

Rising voter turnout indicative of declining dynasty politics in Kashmir: Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said here on Monday that rising voter turnout is indicative of declining dynasty politics in the Kashmir valley.

In an exclusive conversation with national TV channel NDTV in which Dr. Jitendra Singh discussed various aspects of ongoing general elections, particularly in Jammu & Kashmir and West Bengal where he was assigned Phase 5 constituencies, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, nothing augurs better for a healthy democracy than to see progressively rising voter turnout in the Kashmir valley constituencies where the polling has been held so far in phase 4 and phase 5 respectively. He said, it is a remarkable departure from the times when the people of the valley were constrained to elect their representatives for Lok Sabha and State Assembly with a voter turnout of hardly 10% or even lesser than that.



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh in an exclusive conversation with national TV channel NDTV on Monday.

Accusing the dynasty driven political parties of Kashmir valley for not allowing true democracy to usher in the valley, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, for over three decades, the elections were held in the shadow of Pak-sponsored terrorism, and it suited the dynastic regional parties of Kashmir valley to get these elections conducted with a limited voter turnout under the fear of gun and manage majority for themselves in the Assembly and the Lok Sabha. He said, it suited these political parties to allow the spell of terrorism to continue indefinitely so that their family rule could thrive from generation to generation.

Dr. Jitendra Singh recalled that once he had suggested on the floor of Parliament that there should be some minimum threshold of voter turnout for a Member of Parliament to be recognised as having been elected. He said, it was ridiculous that in a constituency with 17 to 18 lakh voters, sometimes a few thousands votes were cast and the candidate would get himself declared as elected without actually enjoying the representative character of the vast constituency.

Gone are the days, said Dr. Jitendra Singh, when the Hartal call was made from Islamabad in Pakistan and the shops got shut at Lal Chowk in Srinagar. He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for having introduced for the first time District Development Councils in Jammu & Kashmir which gave the people an experience of what the grassroots democracy actually meant. He said, this is quite a paradox because for all these decades the dynasty driven political parties of the Kashmir valley have been befogging people in the name of "Self Rule" or "autonomy", but were not ready to allow District Development Council elections or introduce 73, 74 Amendments of the constitution which gave self-empowerment to Panchayats and other local bodies.

About the West Bengal election in phase 5, Dr. Jitendra Singh exuded confidence that in the ongoing election, the State of West Bengal will continue the trend of highest voter turnout among all the States and Union Territories of the country.



Dr Darakhshan visits educational institutions, meets public delegations

STATE TIMES NEWS

POONCH: Continuing her Pirpanjal valley visit, Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board, Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi on Monday visited Takia Baba Ghulam Shah Darul Uloom Badshah Lassana in Surankote, Poonch & Hazrat Fatima-Tuz-Zahra (RA) Girls Educational Institute at Raza Nagar in Tehsil Haveli, District Poonch and interacted with the students there. Dr Andrabi took meetings with the staff and management of both educational institutions. She emphasized on the need of updating the syllabus and adding other capacity building initiatives into the curriculum at these institutions. "We need to impart scientific education to the children simultaneously in addition to the religious education. Our children have to be good human beings, morally strong citizens of the proud country with a universal outlook so that they are able to become future global leaders



Chairperson JKWB Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi with others at a programme.

in their respective friends of delegations in Poonch & careers," said Dr Andrabi. She expressed her happiness and satisfaction about the facilities being provided to the children at these institutions. Dr Poonch and held a meeting with Darakhshan met many public the party leaders.

BJP losing ground everywhere: Bhalla



JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla and others at Samba.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: JKPCC Working President and Congress contesting candidate from Jammu-Reasi Parliamentary seat Raman Bhalla on Monday claimed that BJP government has lost ground and in several states BJP's seats are declining.

In the entire country, the situation is turning against them. No where there is an increase in their seats. This was stated by former Minister during his visit to various places of District Samba including Panchayats Nandpur, Jarda, Dugh, Ramghar, Phakri, Saunara and Vijaypur.

Prominent among those present on the occasion include Ex Minister Yashpal Kundal, District Samba President Sanjeev Sharma, Vijay Choudhary, Tirath Bhagat, Jagdish Bhatti, Mohan Singh Bhatti, Himmat Singh Bhatti, Santokh Singh, Tanveer Singh, Dr Mohan Lal and others.

"History is witness, whenever there has been a revolution in the country, it has started from the brave land of J&K. The campaign to end the dictatorship from this country should begin from J&K," he said, adding, he was sure of a clean sweep in J&K and ultimate victory of the INDIA bloc.

He asked the public to repose their faith in Congress Guarantee. He appealed to the people to vote for change and uproot the regime of BJP. The peoples participation in large numbers shows the mood of the people and claimed that both Lok Sabha seats of Jammu and Udhampur will be pocketed by the Congress party with thumping majority, he said.

The people have made up their mind to bring about change at the Centre and Modi Govt. will go after elections and INDIA bloc will form the Govt. Bhalla said if Congress comes to power the salary of Anganwadi, Asha Workers to be doubled besides educated youth poor women will get one lakh per year. He said that UPA Govt had launched various policies and welfare programmes for the upliftment of poor and down trodden sections of the society and strengthened the nation by establishing peace, progress and prosperity as a result the India emerged as a strong nation.

Ashes of 100 deceased immersed in Devak by former Mayor

About 80 ashes were unclaimed, relatives of 20 were unable to afford immersion

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Cutting away from politics and moving a step towards humanity senior BJP leader and former Mayor of Jammu city, Rajinder Sharma on Monday immersed the 80 ashes of unclaimed deceased persons along with 20 others of people whose loved ones due to certain reasons were unable to immerse the same with proper rituals.

Sharma along with volunteers of Sewa Samiti loaded the 100 ashes in an ambulance and proceeded towards holy Purmandal area for immersion in the pious waters of holy Devak.

The noble gesture went viral on social media applauding the former Mayor for the humanitarian



Former Mayor Jammu, Rajinder Sharma and volunteers of Sewa Samiti loading ashes in ambulance for immersion.

move. Speaking on the occasion Rajinder Sharma said that it is really a matter of concern that in a society like Jammu we are having such persons who fail to afford for immersion rituals of their loved ones.

"There are so many social organisations, philanthro-

pists, volunteers and others in Jammu who may easily help such needy people but how come that such a startling information didn't reached them," he said adding that such people should not feel themselves helpless as entire Jammu is one in such circumstances and all are willing and ready

to help others.

"We should come out of our egos, rivalries and other negativities to help our immediate neighbour or anyone else if we know that he/she is in need. No caste, religion, community or other cause should corrupt our mind when it comes to help someone in the need," he continued.

Sharma further said that if we are religious then it is our first duty to help such needy persons as all the religions preach to help the needy so that the humanity may survive.

All the ashes including unclaimed and those whose relatives failed to get them immersed were immersed in Devak at Purmandal following proper rituals.

He said that there are many

elders in Jammu who are living alone as their children are out for jobs or other reasons and they always fear that what will happen to them after they leave the world.

"May God bless such elders with long and healthy life but if something happens they should remember that society in Jammu has not fallen as of now and moral values still exist among us," former Mayor maintained.

J&K Seva Samiti, Jogi Gate members who performed rituals at Purmandal were Rakesh Sharma, Gen. Secretary, Girdhari Bargotra Sr. Vice President, Joginder Sharma, Secretary, Sumit Shearan, Secretary under the guidance of Surinder Sehran, President and Darshan Singh, Vice- President.

Elect Zafar Manhas to defeat divisive forces in Rajouri - Anantnag Parliamentary elections: Bukhari

Questions NC's silence over eviction, harassment of Gujjars in Samba

STATE TIMES NEWS

RAJOURI: Asking people to defeat the divisive agenda that is being promoted by the two dynastic political parties, the Apni Party President, Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari on Monday said that the politics of hate has promoted regional bias, detention of youth, underdevelopment, and unemployment in the Pir Panjal region for the last seven decades.

Speaking at a public rally that was organized in Rajouri, Altaf Bukhari sought vote and support in favour of the Party candidate contesting from Rajouri - Anantnag parliamentary seat, Zafar Iqbal Manhas.

While campaigning in favour of his Party's candidate, he said that the National Conference and Peoples Democratic Parties have promoted the dynastic regime in Jammu and Kashmir whereas the common man continues to suffer with the lack of basic amenities, underdevelopment, and growing unemployment.

"These parties exploited the



JKAP President, Syed Mohammed Altaf Bukhari addressing a public rally at Rajouri.

people by creating a wedge between them in the name of region or religion. However, it did not benefit the people. The time has come when the people should come forward and elect Zafar Iqbal Manhas sahab to the Rajouri - Anantnag Parliament seat for their bright future," he stated, amid applause of the party leaders, and workers in the public rally.

He said that the Party is committed to provide equal opportunity to all the people irrespective of caste, creed, region, or religion.

"It's not about electing a Member of Parliament, but it would be a step towards ending the underdevelopment

and bringing prosperity for the future generation," he said, assuring the people that he would ensure that the people of Rajouri get its due share in development. While criticizing the National Conference as well as the Peoples' Democratic Party, he said that they have restored to their old tactics to create division among the people on the name of region and caste to gain votes. However, the people have become aware, and it would not be easy for them to get any kind of benefit from the people.

Questioning the silence of the National Conference on the eviction and harassment of the tribal community in

Jammu's plain areas, he said that the NC used the Gujjars as their vote banks but did not utter a word against the harassment and eviction of the tribals from their land in Samba in Jammu Province.

He also grilled the National Conference for not providing protection to the tribal community and other dwellers under Forest Rights Act when they were in rule in the last many years in J&K.

"Trusting their hollow promises, the Gujjars support the NC, but they hardly protect their rights. However, the situation has changed nowadays because the tribals do not trust the NC-PDP anymore," he added.

While explaining the policy of the party, he said that they believe in the unity and equality of the people from all the regions. They want to give a bright future to the young generation.

Accusing the regional parties (NC-PDP) for promoting mayhem in Jammu and Kashmir, he said that these parties had put the youth behind the bars whenever they ruled Jammu and Kashmir.

"These parties are responsible for instability in Jammu and Kashmir that resulted into the uncertain future," he said, while asserting that Jammu and Kashmir's future is with India.

In his address, he also raised a question mark on the breakup in the PAGD because of a clash of interest between the NC and PDP.

"These parties have forgotten their divisive agenda because NC does not speak about autonomy and the PDP also avoids speaking about self-rule," he added.

Referring to the foundation of the Apni Party, he said that the Party came to the fore-

front to represent the people of Jammu and Kashmir when they were in distress, and these dynastic parties were not ready to represent them.

"..... we went to Delhi and got protection of jobs and land for the residents of Jammu and Kashmir," he said, while responding to the critics and said that the Party would continue to work for the welfare of the common masses.

Meanwhile, he assured that the issue of two tunnel construct at Peer Ki Gali and Dera Ke Gali on historic Mughal Road would be take-up forcefully by the Party candidate, if he gets elected to the Lok Sabha from the Rajouri - Anantnag seat and the Party would stand firm to fulfill the promises made with the people regarding promotion of tourism, border tourism, exploring possibility of generating employment at the local level.

Referring to the Statehood restoration, he sought support of the people to ensure that the lost honor of Jammu and Kashmir is restored.

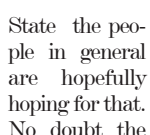
Art 35A had to go since it was used more as distancing tool than for the welfare of permanent residents of J&K

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

Had leaders like Dr.Farooq Abdullah gone for fair use all PROJK would have stood for the cover of Art 35A

DAYA SAGAR

Anyhow with the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019 C.O. 272 of August 5, 2024 also made in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 370 by the President the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954 as amended from time to time has been superseded and the protective cover provided to J&K State government/ Legislature by Art 35A was taken off. No doubt the political leadership of J&K that had been ruling till date did express resentments against the action of the Government of India/ Parliament but had no explanation to place in public domain for having not used the provisions available under Art 35A for the overall advantage of the Indian citizens kept in the category of Permanent Resident J&K. After issuance of C.O 272 J&K State has also been split into UT of J&K (with legislature) and UT of Ladakh (The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 Act 34 of 09-08-2019). People of erstwhile State of J&K have resented against reducing the status of J&K state to two UTs but since government of India has made statements in the Parliament that UT of J&K will be 'soon' given the status of



A Look through the Mist Part-II

State the people in general are hopefully hoping for that. No doubt the residents of Ladakh rejoin too are demanding statehood.

After August 2019 Permanent Resident of J&K status has been changed to Domicile of J&K for which requirements have fixed only in terms of one's residency (stay) in J&K and (i) Reservations for Schedule Tribe have been provided now in the Legislative Assembly of J&K, (ii) the discrimination being done with the female subjects of J&K as regards their right to choose their life partner has been done away with. Le man and woman have same rights (iii) J&K state has started contributing a few medical seats from local government medical colleges to common national pool thereby making available to the erstwhile 'permanent residents of J&K' (now domicile of J&K) a few thousands more seats to compete for admission in PG courses, No doubt after 31 Oct 2019 first the government post in UT of carrying a pay scale of not more than Level-4 (25500) only were still kept reserved for the J&K

Domicile but later on all jobs were ordered reserved for domicile of J&K (S.O. 1245(E) of 03-04-2020).

The definition for the Permanent Resident of J&K for Section-6 of J&K Constitution was partly drawn from Notification No. 1-1/84 dated the twentieth April, 1927, read with State Notification No. 13/L dated the twenty seventh June, 1932 of Maharaja Hari Singh Government. Sections 1 to 8 and Section 158 of J&K Constitution became effective on 17 November 1956 whereas other sections became effective v.e.f 26th Jan 1957. In a way only those people who qualified to be the Citizens of India in terms of Constitution of India but had been Permanent Resident of J&K (State Subject of Class-I, II and in a way even Class-III- who had been accorded rights as State Subject by Maharaja Government / State Government after 1911AD till 14 May 1954) and those who were still staying as ordinary residents of J&K after obtaining permission (Izzatnama) from Maharaja Government having lawfully acquired immovable property in the State,

since & prior to 14th May 1944 AD were taken immediately in the class of Permanent Resident of J&K.

Accordingly the provisions / rules / laws for exclusive rights to the State Subjects of J&K as were there before 1947 like that regarding services under state government (in the shape of like that in Section-127 of J&K Constitution - Transitional provisions public services) & holding of immovable properties in J&K {Section-158 -(2,3)- Repeal and saving of laws and rules}; exclusive rights to Permanent Residents of J&K for voting in assembly elections & entering J&K Legislature (Section -51 - Qualifications for membership of the Legislature; Section 140 of J&K Constitution - Elections to Legislative Assembly); aids from the government were conferred on the permanent residents of J&K only.

No doubt Section-8 & Section-9 were also there in the J&K Constitution to allow relaying of provisions / descriptions, wherever later needed, regarding the qualifications and special provisions / rights of Permanent Residents of J&K but upto August 2019 no amendments had been made even to correct the wrongs and undo the injustice done even to Indian citizens

named as Permanent Residents of J&K (as discussed earlier) what to talk of addressing the grievances of Indian Citizens belonging to Indian states other than J&K as regards their rights for joining J&K state services and buying land in J&K that were blocked even after 1947 in Independent India.

Not only that, even the rights that of (i) the families of 'local' Balmiki & Gurkhas who have served the interests of local state population for decades but had not been in the category of state subject before 1947 or had come to state after 1947, (ii) the 1947 refugees from Pakistan who were staying in J&K since late 1947 with permission (iii) LAS/IPS/IFS officers of J&K Cadre even after serving in J&K for 35 to 40 years (iv) 15 out of 21 PVC decorated Indian defence force personnel had fought on J&K LOC/LAC/IB against the enemy were non permanent resident of J&K and like were not for making any changes / relaxations acknowledged as Permanent Residents of J&K all these years even when Section 8 and Section 9 of J&K constitution were there for making needed amendments. After August 2019 have ways for needed provisions to accommodate non permanent residents too have been laid.

So the allegations that the corrections were not applied intentionally by local J&K leaderships who had held the reins of governance all these years more to project that J&K was distantly placed Indian state did hold which very clearly demonstrated from the behaviour and statements that have been coming mostly from 'prime' Kashmir valley leadership even in 2017 in view of some petitions before the SC challenging the 'existence' of Art35A as an article of Constitution of India instead they even then not working for undoing the wrongs otherwise protected under the cover of Art35A even to atleast benefit the PProfJ&K, if not permanent residents of J&K, Art35A had been otherwise installed in constitution of India for doing very special good to Indian Citizens who were placed in the category of Permanent Resident of J&K but even the PProfJ&K were under disadvantage with human rights of woman violated and the Schedule Tribe having no reservation in the Legislative Assembly. Had leaders like Dr. Farooq Abdullah gone for fair use all PROJK would have stood for the cover of Art 35A.

(The writer is a Sr Journalist & a known analyst of J&K affairs)