

Religion based reservation against spirit of Constitution: Dr Jitendra

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
KOLKATA: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said here on Sunday that religion based reservation, as suggested by the Congress and other opposition parties, is against the spirit of Indian constitution, and will never be allowed to happen under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Referring to multiple public rallies addressed, one after the other, here today by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Barrackpore, Hooghly, Arambagh and Howrah respectively, Dr. Jitendra quoted Prime Minister Modi who categorically said today that he will never allow religion based reservation and that is "Modi's guarantee".

Citing the unprecedented public response to PM Narendra Modi's rallies here, Dr. Jitendra said, this is an

endorsement of all that Prime Minister Modi stands for and also his commitment and conviction for the welfare of the people of this country.

He said, Prime Minister Modi is very clear that religion cannot be the basis of granting reservations and he has time and again also reiterated that he will never allow the reservation for Dalits, Adivasis and OBCs to be given to Muslims on the basis of religion.

In a desperate bid to appease certain sections of the vote bank, Dr. Jitendra said, Congress seems determined to steal from OBC quota to provide reservation based on religion.

He said, this is also against the spirit of the constitution and an affront to the founding father of Indian Constitution, Baba Saheb



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking during the BJP election campaign at Kolkata.

Ambedkar.

At the same time, Dr. Jitendra said, it has been repeatedly reiterated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the reservation for Dalits, Adivasis, OBCs will continue and that the Congress Party is trying to spread a false narrative in this regard.

Rising above caste, creed and religion considerations or even the vote bank considerations, Dr. Jitendra said, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has primarily addressed the cause of what he describes as the four classes in the society namely the women, youth, farmers and the poor. In doing so, the government headed by Prime Minister Modi is actually seeking to improve the lot of every section of society regardless of religion.

It is not an ordinary achievement that in just 10 years, under Prime Minister Modi, more than 25 crore Indians have come out of the Poverty Line, whereas in all

the preceding years, Congress kept on speaking about "Garibi Hatao" but the number of poor simultaneously kept on increasing, he added.

Referring to the changing mindset of the voters in West Bengal, Dr. Jitendra reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal that he wants the youth of West Bengal to be part of Viksit Bharat.

He said, the people of Bengal, particularly the youth have made up their mind to develop the State as "Viksit Bengal" and be a part of the Viksit Bharat development journey led by Prime Minister.



Prevalence of undiagnosed and untreated hypertension still remains a major public health issue: Dr Sushil

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: While spearheading his campaign towards the prevention of cardiac ailments, Head Department of Cardiology GMCH Jammu, Dr Sushil Sharma held a day long cardiac Awareness cum Health Check up camp at Hari Prabhu Sanstha, Nagrota Gujroo area of Billawar District, Kathua with main focus on enlightening rural masses about the increasing prevalence of hypertension and thereby contributing to the already overburdened healthcare systems and henceforth increasing both morbidity and mortality.

More than 250 people were screened, evaluated, diagnosed for various health ailments. Blood Sugar, ECG and Eye Sight tests were done and free medicine also given as per the requirements.

While interacting with the people, Dr Sushil stated that Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) such as heart diseases, stroke, diabetes, cancer and chronic respiratory diseases are the leading causes for morbidity and mortality worldwide, with three-fourth of deaths occurring in the low and mid-



HoD Cardiology GMCH Jammu, Dr Sushil Sharma with his team examining patients.

dle-income countries after the age of 60.

Among them, Dr Sushil said, hypertension is the leading cause of mortality and is ranked third as the risk factor of healthy years of life lost due to morbidity or pre-mature death.

"Hypertension is a major risk factor for cardiovascular diseases (CVD), particularly ischemic heart disease and stroke. In the recent years, the burden of hypertension has increased. More than 35 per cent of the adult population are affected by hypertension in the Asian region thereby becoming a serious public health concern," Dr Sushil said.

He elaborated that Socio-economic and lifestyle factors seemed to contribute significantly to the urban-rural gap in undiagnosed, untreated and untreated hypertension in India among older adults.

"There is an urgent need of creating awareness programmes for the early identification of hypertensive cases and regular treatment, particularly in under-served rural India. Interventions should be made targeting specific population groups to tackle inequality in healthcare utilization. That although awareness and treatment rates of hypertension have significantly improved in recent years,

prevalence of undiagnosed and untreated hypertension still remains a major public health issue plaguing the developing societies. The low- and middle-income countries have a higher rate of undiagnosed, uncontrolled and untreated hypertension than in the developed countries. Lack of knowledge, detection and treatment of hypertension contribute to higher risk of stroke, younger age of onset and larger proportion of intracerebral haemorrhage in lower-income countries," Dr Sushil said.

He added that Optimal management strategies are likely to differ for patients types. Healthy Lifestyles influence

adherence to medication as well as a patient's beliefs and involvement with behaviors including food, beverages, physical activity, healthy weight, salt, alcohol consumption and smoking, he said.

Management Committee of the Hari Prabhu Sanstha I.D. Soni, Sansar Chand, Jagmohan Gupta, Kuldeep Gupta, Dev Gupta, Subhash Gupta, K L Gupta, P N Jalla and Anil Sharma appreciated the selfless efforts of Dr. Sushil and his team in extending quality healthcare in such a remote area of Jammu province and expressed hope that such outreach programme could be a regular feature in this village. Prof R D Sharma (former Vice Chancellor Jammu University) also graced the occasion.

Others who were part of this Camp include Dr Yashwant Sharma and Dr Ankur Goel (Ophthalmologist). Paramedics and Volunteers includes Rajkumar, Ranjeet Thakur, Vishal Padha, Nirvair Singh Bali, Rajinder Singh, Rahul Vaid, Rohit Nayyar, Paramveer Singh and Vikas Kumar.

Int'l Nurses Day celebrated at IGGDC Jammu



Principal IGGDC Jammu, Dr Parveen Akhter Lone and others at International Nurses Day celebration.

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: Indira Gandhi Government Dental College (IGGDC) Jammu celebrated International Nurses Day on Sunday to mark the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale. Dr. Richa Gupta, Head of the Department, Prosthodontics & Dental Materials, IGGDC Jammu presented the welcome address and highlighted the role of nurses in the efficient and effective working of health care system. Supervisor Nurses Reva and Anju threw light on the life and contributions of Florence Nightingale. Dr Parveen Akhter Lone, Principal and Dean IGGDC Jammu, in her presidential

address, emphasized the immense importance of nursing staff in the smooth functioning of health care delivery. Speaking on the occasion, Principal IGGDC, reiterated this year's theme for Nursing Day declared by International Council of Nurses- "Our Nurses Our future- The Economic Power of Care".

While explaining the word Nurse, she urged the Nursing staff that word NURSE describes the professional virtues of a Nurse i.e. Noble, Understanding, Responsible, Sympathetic and Efficient.

Every nursing official must uphold the professional values and standards of nursing which is backbone of a health

care system. Nursing care is one of the important area of quality of care being provided in a health institution and must not be ignored at any cost.

In her tribute to Florence Nightingale, She urged that every nursing official must inculcate the compassion, values and sense of duty to serve the ailing humanity.

Nursing staff of IGGDC Jammu was felicitated with mementoes of Florence Nightingale. Vote of thanks was presented by Bhagwan Dass Sharma. The program was also attended by all the Heads of Departments of IGGDC Jammu viz. Dr. Rubina Anjum, Dr Azhar Malik, Dr Reecha Gupta, Dr Iqbal Singh, Dr Satvinder Singh and Deputy Medical Superintendent IGGDC Dr Wasik Rasool.

Dental Surgeons, Nursing Staff, Gazetted and Non-Gazetted staff of the college and hospital also attended the program.

Constitution is our life-giver, vote to INDI Alliance will ensure its safety: Bhalla

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
JAMMU: JKPC Working President and Congress contesting candidate from Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary seat Raman Bhalla on Sunday felicitated Booth agents of Jammu North constituency in a programme at Paloura organized by Hari Singh Chib, Vice President JKPC and Uday Bhanu Chib IYC National General Secretary accompanied by Mula Ram former Minister and JKPC Sr Vice President and Senior Congress leaders. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Bittu Rampal, Raj Dev



JKPCL leaders at a public meeting.

Singh, Som Nath, Uttam Singh Chib, Surinder Kumar, Hoshiwar Singh, H S Baggi, Fakir Chand, Ramesh Singh Parshotam Singh, Karan, Rishu, Dev Raj, Rajpal, Chander Mohan, Bal Krishan, Rahul Padha, Jagdish Kumar, Kamal Singh, Kaka Ram, Billa Rajkumar besides others.

Bhalla claimed if the Congress wins, the INDIA bloc will form the government at the Centre in 2024. He said that Congress and INDIA Block are committed to protect the Constitution. Bhalla termed the Constitution as a "life-giver" and said as long as the Constitution remains safe, "our

honour, self-respect and rights will remain safe." He said, "The way the people of country are continuously coming forward to support us after our direct appeal has given new strength to our fight against the BJP".

He urged people to "unite and pledge to vote" for their own welfare and ensure victory for the candidates of INDIA bloc.

Mula Ram said that Congress would continue to stand for the legal and genuine rights of the people of the Union territory.

Hari Singh Chib and Uday Chib also spoke on the occasion.

Rohit Gupta chairs pivotal meeting ahead of Parliamentary Elections

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**
POONCH: J&K Apni Party holds a pivotal meeting, at Poonch Town in Jammu Province.

The meeting was chaired by J&K Apni Party Provincial Secretary Incharge Membership, Rohit Gupta, wherein, the gathering saw participation from party workers' and grassroots activists.

Addressing the gathering, Gupta emphasized the significance of grassroots workers'



JKAP Provincial Secy, Rohit Gupta during a meeting at Poonch.

ahead of parliamentary elections. Gupta urged workers to boost ongoing election cam-

paign for party's candidacy for upcoming Parliamentary elections.

The meeting was organised by District General Secretary Surjan Singh.

3.40 lakh kanal land out of 3.48 lakh kanal was given free as Agri Land under Roshni Scheme Amended Roshni Act also provided for giving freehold rights to official Residential Lease Holders Some beneficiaries (old Residential Lease Holders) had even named the prices fixed as on Higher Side Has Roshni Scheme - ACT No XII of 2001 been unfairly treated disreputing even All Administration & J&K Legislature ?

■ **DAYA SAGAR**
No doubt the J&K Government has filed an application for review of the order of J&K High Court pronounced on 09 Oct 2020 a PIL of 2011 concerning the so infamous government lands encroachment case {of which at a later date the Jammu and Kashmir State Lands (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001 Act No. XII of 2001 too had been made a part at a later date making reference of CAG report presented in J&K Assembly in 2014}. But since the actions of the J&K Government and the then J&K Legislator with regard to The Jammu and Kashmir State Lands (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001 Act No. XII of 2001 from 2001 to 2007, commonly referred as Roshni Scheme, have been labeled as acts to favour a few influential politicians/ bureaucrats & scam worth Rs.25000 so still some questions could be raised on those who earlier presented the J&K Governments / Legislatures case before the Court before Oct 2020 Judgement was delivered since some very vital elements of the case were not placed before the Court like the facts that not only a few influential people/ politicians / bureaucrats / a few land grabbers but also thousands of the common persons/ families were going to be affected after the reference of CAG Report of 2014 {that had some observations on the implementation of the Jammu and Kashmir State Lands (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001 Act No. XII of 2001} had been made by a party in the ongoing PIL of 2011 in J&K HC where under all the beneficiaries, including even those who had been holding leasehold ownership rights on the government lands given to them on 40 yr/ 60 Residential Lease in 1960s/1950s/ or even earlier after taking premium, who were going to be accused of being encroachers/ land grabbers had not been made party. Such like vital information about the beneficiaries appears to have not been pointedly placed before the J&K HC, not by even the respondents defending the J&K Legislature and the J&K Government.

It is not out of place to mention here that the Jammu and Kashmir State Lands (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001 Act No. XII of 2001 was passed by the J&K State Legislature first in 2001 carrying the policy of the then Government (where J&K National Conference was



A look through the mist Part IV

grant of ownership rights of lands to the unauthorised occupants of government lands (excluding some classes of lands) on likely market price to be determined by committee/ committees constituted by Government under the rules to be made by Government and setting cut off date of occupation as upto 1990.

The Government in J&K changed after 2002 elections and the Congress - PDP J&K Government amended the Act 1st time in 2004 (Act No. XVI of 2004 w.e.f. 21-05-2004) making some changes in the Act including also giving the option of taking freehold rights on leased land instead of extension of lease to families / persons like those holding long residential leases prior to 1947 was also made the part there of, (many families were holding leases like residential leases / leases to education trusts etc even prior to 1947 and after before the J&K Housing Board / JDA/SDA were established) shifting the cut off date to 2004 and 2nd Time the Act was amended in 2007 (Act III of 2007 wef 20th November, 2006) when some element of change in policy intentions like the Grant to Tiller policy of 1950 was placed before Legislature by Ghulam Nabi Azad headed Government and specific category of "unauthorised occupied government lands being used for Agriculture atleast since 3 years prior to making application" was also created which was passed by J&K Legislature and rules 2007 were accordingly redrawn by the government in terms of delegation under the Act / in terms of the policy of the then government placed before the Legislature at the time of presentation of the Bill for amendment.. So the welfare objective was modified in 2007 by the Government & Legislature that followed after 2002ed and it appears that Audit had not been fair in drawing conclusions like that the Act made to benefit a few influential politicians/bureaucrats / favoured persons since the policy for giving lands occupied for Agri purpose at zero cost or @ Rs.100 only per Kanal as documentations charges was to involve thousands of small/ marginal farmers also.

holding nearly 2/3rd majority) to use the sale proceeds / recoveries for power generation from

TABLE - A Unit of Area : Kanal
The Table is based on a reply given to starred Question No AQ No.618 in J&K Legislative Assembly.

District	Anantnag	Bandipora	Baramulla	Badgam	Gandel	kugam	Kupwara	Pulwama	Shopian	Srinagar	Total Kashmir Region
Area occupied	33710	46920	114135	43542	24544	29114	54034	40620	13180	42294	4,42,093 K
Area approved	4324	11002	4200	3321	809	941	3139	3311	1849	494	33,392 K
District	Doda	Jammu	Kathua	Kishtwar	Poonch	Rajouri	Ramban	Reasi	Samba	Udhampur	Total in Jammu Region
Area occupied	177551	160358	104746	75159	129727	396018	167521	141524	97133	152416	1602153
Area approved	54212	44915	26292	18185	6597	283444	24993	13380	8585	90607	571210
Total Area Occupied in Jammu Region Kanals		Total Area Occupied in Kashmir region Kanals		Total t area Approved for allotment in Jamm Region		Total Areas Approved for allotment in Kashmir Region		Total Area Actually billed in 7 years in Jammu and Kashmir			
1602153		4,42,093		5,71,210 Kanal		33, 392 Kanal		Only 3,48,160 Kanal			

Just to have an broad but immediate idea of the government lands in the possession "unauthorised" it can be well seen from the Table - A below which shows the quantum of the anticipated occupied lands district wise as per reports with the government and the lands that had been cleared by the revenue department for grant of freehold/ ownership rights to illegal occupants / legal occupants (those who had long official lease) where from it is quite evident that the beneficiaries' very very large in number and were spread over whole of J&K (except Ladakh Region).

The Table is based on a reply given to starred Question No AQ No.618 in J&K Legislative Assembly. As per CAG report tabled in JK Legislative Assembly in 2014 demand notes for only 3,48,160 kanal of land were issued from 2007 to 2013 out of over 20,00,000 Kanal land estimated (as per CAG report page 38 estimated land in 2006 Nov was 204972 kanals) to be encroached and from that also 3,40,091 kanal land (nearly 98 percent) was rural agriculture land that was

It is not out of context here that the field audit team of CAG had over looked the very important fact that in this case a few lakh applications had been received by revenue department, many of the applications were still not cleared after six 7 years. More so the Audit team had test checked the price fixation for urban cases including cases where there were even pre 1947 residential leases (para 271 Page 38 of CAG report itself says only 547cases covering only 666 kanal of non agri lands were test checked, no Agri land case was test checked) where as they should have preferred to go for test check of identification and approval agriculture lands which were being given at zero and where there were more chances of favoritism/ wrong identification/ verification of dates of encroachments in old records / taking advantage of change of cutoff date upto 2004 from earlier 2001.

To be continued...

(The writer is Sr Journalist and expert J&K Expert affairs & social activist)