

In the run-up to the Assembly election, Mr. Beniwal has organised big rallies, attracting thousands of Jats and farmers as the participants, in Nagaur, Barmer, Bikaner and Sikar districts. His 10-km-long roadshow in Jaipur on Sunday, a day before the mega rally, drew a tremendous response, prompting him to declare that his new party would have “both BJP and Congress retire from politics”.

At the mega rally, rebel BJP leader and Bharat Vahini Party president Ghanshyam Tiwari, Rashtriya Lok Dal national vice-president Jayant Chaudhary and Samajwadi Party's national executive member Sajay Lathar extended support to RLP amid indications that serious efforts were being made to raise a third front in the State.

Mr. Beniwal said the RLP, in association with other outfits willing to join it, would wage a struggle for changing the system rather than “cling[ing] to the chair”. His remarks drew a huge applause from the audience and a cheerful nod of support from the leaders sitting on the dais.

Mr. Tiwari, a six-time MLA and Education Minister in the 2003-08 Vasundhara Raje regime, said the BJP government was working against the farmers and the poor. He affirmed that the new political formulation would help build a strong third political force and mobilise the voters disillusioned with both the BJP and Congress.

Mr. Tiwari had parted ways with the BJP earlier this year after differences with Ms. Raje over her style of functioning. After he was issued notice by the BJP's national disciplinary committee, he floated Deendayal Vahini as a social organisation and later got Bharati Vahini Party registered as a political party.

Both Mr. Beniwal and Mr. Tiwari, who enjoys a big support in the Brahmin community, said they were open to an alliance with the smaller parties to strengthen the third front. There were reports that a formal alliance with the seven-party Loktanktrik Morcha, with a limited presence in the State, may be announced shortly.

Printable version | May 26, 2019 4:34:31 PM | <https://www.thehindu.com/elections/rajasthan-assembly-elections-2018/hanuman-beniwal-floats-new-political-party-in-rajasthan/article25363118.ece>

© THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD.