituency," said a group of young voters. As the Assembly polls approach, Yudhvir Sethi remains committed to strengthening the connection with his constituents, pledging to continue the development momentum and bring further prosperity to Jammu East. Mayor Manali Chaman Kapoor, Prabhari OBC morcha Bramjyot Satti SC morcha General Secretary Adarsh Jathira vice President SC morcha Ajay Gill Mandal president Ajay Sharma District President ST Morcha Abdul Hussain, Mohan Lal Verma, Attar Hussain, Teru Ram, Dr Uttam Singh, Abha Janwal, Jagadish Singh, Virender Sharma, Nand kishore join these programs.

Sham Sharma questions criminal silence of Congress party over NC's discriminatory agenda

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and party nominee for Jammu North Assembly segment, Sham Lal Sharma while making a sharp attack on the Congress Party on Friday questioned its criminal silence to support the politics of pushing Jammu Kashmir's economy back into corruption and handing it over to selected anti-nation and pro-Pak leaders.



Senior BJP leader, Sham Lal Sharma welcoming newly joined members in party fold.

Sham asked "whether Congress party supports the so-called agenda of National Conference (NC) for discrimination between Jammu and the Kashmir Valley" adding that Jammu remained like slave of Kashmir polity, wore the brunt of neglect in every field and treated the people of Jammu as second class citizens.

Party, including Rahul Gandhi and Malikaarjun Kharge and said that in the lust of power, the party has not only compromised its basic ideologies, but has become direction-less and compelled to align with the pro-Pak and anti-India forces like National Conference, Aam Aadmi Party and other alike parties in the country.

Sham said that people of Jammu and Kashmir have suffered hugely for the past many years under the shadow of militancy, and BJP will not allow to return it at any cost, adding that NC-Congress alliance will not succeed in regaining the power to push the development and peace scenario on back burner.

Kashmiri leadership deliberately neglected the Jammu region for their political gains for decades during their rule, ruined the rich Dogra culture and heritage, said Sharma.

He reminded that NC is solely responsible for militancy and backlash in Kashmir resulting in death of thousands of innocent people, including security forces. Now, when the peace is prevailing gradually in Jammu and Kashmir, both these parties are again trying to bring back the gun culture and promoting the pro-Pak and anti-national

forces, he maintained. Sham said that people of Jammu and Kashmir have suffered hugely for the past many years under the shadow of militancy, and BJP will not allow to return it at any cost, adding that NC-Congress alliance will not succeed in regaining the power to push the development and peace scenario on back burner.

With the earnest efforts of Central Government, especially the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, the Jammu

and Kashmir is at track of peace and development, and after coming to power, the BJP will give a renewed push to take it to new heights, Sharma maintained.

He questioned, whether Rahul Gandhi supports the JKNC manifesto, which calls for abolishing reservations for Dalits, Gujjars, Bakerwals, and Pahadis? After allying with the National Conference, he should now clarify the Congress Party's stand on reservation policy," Sham said. Meanwhile, in a significant development, a senior Congress leader, former Sarpanch and Congress party Block President Bhalwal, Rajdev Singh Jamwal today joined the BJP along with hundreds of his supporters. Prominent among those included, Honorary Capt. Tara Singh, Kaunsal Singh, former Panch Ashok Kumar, Ajay Sharma, Ravi Kumar, Kuldeep Raj and Deepak Kumar. Mandal Pradhan, Rakesh Singh, Er. Dilbahadur Singh, former President Yuva Rajput Sabha, Rajan Singh Happy were also present on the occasion.

CCI delegation meets Labour Commissioner, discusses "Closed Day" issue



CCI delegating calling on Labour Commissioner UT of J&K, Charandeep Singh.

JAMMU: A delegation of CCI headed by Arun Gupta, its President today called on Labour Commissioner UT of J&K, Charandeep Singh and discussed with him the issue relating to mandatory observance of "Closed Day" by Shops/Establishments in UT of J&K.

During interaction Arun Gupta apprised the Labour Commissioner that the UT of J&K is a pilgrim / Tourist destination which is the main source of our economy.

The Pilgrims/Tourists used to visit the city of temples to buy the goods

and etables of their choice as such the business activities in this area cannot be restricted because by keeping our business establishments/Shops open, we serve the visiting Pilgrims/Tourists.

He also mentioned that the Prime Minister of India while addressing the Media fraternity has clearly said that we have allowed to keep Shops/ business establishments open for 24x7 days to boost the economy of our country. Besides, this after allowing FDI in retail sector to establish their outlets in India, these establishments are working throughout the week without

observing any close day, even the local malls are also open throughout the week.

Arun Gupta also briefed the Labour Commissioner that every employee working in these shops/business establishments is give weekly paid off.

However, as per our best information, if any employer asks some of his employees to perform duty on the paid weekly off day who are interested to do so, they are paid extra salary of that day for performing their duties.

While reacting on the issues raised in the meeting, the Labour Commissioner assured that the trades and the areas which witness free flow of tourists and pilgrims shall be exempted from Mandatory observance of close day.

He asked the chamber to provide the list of areas and trades which are required to be exempted from the observance of mandatory close day.

The other office bearers who accompanied the delegation were Anil Gupta, Sr. Vice President, Rajeev Gupta, Jr. Vice President and Rajesh Gupta, Treasurer.

SVEEP van flagged off to promote voter awareness

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: To promote voter awareness and maximise participation in the upcoming Assembly Elections, District Election Officer Sachin Kumar Vaishya flagged off a SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation) van today from Jammu University.



DEO, Sachin Kumar Vaishya flagging off SVEEP Van.

The ceremony saw enthusiastic participation from students, with many pledging to cast their vote and motivate others to do the same.

The event was attended by Nodal Officers, including Additional District Development Commissioner, Sher Singh; Additional

Deputy Commissioners, Anusya Janwal and Shishir Gupta, and Assistant Commissioner Development, Dr. Vikas Sharma besides other district officials. UT Level Election Icon Ranjeet Kalra was also present on the

occasion. The van is set to traverse across different Assembly Constituencies of the district, carrying the message of voter education and encouraging citizens to exercise their democratic right.

Speaking on the occasion, DEO Sachin Kumar Vaishya emphasised the significance of every vote, stating, "This flag off will be followed by a series of other SVEEP activities aimed at ensuring maximum voter turnout". Every voter has the power to encourage others, thereby strengthening the democratic process, he said.

He further added that regular voter awareness programs will be conducted in the lead-up to the elections. "Voter participation is essential for a strong democracy. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that every eligible voter is encouraged to cast their vote," he said.