



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh interacting with young first time voters, on the occasion of National Voters Day, at Mainpuri, UP on Wednesday.

## First time voters to shape Indian democracy at 2047: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

MAINPURI (UP), Jan 25 : Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh said here today that first time voters, who will begin the electoral phase of their life by casting their franchise in next election, are endowed with the blessed opportunity of shaping the Indian democracy at 2047, when the country celebrates 100 years of its independence.

On the occasion of National Voters Day, in an interaction with a gathering of youth, who this year are going to attain the age eligibility to cast their vote, Dr. Jitendra Singh quoted Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying, India is not only the largest democracy of the world but also the mother of all democracies.

The first time voter, said Dr. Jitendra Singh, owes a special responsibility because he is going to steer India through the crucial next 25 years, which Prime Minister Modi describes as 'Amrit Kaal' and then India will be standing as a frontline nation of the world. It is, there-

fore, imperative for these youngsters to decide with a cool mind and scientific precision, who should be at the helm of affairs to decide their destiny and the destiny of India in the years to come, he said.

Dr. Singh observed that when several other countries which had started their democratic journey along with India, failed to sustain themselves and withered away, it is India which has, as a nation, demonstrated enough resilience, strength and conviction to enable its democratic order not only to emerge stronger but also a role model for other countries of the world.

Whenever there was any assault on Indian democracy, the people of India fought back to thwart any such design and to restore back the democratic order, said Dr Jitendra Singh citing the draconian Emergency imposed in 1975.

Singh said, in a technology driven age, where the world is expected to live with the new norms, a country as heterogeneous as India can progress only with the increasing participation of its citizens and that is possible only in a liberal democracy.

As these youngsters grow up and become biggest stakeholders in nation building, they would realise the importance.

## BJY for country's unity, against hatred Climate of hostility fostered for electoral gains ruins country: Abdullah

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Jan 25: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah today said that the climate of hostility being fostered in the country for mere electoral gains is driving the nation away from welfare and towards ruin.

Abdullah who was at Aushmuqam in Anantnag district to attend a condolence meeting told reporters that it is horrible for the country.

"Everyone who lives here, regardless of whether they are Muslim, Hindu, or speak a different language, is a citizen of this country. The climate of hostility that is being fostered solely to win elections is a horrible thing that is driving the nation away from welfare and toward ruin," he said.

The NC president said that the enmity created is shaking the national fundamentals.

"Enmity is being created among different communities, including Sikhs, Hindus, Muslims, and Christians, all over India and it is upending our constitution and shaking the fundamental foundations of our country," he added.

Abdullah said hatred was being spread between communities in the country for "just winning the elections". "This approach will not take the nation and people towards prosperity, it will only lead to misery," he added.

He said the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra is meant to unite the country and is against hatred being sown between communities for electoral

gains. Abdullah said that hate will only lead to misery and stressed that the people should unite for each other's welfare.

"The aim of the Yatra is to unite the nation and break the (walls of) hatred. The message of this march is

\* Watch video on [www.excelsonews.com](http://www.excelsonews.com)

that unless we unite and think together for the welfare of each other, we cannot make the nation that our forefathers had dreamt of and given sacrifices for," he said.

The NC president said that the major goal of the yatra is to unite the nation and eradicate enmity. "The only message of this yatra is that we must work together, consider each other's welfare, and join forces if we are to construct the country that our forefathers envisioned after fighting against British control, making sacrifices, and suffering beatings and hangings. They have experienced captivity and witnessed the atrocities at Jalianwala Bagh, and their spirits won't be at peace until we come together and create the nations they had imagined. We require bravery and faith," he added.

Referring to the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits three decades ago, Abdullah said he wanted them to return home with dignity in his lifetime.

"Our brothers had to leave this place. I wish the atmosphere turns conducive for their return to their homes with dignity and honour before I go to sleep," he added.

"Without a doubt, the displacement of our brothers caused many

troubles for this state. I would ask God for them to return here before I pass away," he wished.

The NC president asked people to follow the path shown by the God which will lead to their victory.

"The road of the devil only leads to hell. God should be trusted. He may put us to the test, but he will ultimately give us victory," he added.

## Agri Deptt staff donates Rs 50,000 towards RCF

Excelsior Correspondent

RAJOURI, Jan 25: Chief Agriculture Officer, Sohan Singh, today handed over a cheque of Rs 50,000 to Chairman District Red Cross (District Development Commissioner) Rajouri, Vikas Kundal as a contribution towards the Red Cross fund.

The amount has been realized on account of voluntary contribution of Officers/Officials of Agriculture Department Rajouri.

The CAO informed that the staff has voluntarily donated the amount considering the fact that the Red Cross Funds were being used for the poor and needy during natural disasters and calamities.

The DC appreciated the gesture of the department of contributing towards the noble cause. He said that the funds generated from voluntary contributions to the Red Cross Fund are utilised for the social cause.



LG Manoj Sinha during National Voters Day celebration in Jammu.

## Nothing like voting, I vote for sure: LG

## Active participation of people in electoral process is key to healthy democracy: LG

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 25: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha while gracing the 13th National Voters' Day celebrations today at Convention Centre in Jammu, said active participation of people in electoral process is key to healthy democracy.

The Lt Governor said that this year's theme of National Voters' Day, "Nothing like voting, I vote for sure" reminds every citizen of their solemn duty towards the nation and democratic principles.

"On this occasion, let us take a pledge to keep the national interest paramount and rededicate ourselves to strengthen the democratic system," he added.

The Lt Governor said, exercising the 'Right to Vote' is the expression of one's opinion which holds high value in the democracy. He called for upholding the democratic traditions of the country and the dignity of free, fair, transparent and peaceful elections.

"Despite all the challenges, as

the world's largest democracy rooted in democratic values, we have developed a robust structure which has strengthened inclusive development and fulfilling hopes & aspirations of the people," added the Lt

Governor.

\* Watch video on [www.excelsonews.com](http://www.excelsonews.com)

The Lt Governor also appreciated the election officials for their invaluable contribution in efficiently improving voter registration, enhancing voters' participation, educating and motivating voters.

The Lt Governor said under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the establishment of three-tier PRIs system and their participation in J&K's developmental journey has truly empowered the common man.

He urged all remaining eligible citizens in the UT of J&K to enrol themselves in the Electoral Rolls and exercise the rights bestowed by the Indian Constitution.

The Lt Governor also adminis-

tered the National Voters' Day pledge and distributed electronic voter ID cards to newly registered voters.

On the occasion, Rajiv Kumar, Chief Election Commissioner of India, through a video message, congratulated the people on National Voters' Day.

Anil Salgotra, Joint Chief Electoral Officer, J&K gave a detailed briefing on the statistics of registration of new voters in J&K and the successful completion of the Delimitation process.

KK Sharma, State Election Commissioner, J&K; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; RK Goyal, Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu, joined the celebrations of National Voters' Day at Convention Centre.

Rajinder Sharma, Mayor, JMC; Bharat Bhushan, Chairman DDC Jammu, besides representatives of political parties and people in large numbers were also present.



AAP J&K Youth wing leaders posing with the Party president Arvind Kejriwal in Delhi.

## AAP J&K Youth wing calls on Kejriwal, discusses unemployment, other issues

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Jan 25: Youth wing leaders of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Jammu and Kashmir today met Party president Arvind Kejriwal and discussed various issues regarding J&K including unemployment, poor education system, poor healthcare system, bad state of fruit industry and rising corruption.

Many other issues of the Party's organizational structure in Kashmir were also discussed. Muddasir Hassan (Prabhari, Youth wing), Amrit Wattal (Youth president Jammu province), Hakim Rizwan Illahi (Youth president, North Kashmir) and Shiekh Naveed (district president, Srinagar North) were part of the delegation that met Kejriwal.

In this meeting, the Youth wing leaders of J&K ensured Arvind Kejriwal that cadre is ready for the upcoming elections in J&K. Kejriwal was also briefed that how AAP leaders are working without any security cover in Kashmir with Lieutenant Governor as well as Bhartiya Janta Party are hell bent on not providing security.

AAP's youth wing also mentioned how the youth of Kashmir are ready to participate in the democratic process in Kashmir and for electing pro-people Government which can address the aspirations

of people. "New faces and first time voters are seeing AAP as the only alternative," AAP Youth leaders told Kejriwal. They said youth in Kashmir will be the game changer as it has come out of the clutches of traditional political parties which have used them as a tool for their petty political gains.

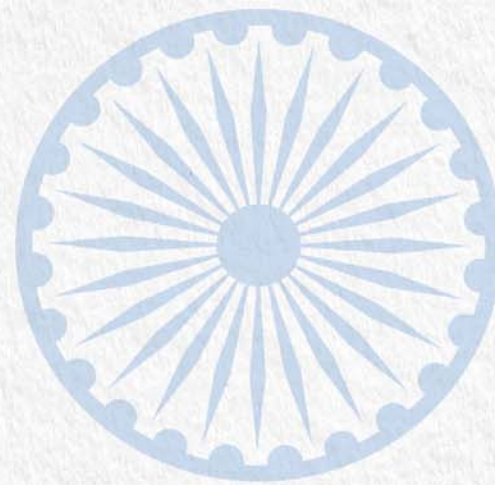
Amrit Wattal informed Kejriwal that BJP has turned J&K into a protest capital and not even common masses but Government employees are also on protest since long but there is no one to talk to them. He further told Kejriwal that Jammu office of BJP is now a landmark of protests and employees of different departments are on roads since months together raising their demands.

Muddasir Hassan also narrated the plight of youth of J&K before Arvind Kejriwal informing him about anti-youth policies of the Government due to which youth is getting cornered. He said that only AAP Government can bring youth of J&K out of this situation of despair.

Hakim Rizwan Illahi mentioned youth friendly policies of AAP and said that Governments of the Party in Delhi and Punjab have set a trademark of youth empowerment.



74<sup>th</sup> Republic Day



# Republic Day

Greetings To All Fellow Citizens

Jai Hind

“ We can empower the society and country only by walking on the path of duty. If there is dedication and seriousness towards one's duties, then even a single person can change the future of the whole society. ”

- Narendra Modi



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Live telecast of Republic Day celebrations from Kartavya Path from 9:00 a.m. onwards on Doordarshan network