

Modi gave real 'self rule' to J&K: Dr Jitendra

Excelsior Correspondent

PALLI (SAMBA), Apr 24 : Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh said today that three-tier Panchayati Raj System has been set up in Jammu and Kashmir for the first time under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing people on National Panchayati Raj Day here in Jammu region, Giriraj, without naming the Congress, said, one party only talked of Mahatma Gandhi's ideals but his dream of 'Gram Swaraj' was fulfilled by Modi.

He said every single penny is now being spent through e-governance and called for making the Panchayats more vibrant.

"Sustainable development of Panchayats is taking place across the country," Giriraj said.

Meanwhile, Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) Dr Jitendra Singh said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave J&K the real "self-rule".

Addressing the gathering here in the presence of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi, Dr Jitendra Singh said that Jammu & Kashmir was often known for slogans of Self-Rule.

However, he said, if the essence and meaning of self-rule is that it is the democracy born from the grassroots, then it is only Modi who introduced us to the concept of self-rule by first holding successful Panchayat

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elections and then conducting the first-ever District Council Elections after over 70 years of independence.

The process of empowerment of Panchayats under Modi is continuously going on and today is an important landmark in the same sequence wherein Prime Minister Narendra Modi has chosen to address Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) across the country from a Jammu Panchayat, he added.

This, he said, is a reiteration of Modi's commitment to not only strengthen but also empower Panchayati Raj in J&K in the same manner as in the rest of the country.

Dr Jitendra Singh said the news of Prime Minister Modi's visit to Palli Panchayat inspired so much enthusiasm that officials and experts from the Union Ministry of Science & Technology set up a 500 Kilowatt Solar Plant in a record 18 days, which will provide solar electricity to 348 village households.

Crediting Modi for giving highest priority to Jammu & Kashmir, Dr Jitendra Singh recalled that soon after Modi took over as Prime Minister on 26 May 2014, one of the first important programmes attended by him was inauguration by him of Katra-Mata Vaishnodevi Ji Railway station, which later, on his suggestion, became the country's first Railway Station to run totally on solar power.

Within three months of Modi's taking over as Prime Minister, there was a devastating flood in Jammu & Kashmir in September 2014 and the entire city of Srinagar was under water.

Modi, he said, not only provided every support from the Centre and made repeated visits

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to personally monitor the situation, but set highest precedence of sensitivity by taking a decision in October 2014 that as Prime Minister, he would not observe his first Diwali anywhere else but he would do so among the flood victims of Kashmir valley.

The following year in November 2015, he said, while speaking at a Srinagar public rally, he announced the highest ever financial package of Rs 80000 crore for Jammu & Kashmir.

The most remarkable feature of the last eight years of Narendra Modi's rule is that he not only gave

Jammu & Kashmir several important national level projects but through personal intervention also revived many such projects which had, for certain reasons, been halted or delayed. One of them is the Rattle Power Project which he launched today.

Similarly, the Union Minister recalled that during his last visit to Jammu, he had launched the Shahpur-Kandi project which had been stalled for about 40 years.

Dr Jitendra Singh said : "We are going through the 75th year of independence and looking forward to the 100th anniversary of independent India after 25 years."

He said it is time to dedicate ourselves to the making of centenary India which is destined to stand high on the world pedestal.

WEATHER

JAMMU:

Partly cloudy

TEMPERATURE

Max: 37.0 Degree C

Min: 20.1 Degree C