



BJP's Siddharth Nath Singh reacts to CM Yogi's 'Batenge to Katenge' remarks

Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh): Reacting to the UP CM Yogi Adityanath's remarks of "Batenge to Katenge", BJP leader Siddharth Nath Singh on Tuesday said that his statement is true. Saying that we need to remain vigilant, he further claimed that leaders like Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav are trying to divide the nation based on caste, language and region. Speaking to ANI, on UP CM Yogi Adityanath's remarks, BJP leader Siddharth Nath Singh said, "Out of 5 resolutions that our PM has, one is to - remain vigilant

from those who try to divide people based on caste, language and region. The CM has said 'batenge to katenge', and he has given the example of Bangladesh. It's true, as it is evident from what happened in 1947. Even today, Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav, the way they are trying to divide Hindus based on caste is a dangerous turn." "Not only this, Rahul Gandhi also says there should be a caste census but when he goes to Jammu and Kashmir, he ties up with the National Conference and advocates for revoking Article 370 and under this article, OBCs, Dalits, Pahadi and the Gujjar community don't get any resolution. On one side he is promising something in Jammu and Kashmir and on the other side he is talking about something else, it is a step to

divide the country. That's why we need to remain vigilant from those who try to divide people based on caste, language and region and that's what CM Yogi said," Singh said. Singh further asserted that the BJP government in both centre and state is capable of maintaining unity and integrity of the country "Whether it is our Prime Minister or our government, in the state and centre, we are capable of handling the unity and integrity of the country, but it is also our duty to remain vigilant on the people who want to divide the country whether it is Akhilesh Yadav or Rahul Gandhi or any parties in different regions of the country," said Singh. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on August 26 that the "nation will be empowered only when

we stay united" while warning, "if we are divided, we will be destroyed." His comments came in the aftermath of the political crisis in the neighbouring country Bangladesh where Sheikh Hasina, the former Prime Minister, was forced to flee the country following weeks of deadly protests. The remarks were made at a rally in Agra on August 26 after unveiling the statue of Rashtraveer Durgadas Rathore. "Nothing can be above the nation. And the nation will be empowered only when we are united. 'Batenge to Katenge'. You are seeing what is happening in Bangladesh. Those mistakes should not be repeated here... 'Batenge to Katenge, Ek Rahenge to Nek Rahenge'..." CM Yogi said while addressing a gathering.

Yunus-led Bangladesh has retained Sheikh Hasina's template

Shakib, a former lawmaker of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League, was among 147 people against whom charges in a murder case have been filed by one Rafiqul Islam in a Dhaka police station. Islam has also named deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, many former ministers and lawmakers including film star Ferdous Ahmed, and Awami League secretary general Obaidul Quader as accused in the murder.

Targeting the innocent
On August 5, Islam's son Rubel was shot during the student protest agitation over job quotas that plunged Bangladesh into political turmoil. He was wounded in the firing and died in a hospital after two days, the FIR said. Islam's lawyer has demanded that Shakib be kept out of the Bangladesh team in all formats of cricket. However, Shakib was not in Bangladesh on August 5 or at any time during the protests, since he was playing for Bangla Tigers Mississauga at the Global T20 Canada league in Brampton from July 26 to August 9. Before that, he was in the US to play in the Major League Cricket, until mid-July.

Vested interests at work?
So, if the presence at the spot during a crime is an issue when one is accused of murder, Shakib clearly does not fit the bill. Lawyers in Dhaka say it is also improbable that Shakib would try to have Rubel killed, considering the two did not know each other. They wonder if Rafiqul Islam would himself try to implicate Shakib in the case, or whether he did this at someone's behest. The lawyers further say the case against Shakib has possibly been filed only because he was an Awami League MP and that it has hardly any merit. It would be interesting to see how it plays out at the trial stage with the judges. Similar cases of murder have been filed against a TV journalist couple, Farzana Rupa and her husband Shakil Ahmed, both working for the pro-Awami TV channel Ekattor TV, and scores of others with no prima facie evidence of involvement.

Cricketer in trouble
The trend is ominous. Along with naming possibly some of those actually involved in violence against the protestors, many others like Shakib are being accused just because some powerful decision-maker or interest group close to the new dispensation wants to settle scores. Shakib has his share of enemies in Bangladesh cricket; they envy either his stardom or his political connections or both. He is not available for a comment as he is in Pakistan and may want to consult his lawyers before speaking to the media. Sources close to the star all-rounder say Shakib was never politically very active. He was offered a party ticket for parliamentary polls because the Awami League was looking for its share of stars, as many political parties do in the rundown to elections.

Repeat of Hasina tactics
Interestingly, the present interim government seems to follow the same template pursued during the Hasina regime - framing targeted individuals on trumped-up charges that may not necessarily lead to convictions but will be good enough to harass and intimidate the target for a long time. For the interim government's chief adviser Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, who has been high on promising the rule of law, which he says was severely compromised

Mohanlal steps down as president of AMMA

Kochi: In the wake of the ongoing controversy which shakes up Malayalam film industry like never before, Megastar Mohanlal has stepped down from the post of president of Association of Malayalam Movie Artistes (AMMA) on Tuesday. It is reported that the resignation has come as the result of growing dissent within the organisation regarding the stand of the organisation in connection with Hema Committee Report and the seemingly unstoppable allegations which have been coming thick and fast, tarnishing the image of the actors and the organisation. On Tuesday, news about the resignation of a section of the executive committee has been doing the rounds in film circles. The move of the section of the committee is being seen as the growing dissent in the committee. Following the resignation of the 17 members of the executive committee members, the committee has been disbanded. Besides President Mohanlal and General Secretary Siddique, the executive team members Jagadish, Jayan Cherthala, Baburaj, Unni Mukundan, Kalabhavan

Shajon, Suraj Venjarammoodu, Joy Mathew, Suresh Krishna, Tini Tom, Ananya, Vinu Mohan, Tovino Thomas, Sarayu Mohan, Ansiba Hassan and Jomol too have resigned. The mass resignation of AMMA executive members is being perceived as the latest in a series of dramatic developments that followed the release of the Hema Committee report. Emboldened by public and media support, as well as the government's stance that victims would be protected, many female artists have come forward with allegations of sexual misconduct against prominent actors and directors. These revelations have been causing continuous tremors in the Malayalam film industry, taking away the sheen out of the stars. Following sexual allegations against him, AMMA's General Secretary Siddique resigned from his post on Sunday. Although it was rumoured that actor Baburaj would be appointed as the new president of the organisation, he too had to step back after facing similar allegations. With continuous allegations being raised one after another, the



organisation found itself in deep trouble, unable to convincingly justify its position and failing to take a firm stand regarding the ongoing controversy. Though it was expected that the president of the organization, Mohanlal, would address the media regarding AMMA's stance, he informed that he would be unavailable due to some inconveniences. His stance has been severely criticized as he failed to respond to the ongoing controversy. The indifference of AMMA towards the problems faced by female artists, who are also members of AMMA, has been harshly questioned. The mass resignation has come in the wake of this scenario.

Finally, Modi 3.0 set to go on offensive against opposition

New Delhi: After months of inaction and adopting a defensive approach against the opposition's relentless aggression on various issues during its Modi 3.0 avatar, the Bharatiya Janata Party is set to go on the offensive amid the Assembly poll campaign. Finally, the leadership of the BJP has decided to take the battle to the opposition front as Modi 3.0 embarks on its first Assembly polls offensive, after securing power at the Centre. Sources stated that the saffron party is set to reclaim its nationalist agenda and target the opposition INDIA bloc for hobnobbing with forces inimical to the country's interests. The party will soon launch an outreach campaign in states headed for polls, including Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir. Polls are also soon due in Maharashtra and Jharkhand where this plan will also be implemented. As per the new political strategy, set to be unleashed soon, the BJP is expected to target the Congress asking the grand old party to clear its stand on the abrogation of Article 370. The



move is also expected to have a nationwide effect as the abrogation also initiated a process for the implementation of reservations for underprivileged sections in Jammu and Kashmir. While the Congress has been acting as a champion of reservation across the country over the past few months, its stand on Article 370 is expected to expose the grand old party across the nation. The Congress has entered into an alliance with the National Conference, which has been battling for reinstating Article 370 in the region and the merger of Ladakh into the erstwhile state. The BJP hopes that it can trap the grand old party through its new political

strategy. Advertisements displaying the then Prime Dr Manmohan Singh shaking hands with Yaseen Malik are also likely to be part of the media blitzkrieg to be unveiled soon. The return to its aggressive and offensive political strategy has been necessitated for the BJP after weeks of playing defence against a rejuvenated opposition amid a less-than-adequate performance by the saffron party in the recent Lok Sabha polls. Party sources feel that the National Democratic Alliance government will only be able to successfully complete its five-year term if it is able to thwart the opposition's attempts at cornering it on all controversial issues. The government wants to amend its working style urgently after its repeated backtracking and giving into the demand of the opposition, including creating a Joint Parliamentary Committee to look into the proposed amendments to the Waqf Act and scrapping the lateral entry scheme to bureaucracy, during the current tenure of Modi government.

