

5th phase polling to reaffirm 'lotus' blooming in East: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said here on Sunday that 5th phase polling tomorrow will reaffirm "lotus" blooming in the East while India's most important Eastern State of West Bengal is all set to maintain the high voter turnout record of the previous four phases.

Speaking to media on the eve of the 5th phase polling to seven Lok Sabha constituencies of West Bengal of which he was assigned In-Charge, Dr Jitendra Singh said, in the ongoing election process, in each of the four phases so far, among all the States and Union Territories



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh speaking to media on Sunday, on the eve of 5th phase polling.

of the country, West Bengal has consistently recorded a comparatively higher voter

turnout. Citing figures, he said, while phase-1 recorded a voter turnout of 81.91 percent in West Bengal, phase-three and phase-four recorded a voter turnout of 81.52 percent and 80.22 percent respectively. Only the second phase recorded a slightly lower voter turnout of 76.58 percent but that too was higher compared to most of the other States, he observed.

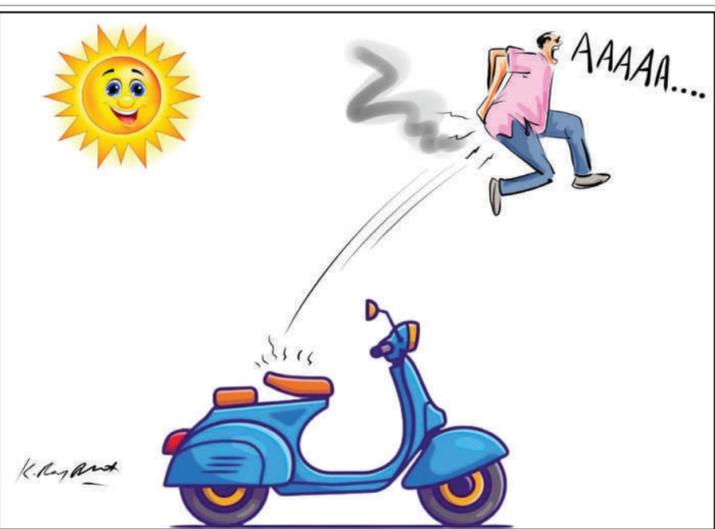
Dr Jitendra said, in spite of scorching heat and prolonged election process, the consistent high turnout of voter in the eastern State of West Bengal is an indicator of people's popular support for Prime Minister Narendra

Modi and his policies and at the same time, it also reflects people's disenchantment with the rule of violence and intimidation under Mamata Banerjee led TMC government. The border constituencies of Bangaon and Barrackpore in 24 Parganas, said Dr Singh, returned BJP in 2019 and would do so again this time as well. The prestigious Howrah seat which BJP lost last time is now ready to go to the BJP kitty by electing the BJP candidate who also happens to be a Physician and a former Mayor, he said.

As far as the BJP is concerned, the vote is for development, equal opportunities

for youth and effective implementation of the people-centric welfare schemes initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said the Minister.

The heavy turnout of masses at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public rallies, said Dr Jitendra, is an indication of the vengeance with which the people of this eastern State want to teach Mamata Banerjee and her goons a lesson. It is also a message to be conveyed across the country that Bengal is now ready to be a part of the 'Vikshit Bharat Yatra' of new India led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said.



Prophet's message of peace & inclusivity needs to be shared to young generation: Darakhshan



Chairperson JKWB Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi participating in Mohabbat-e-Rasool Conference.

STATE TIMES NEWS
POONCH: Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Sunday participated in the Mohabbat-e-Rasool (PBUH) Conference at Dingla Janyar in Poonch which was attended by a large number of people from all parts of the UT.

Prominent religious preach-

ers of J&K deliberated on the Prophet's message of humanity, spiritual and moral excellence. This conference was organised by Idara Jamia Moin-us-Sunnah Poonch.

After her participation in the conference for a few hours, Dr Andrabi said that it was the time to propagate the true message

of the Prophet Mohammad (SAW) so that conducive and strong basis for a peaceful inclusive society is laid on the true principles of Islam. "Prophet's message of peace needs to be shared to the young generation. For pure spiritual peaceful future we need to understand the universal teachings of the Prophet Mohammad Mustafa and make the world aware about this message of peace and harmony", said Dr Andrabi.

KPS condemns terrorists attacks at Shopian, Pahalgam

STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: Kashmiri Pandit Sabha (KPS) Jammu has condemned the dastardly killing of former BJP Sarpanch Ajaz Ahmed Sheikh in a terrorist attack in Herpora village in Shopian and also another terrorist attack in which a tourist couple was seriously injured in Pahalgam.

The members expressed their deep condolences to the family of the deceased.

In spite of the fact that terrorists have been actively pursued and eliminated during the past few years, they keep indulging in one off attacks to show their presence otherwise their handlers across the border would stop funding them, KPS president K K Khosa said.

"The significance of each such incident gets highlighted during elections because the focus of the nation is on Kashmir where parliamentary elections are being held without the shadow of the gun looming over the land after decades," he said.

The Sabha executive committee and its President K K Khosa congratulated the common Kashmiris for showing so much exuberance and excitement in participating in the parliamentary polls thereby giving a clear message that they want peace and tranquility to return to the Valley.

Security will have to be further strengthened in view of the elections followed by the yatras both Kheerbhawani and Shree Amarnath and then the assembly elections.

The members appealed the voters to give a befitting reply to the antinational forces of violence and destabilization by coming out in large numbers to cast their votes in this crucial election.

The Kashmiri Pandits have existential stakes in the return of peace and normalcy in the valley which will create the right environment for their return and rehabilitation back in the land of their forefathers the members said.

INDI Alliance will wipe out BJP from J&K: Bhalla

STATE TIMES NEWS
SUCHEETGAH: The BJP will be wiped out from J&K, declared JKPCC Working President and Congress contesting candidate from Jammu-Reasi parliamentary seat Raman Bhalla on Sunday in an impressive programme at Suchetgarh organized by Block President Ajai Singh Motton to facilitate both agents of Panchayat Deewangarh.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include DDC Member and General Secretary JKPCC TS Tony, General Secretary JKPCC Amrit Bali, BDC Chairman Dalip Kumar, Working President Charanjeet Bhagat, Ashok Kumar Sarpanch, Harbans Singh Gill Sarpanch, Des Raj Panch, Ghara Ram Mottan, Ravi Targotra, S. Balkar Singh, Sohan Lal, Sardari Lal Bhagat, Sham



JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla addressing public meeting.

Singh, Sunil Kumar Azad, besides others.

"INDI Alliance will wipe out BJP from J&K. Today, every section of society is upset as all the promises of BJP turned out to be fake," said Bhalla.

"INDI Alliance is the new hope in the elections. As Rahul

said that there are many things in his manifesto that can eradicate poverty. All political parties, especially the partners of the INDI Alliance, are saying that they will give MSP guarantee, the day the Indian government increases the income of the farmers, poverty will go

away," said Bhalla. He also announced that a 10 kg free ration (monthly provision) will be distributed to the poor once the INDI Alliance government is formed. "They are giving a 5 kg free ration. We will double it and give 10 kg when the alliance government is formed,"

he said. Bhalla exuded confidence of winning the Lok Sabha elections 2024 and said the people of the country have decided to let go of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He said, "In four phases of elections that have been completed, INDI Alliance is in a strong position and people have decided to let go of PM Modi. I can say with full confidence that on June 4, the INDI Alliance will form the government. This election is an important one to save democracy and the Constitution."

He said that the Opposition's INDI Alliance is fighting this battle against unemployment and inflation.

"On one side, there are parties fighting for the poor. On the other side, there are people standing in favour of the rich. Our fight is on behalf of the poor, who do not get food and

do not get jobs. Our alliance is fighting this battle against unemployment and inflation spreading in the country," he said. He said that Congress is truly secular party and only it can keep the country united and strong. He said that Congress is in the hearts of people and the false propaganda of BJP against Congress won't work any longer.

He said Congress is committed not only to safeguard Constitution but further strengthen it as announced in the guarantee card of this election.

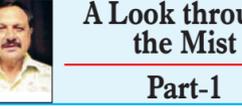
All people especially the downtown sections, women and youth, farmers & workers should go through the guarantee card minutely as Congress has very sincerely committed various important things for them which shall transform their lives.

Art 35A had to go since it was used more as distancing tool than for the welfare of permanent residents of J&K

What to talk of some special good, even permanent residents of J&K have been the victim of Art 35A

DAYA SAGAR
Prime political leadership of J&K that had all these years held the reins of governance in J&K (and had been mostly from Kashmir valley) upto 2018 had been describing 'Art 35A' of Constitution of India which had been made part of Constitution through a Presidential order, C.O 48 of 14 -05-1054 i.e Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order of 1954 issued in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 370 by adding this article as a new article after Article -35 as a very special provision for the Indian Citizens in the category of the Permanent Residents of J&K (PR oJ&K) as were also described in Section-6 of J&K Constitution. It would not be an over statement in case it is said the action of adding a new Art 35A' in Part III of Constitution of India was in a way amending the Constitution of India with a Presidential order. { < " 4 (j) : Part-III." After article 35, the following new article shall be added, namely: "35A. Saving of laws with respect to permanent residents and their rights.- Notwithstanding anything contained in this Constitution, no existing law in force in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, and no law hereafter enacted by the Legislature of the State, (a) defining the classes of persons who are, or shall be permanent residents of the State of Jammu and Kashmir; or (b)

conferring on such permanent residents any special rights and privileges or imposing upon other persons any restrictions as respects (i) employment under the State Government; (ii) acquisition of immovable property in the State; (iii) settlement in the State; or (iv) right to scholarships and such other forms of aid as the State Government may provide, shall be void on the ground that it is inconsistent with or takes away or abridges any rights conferred on the other citizens of India by any provision of this Part.}" Yes the said article did appear placing the Indian citizens named as PR of J&K at a superior pedestal in comparison to other Indian citizens and so going by that one would hope that there might be 'very very' special and beneficial local laws & rules in J&K making atleast (if not of all Indian citizens) the living of Permanent Residents of J&K very -very special and better than the residents of other Indian states but the position had not been like that since even some Permanent Residents of J&K were denied some routine matters that could be made available even to other Indian citizens in terms of regular provisions of constitution of India, not only that even some discriminatory local prevalent laws / rules of pre independence



times (1947) had been retained for PRoJ&K which were discriminating even amongst the Male & Female per of J&K and laws were made to even discriminate amongst the Displaced Permanent Residents of J&K (erstwhile State Subjects of J&K) from areas occupied by Pakistan in 1947 staying in J&K and those staying in other Indian states. Instead of doing some extra special good to PRoJ&K through the delegations made by constitution of India in the name of Art in favour of J&K state Government & Legislature in terms of Art 35A were more used as a tool/ symbol to distance or to project that J&K was not as good an Indian State as is Punjab or UP. No doubt as per local laws only permanent resident of J&K could own land in J&K and lay hands on the State Government services (restrictions were not in Government Universities) / take admission in J&K Government run professional colleges. But the laws regarding exclusive right to join state government services & right to own land in J&K too were more used to project some 'distancing' and often some leaders linked that be there due to some 'conditional' accession of state to India in 1947 where as that was not the case.

The bads of the then prevailing local laws / deficiencies in the local laws /

policies that had been putting to disadvantage even some Permanent Residents of J&K could be briefly summarized as (i) The Woman Permanent Residents were denied the right to chose a life partner since in case a PRoJK girl married a person from Punjab or UP her husband and children would not be treated as PRoJK (ii) There was no reservation in Legislative Assembly of J&K for Schedule Tribe (ST) PRoJK even when Art 35A was there where as in other Indian states ST reservation was there (iii) over 5300 Families of displaced "state subjects of J&K" from occupied by Pakistan in 1947 described as POJK(PoK) Displaced Persons in terms of order No. 1476-C of 1950 dated 16.12.1950 (issued by Sheikh Mohd Abdullah in 1950, the then PM of J&K) were not considered as DPs of POJK for some support schemes / provisions POJK DPs (iv) J&K Legislative Assembly passed The Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir (Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Act, 2002 (23rd April 2002) so to amend Section-47 (3) of J&K Constitution that by putting practically a bar on fresh delimitation (distribution) of single member segments in the Legislative Assembly atleast till 2031 thereby further deferring the possibility of correcting the wrongs done since 1957 in not rightfully / correctly providing legitimate number of a representatives of nearness in the Legislative Assembly to

the Permanent Residents of J&K belonging to distant and bad areas/terrains (in terms of J&K Representation of the People Act 1947) who otherwise had 14 elected MLCs as against 12 MLCs provided to other areas as per Section -50 of J&K Constitution but had been given lesser MLAs by faulty delimitations done over the years (v) in a way denying the Quality of Health Care & Medical Education for the Permanent Residents of J&K since the existing rules did not allow appointment of specialists doctors from other Indian states in local government medical colleges / hospitals that faced acute shortage of qualified / experienced doctors and at occasions for filling posts/ granting promotions requirements were relaxed at the cost of quality education / health cover (vi) J&K state did not contribute a few medical seats from local government medical colleges to common national pool thereby denying opportunity to the permanent residents of J&K to compete for thousands of seats of MD/MS level (vii) Section -20 (a) of J&K Constitution said <The State shall endeavour to secure to every permanent resident the right to free education upto the University standard > but that was not adhered to (vii) and the like .

Requests / suggestions from the permanent residents of J&K, and even indirect suggestions from the courts for corrections had no effect worth cor-

rections and State Administrations / Politicians were proud of holding to Art-35A only as power tool to demonstrate their might as " Special" even at cost of the Permanent Residents of J&K. No one even from amongst the Indian Citizens who were named as Permanent Residents of J&K could approach a court even against such like rules/policies/laws/aets of the state since Art 35A provided constitutional cover to the State that could be otherwise accused of knowingly not bothering to take corrective measures even in the matters that concern the PRoJ&K citizens of India what to talk of non permanent resident of J&K Indian citizens.

So even many Permanent Residents of J&K who had been given the cover of Art35A as part of Constitution of India under which they could be given special treatments even by violating the fundamental rights of other Indian citizens were ready to lose the cover of Art35A since the said article was being indirectly used to deny many other goods to them as Indian citizen. Had the leaders like Dr. Farooq Abdulla paid heed to the suggestions being made over the years for making corrections surely the "permanent residents of J&K" would not have appreciated any suggestion for losing the cover of Art35A.

To be continued.....
(The writer is a Sr Journalist & a known analyst of J&K affairs)

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