Separatists should emulate Sajad: BJP

'PC chief understood meaning of democracy which facilitated his meeting with PM'

ABID BASHIR

Srinagar, Nov 30: Asserting that whether Peoples Conference (PC) chief Sajad Lone wins or loses, it won't affect the party's mission-44 in Jammu and Kashmir, BJP Sunday said the party is working hard to make the separatists in Kashmir understand the real meaning of democracy and to toe the line of PC.

"We have made it clear that Lone's victory or loss would hardly affect our winning prospects in JK. If he wins, it will be good for him. The major achievement for us is that he is in the poll fray after shunning separatism," senior BJP leader and JK affairs incharge Avinash Rai Khanna told Greater Kashmir over phone. He said it was also an achievement for BJP that Sajad understood the meaning of democracy fully which led to his meeting with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"We are not bothered about his victory or loss as that's not our agenda. It is because democracy started flourishing in Jammu and Kashmir soon after Modi took the reins of power at the Centre," Khanna said. "We are working hard and hope that other separatist leaders including Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Yasin Malik, Shabir Shah and others too would understand the real meaning of democracy and start working for the betterment of people."

Khanna said it was BJP's pro-JK agenda that made people to come out in large numbers to vote in the first phase of elections. "This is an indication that people of JK have accepted BJP and the Prime Minister's vision and polices vis-à-vis development of the state. Our sole agenda is to see JK as one of the leading states of India," said Khanna, who is also a BJP MP.

Khanna said the separatism and violence has made the future of state bleak over the past many decades. "We will follow the development as our agenda and pull out the state from the shock and misery," he said.

Pertinently, Sajad had recently met Prime Minister Modi and later called him as his "elder brother."

"There is no truth in the reports that we are offering him (Sajad) any position. Let him contest and explore the means of democracy," Khanna said.

BJP insiders disclosed to Greater Kashmir that the party intends to constitute special teams, each headed by senior party leaders, who would get in touch with the separatists in a bid to test waters. "The ultimate motive of the meetings would be to

explain the fruits of democracy to separatists and to persuade them to join democratic processes," a source, privy to the move said. "The teams would be assigned to open back-channel for holding talks with leaders like Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, Yasin Malik and Shabir Shah. Syed Ali Geelani is not in the list of leaders to be contacted. The process has already started and would continue after polls as well."
BJP president for JK, Jugal Kishore said the State that has seen enough bloodbath and violence over the past 25 years, will soon reap the fruits of democracy. "In our State, democracy has never flourished fully because of the nature of politics played by the regional parties. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendera Modi, JK will touch the new heights of democracy," he said. "Our endeavor is to keep the flock together that include all shades of opinion. JK will see new wave of development under the BJP's rule." Pertinently, the BJP has shelved the most controversial issue of Article 370 in its vision document 2015 to ensure that there is no major political controversy after polls. "Sab Ka Vikas (good for all) is our agenda and we will fulfill all the commitments we make to our people," said Kishore. The BJP's earlier assertions regarding scrapping the Article 370 had snowballed into major controversy with both mainstream and separatist parties maintaining in union that "the special status of JK by virtue of Indian constitution can't be abrogated."

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