

BJP first to introduce political reservation for women: Dr Jitendra

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
KOLKATA: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said here on Friday that BJP was the first to introduce political reservation for women even though the demand for this had been pending for several decades and discussion on the subject was held from time to time.

Addressing a mammoth public rally in support of the BJP candidate from Hooghly Lok Sabha constituency Locket Chatterjee, Dr. Jitendra said, it is the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi alone, which has the sincerity and conviction about empowerment of women in every field including in politics.

He said, some day the histori-



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh addressing a mammoth public rally at Hooghly Lok Sabha constituency on Friday.

ans and analysts may like to evaluate as to why it had to take seven decades before Prime Minister Narendra Modi brought in "Nari Shakti Vandhan Adhiniyam" legislation in Parliament for 1/3rd reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

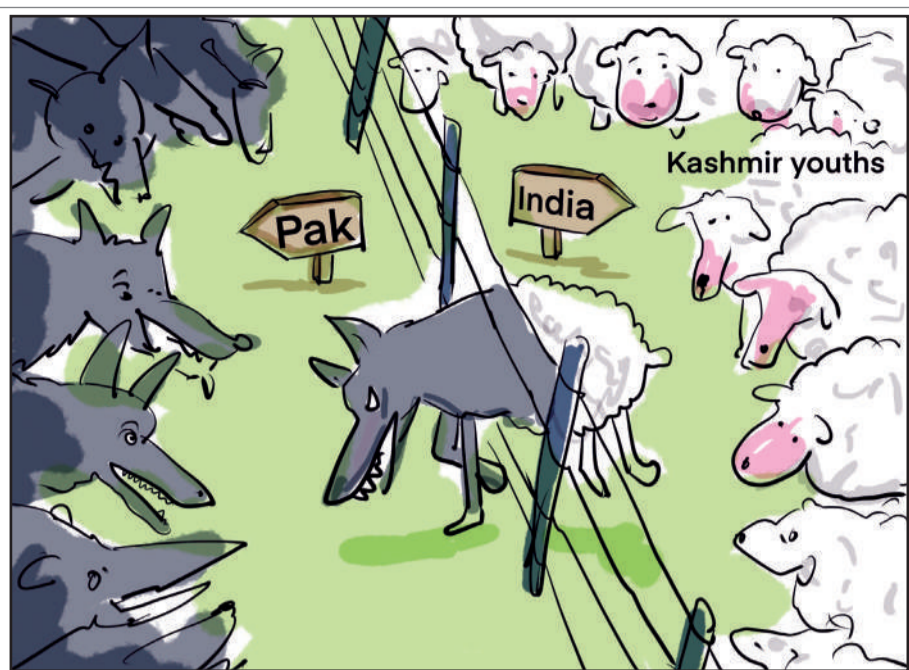
There is evidence to state,

Dr. Jitendra that whenever the issue of political reservation for women came up, each time it was vehemently opposed by all the non-BJP Parties particularly those which were being run through dynasties.

He said, whether it was the Congress Party or the TMC or the Samajwadi Party or Lahu

Prasad's RJD, they always created hurdles because they knew any such move would come in the way of their designs of promoting the members of their family including the female members of their family. As a result, he said, while the common woman of this country was deprived by these Parties of the opportunity to become MP or MLA, they had no hesitation in pushing forward the women members of the ruling dynasties to become MPs and MLAs, and thus carry forward the dynasty rule from generation to generation.

In West Bengal also, said Dr. Jitendra Singh, even though the Chief Minister happens to be a woman, the TMC government run by her had prevented the full implementation of the series of women-centric schemes rolled out by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. For youth also, Dr. Jitendra alleged, TMC govt has discouraged new industry in W. Bengal, thus depriving new employment opportunities.



Darakshhan reviews facilities for pilgrims at Sakhi Peer Chhote Shah Shrine

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
MENDHAR: Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Friday visited Mendhar and took stock of the facilities for the pilgrims at Sufi Shrine of Sakhi Peer Chhote Shah in Sakhi Maidan in the border area in Poonch district.

Dr Andrabi was accompanied by Waqf Board CEO Dr Amir Hussain and the Administrator of the Board Mohammed Rafiq Chisti. Andrabi took a meeting of the Waqf staff at the shrine and issued on the spot orders for upgrading the facilities and services for the visitors.

Speaking to media after the visit, Dr Darakhshan said that this shrine is sit-



Chairperson JKWB Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi taking facilities for pilgrims at Shrine of Sakhi Peer Chhote Shah.

uated in border area of Mendhar and people have great reverence and respect for the shrine and we are committed to upgrade the infrastructure here.

"I have issued instruc-

Bhagwan Shri Parashurama is true ideal for youth: Sham Lal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Parashurama, an event was organized at Shining Star High School, Muthi by the Shri Kaliakh Jyotish Avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, Jammu and Kashmir.

Special prayers, rituals, Havan, Bhajan-Kirtan, and discussions were organized in honour of Bhagwan Parashurama.

During the event, the program was chaired by renowned Swami Shri Hridayanand Giri Maharaj, with Chief Guest Sham Lal Sharma (former Minister), Special Guest Vikram Sharma (President Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association Jammu), Guest R.K. Chhibber (former Chairman of Jammu



Former Minister, Sham Lal Sharma speaking at Bhagwan Parashurama Jayanti programme.

and Kashmir Bank). Sham Lal said that Bhagwan Parashurama is known for his strength, valour, courage, bravery, and devotion.

He emphasized the importance of drawing inspiration from his life and urged the youth to conserve the environment and keep the surroundings green.

He highlighted that the youth are the future of India and the country's develop-

ment relies on their shoulders. He praised the Trust for its invaluable contribution to promoting our culture, extending congratulations to its chairman, Mahant Rohit Shastri.

Swami Shri Hridayanand Giri ji Maharaj stated that Bhagwan Parashurama is the sixth incarnation of Bhagwan Vishnu and one of the eight immortal characters mentioned in scriptures.

Vikram Sharma remarked that such events would provide society with a new direction, emphasizing Bhagwan Parashurama's proficiency in both weapons and knowledge.

He urged parents to instill good values in their children and ensure they stay away from addictive substances.

During the event, recognition was given to individuals like Dr. Vikas Sharma, Purushottam Shastri Vishisht, Subhash Nanda,

Court directs CB to register FIR against fraudsters

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Special Municipal Mobile Magistrate Jammu Meyank Gupta directed Crime Branch to register FIR against fraudster Tarsem Lal, Anu Sharma, Rajesh Kumar and Narinder Singh.

According to the complaint filed by Ravan Kumar other that they made an agreement to sell of land with the alleged accused for setting Industrial Unit and pursuant to negotiations, the accused persons executed an Agreement to Sell dated 17th March, 2023 (inadvertently due to cut and paste of format of Agreement to sell, the date remained unchanged as 17th March, 2023 and put date 17th with his own hand), duly attested by Kuldeep Raj Advocate, the Notary Public Kathua on 17th March, 2023 and the complainants paid a sum of Rs. 50,00,000 to the accused persons in presence of witnesses mentioned in the 'Agreement to sell'. The accused persons have duly acknowledged the same. Thereafter, the complainants further paid an

amount of Rs.20.00 lakh to the accused persons. The total amount paid to the accused persons till date is Rs.70.00 lakh. It is pertinent to mention here that when the above mentioned amount of advance was paid to the accused No.1, 3 and 4, accused No.2.

The complainants came to know few days back that the accused persons have deceitfully facilitated the execution of the Sale Deeds whereby accused No.2 Anu Sharma wife of accused No.1 Tarsem Lal has sold land measuring 32 Kanals 6 Marias and Dilawar Singh, Gurmukh Paul Singh, Paramjit Kour and Talvinder Kour have sold land measuring 26 Kanals 16 Marias and Jaswant Singh, Gurmukh Singh, Aniket Singh and Jasvir Kaur have sold land measuring 27 Kanals 9 Marias out of the Khasra No.1147 min, Khasra No.1143 min, 1171 min, 1119 min and In Khasra No. 1170 situated at Village Dollian Jattan, Tehsil Marheen District Kathua in favour of M/s Dhunseri Poly Films Private Limited, Unibourne Industries Private Limited and Varinder Sharma, respectively out of the land for

which the accused persons have executed an Agreement to Sell in favour of the complainants and have already received Rs.70.00 lakh from the complainants, thus have cheated and committed criminal breach of trust.

Court after Adv Ravinder Sharma with Adv Aditya Vikram Sharma for the applicants, observed that as per the import of the Lalita Kumari Vs State of U.P & Ors judgment passed by the Apex Court that if the contents of the complaint show commission of cognizable offence, then the Police Officer is bound to register the FIR. I am of the view that whether or not the offence complaint of is made out is to be

determined at the stage of investigation or trial and if after conducting the investigation, the Police find that no offence is made out, they may file report u/s 173 Cr.PC but it is not open to a police officer to decline to register an FIR when the complaint they receive discloses the commission of cognizable offence. I am further in agreement with the contention of the Ld. Counsel that sufficient time was taken by the Crime Branch for evaluating the allegations raised by applicants/complainants against the non-applicants/accused persons but till date no FIR has been registered in spite of the fact that the complaint submitted before

the Crime Branch shows commission of cognizable offence and it is admitted by the Crime Branch that they have received the complaint from the applicants/complainants in this regard. Court is of the considered view that if the application in hand is not allowed, it will lead to injustice with the applicants/complainants and there is every probability that the accused persons will further commit fraud and further perpetuate the crime with respect to the same land in question. Accordingly, Senior Superintendent of Police Crime Branch (EOW) Jammu is directed to investigate the matter under Section 156(3) Cr.PC by registering FIR.

Rana participates in Parshuram Jayanti celebrations; greets people

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Friday participated in the Parshuram Jayanti celebrations at Dogra Brahmmin Prathiniidhi Sabha, Dogra Grameen Brahmmin Sabha and Nagrota greeted the devout on the birth anniversary of legendary sage warrior Bhagwan Parshuram.

In the serene and spiritually filled atmosphere, the senior BJP leader paid homage to the sixth incarnation of Bhagwan Vishnu, known for unparalleled devotion, strength, dedication and righteousness.

"Pray such festivals to be an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to strengthen the bonds of inclusiveness, share our joys with others and serve the



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana and others participating in the Parshuram Jayanti celebrations.

humanity", Devender Rana said, adding that the unity in diversity has been the biggest strength of this great nation, which has always withstood test of times.

"The observance of Parshuram Jayanti provides an opportunity to us all to immerse ourselves in the divine aura of the revered sage warrior", Rana said, adding, "Let us come together to honour His legacy and draw inspiration from His noble deeds as we strive towards a harmonious and virtuous society".

Devender Rana prayed for peace and tranquility across the country.

HC upholds PSA of two Narco smugglers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Justice Sanjay Dhar of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court while hearing two different habeas corpus petition, dismissed both the petitions and upheld the detention under PITNDPS.

The petitioner, Tahir Hussain Shah, son of Faqir Hussain Shah, resident of Khablan, Tehsil Thanamandi, District Rajouri (hereinafter referred to as 'detenu'), has challenged Order No.PITNDPS 21 of 2023 dated July 19, 2023 passed by Divisional Commissioner Jammu (hereinafter referred to as 'detaining authority') whereby he has

been taken into preventive custody in terms of Section 3 of The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 (hereinafter referred to as 'PITNDPS Act').

The petitioner, Rafaqat Ali, son of Mohd. Shafi, resident of Near Sai Baba Mandir, Ward No.12 Devika Udhampur (hereinafter referred to as 'detenu'), has challenged Order No.PITNDPS 37 of 2023 dated September 14, 2023 issued by Divisional Commissioner Jammu (hereinafter referred to as 'detaining authority') whereby he has been taken into preventive custody in terms of Section 3 of

The Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988 (hereinafter referred to as 'PITNDPS Act'). Justice Sanjay Dhar while dismissing the petitions, observed that it has been next contended that because the petitioner was already facing trial/investigation in the offences registered against him, therefore, there was no compelling reason for the detaining authority to pass the impugned order of detention. In this regard, as already stated, the detaining authority has recorded that even after being booked in substantive offences, the petitioner is still indulging in illicit traffic of

drugs after getting bail from the Court meaning thereby that the detaining authority has, in view of the repeated and continuous criminal activities of the petitioner, felt satisfied that normal criminal law has not deterred the petitioner from indulging in illicit traffic of drugs. It is a trite law that subjective satisfaction of the detaining authority cannot be a subject matter of judicial review. Therefore, sufficiency or otherwise of the material for deriving subjective satisfaction is the domain of the detaining authority. The Court cannot sit in appeal or exercise its power of judicial review in this regard.

Times demand to replace NOTA with NTC (Not this Candidate): Casting a negative vote

■ DAYA SAGAR
A very unique feature of Constitution of India as adopted and enacted on November 26, 1949 by The People of India solemnly resolving to constitute India into a Sovereign Democratic Republic has been that The executive power of the Union is vested in the President of India (Art-53.1), the supreme command of the Defence-Forces of the Union is vested in the President (Art-53.2), all executive action of the Government of India are to be expressed to be taken in the name of the President of India (Art-77), the Parliament for the Union consist of the President and two Houses known respectively as the Council of States & the House of the People (Art-79) and the President before entering upon his/her takes an oath or affirmation to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law (Art-60). In the said reference it is very pertinent to note here that the said president is elected by people of India, of course the election is through indirect mode. The President of India Union is elected (Art-54) by people of India through the Electoral College comprising of members of Lok Sabha (elected by people through direct election), members of Legislative Assemblies of states/UTs (elected through direct elections) & members of Rajya Sabha / Upper House (elected by indirect election by members of Legislative Assemblies of

states). So may at some time requirement may arise the President to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law as part of Parliament even from the representatives elected by people for a particular term.

So there has to be at the same time very intimate promotion of awareness in every citizen about the power of one's vote and importance of casting vote during elections with utmost care so as to elect a representative, as far as possible, having pure intentions to serve the people of India in terms of the Constitution of India.

"Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For sure" was the theme for NVD 2023 and the same theme has been for NVD 2024 too. 25th January is being observed/ celebrated as National Voters Day (NVD) in India since 2011. The 2024 is also celebrated by Election Commission of India as ECI 75th year of service to the nation. Every year on this day surely some voter citizens also make suggestions for electoral reforms and in recent years there have been many suggestion like for reviewing the Anti defection law, relooking into the spirits under lying the provisions like NOTA (none of the above) and replacing that with something like "Not This Candidate" (NTC), setting a minimum qualifying mandate in terms of votes polled and secured by a winning candidate like there is provision of candidate losing deposit in case one secures votes less



than a mark and like. So far no suggestion coming from common visionaries worth making one intimately sense the value in a pledge like 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For sure' has been implemented except that NOTA button / symbol was introduced (2013) which too does not have any meaningful affect in the election of any particular candidate since on ground it has same effect as like someone not voting.

In Indian democratic system the experience has been that in very rare cases an independent candidate wins and mostly the race is amongst the candidates nominated by national / regional parties.

The voter has to vote for the candidate the political parties field and in case one feels that 'so and so' candidate is not good and should not win voter has no option to cast a negative vote for that candidate since NOTA will have same effect for all candidates. Similarly in the present system for elections to legislature in case those who use the NOTA button are more than the maximum votes secured by any other candidates still the candidate is declared elected, which surely is not fair.

No doubt it has been reported on 26 April 2024 that a bench headed by Chief Justice

of India DY Chandrachud has issued notice to the Election Commission of India on a petition by Shiv Khera seeking direction to frame rules to the effect that if NOTA gets a majority, the election held in the particular constituency should be declared null and void and a fresh election be conducted to the constituency. We have wait for the outcome.

Let us revert to the theme NVD 2024, 'Nothing Like Voting, I Vote For sure'. Equally important is (i) 'how to select a candidate and (ii) should one vote in the national interest or only for self interests using keeping socio/communal yardsticks.

So often people are found discussing in private about the political parties depending more upon the alleged criminals / alleged economic offenders for success during elections. It was somewhere in 1987 or so that Shri Rajiv Gandhi was reported as having being asked by a lady social activists that why does political parties like Congress give tickets for contesting elections to persons who have criminal background / economic allegations against them. Gandhi had very simply replied that a person who comes to claim ticket for contesting election along with hundreds of locals supporting him cannot be outrightly denied ticket without conducting detailed study / giving him opportunity to defend the files (if any) but the same person when comes to seek vote from "you" can be denied vote during

election without any obligation on "you" to explain the denial of vote. So every five years a vote seeker has to come to common Voter citizen who as 'supreme' judge may not vote for a 'bad' candidate. In view of such like issues suggestions have been made for introducing negative voting also but instead the provision of NOTA (None out of Above) was introduced by election commission in 2013 which comparatively makes no loss to any 'bad' amongst the contesting candidates.

It appears that the concept of NOTA too had been promoted / pushed in by those who are in the business of manipulative politics since NOTA puts no bad candidate to disadvantage because all the candidates are denied 'with one' vote. We have to elect out of the available lot and a voter is less supposed to know the real negatives of all candidates. So when NOTA is cast one should instead infer that the voter does not believe in the present electoral system.

Hence better would be to give a voter the option/ choice to elect someone or atleast to ensure that a bad candidate (as per one's knowledge) is put to some disadvantage and for that voter should be given the option to send a message that a particular candidate should not be elected by pressing a button marked as NTC (Not This Candidate) i.e. NOTA should be replaced with NTC (Not This Candidate). NTC

will be to cast a negative vote for a candidate there by reducing his / her votes by one there by giving advantage to others. So, there should be two buttons with every candidate symbol i.e. YES and / NTC. This way a bad candidate could be put to a disadvantage of one vote.

But it has also to be pointedly understood that as on date it is the politician monitored system that we have where we have no any other social or community body independent of the political masters to guide the common masses as regards their rights and jurisdictions over the public representatives they are to vote and elect. Today's system at occasions appears pro those who have taken the "Indian democratic" system more as a profession/ commercial venture. The present "politician family" may not like such suggestions but in the interest of Indian people / Nation work must be started in this direction. There should not be any difficulty in replacing NOTA with NTC.

Not only that people must rise above all personal interests to ensure that their elected representatives are forced / impressed upon to see that constitutionally a minimum voting percentage for a constituency during elections is also fixed and counting be taken only after that otherwise let there be polling again.

(The writer is Senior Journalist and analyst J&K affairs)