

GROWTH IN ECONOMY

The Indian economy has seen great growth in the last few decades. The credit for this boom largely goes to the service sector. Agriculture and allied activities have also been improved to match the global standards and exports of various food products have witnessed an increase which has boosted economic growth. Many new large scale as well as small scale industries have been established in recent times and have proven to have a positive impact on the Indian economy. The Indian economy has been going through many positive changes since independence. It is growing at a good pace. However, the rural areas of our country are still lagging behind in the field of development. The government should make efforts to improve the economic condition of these areas.

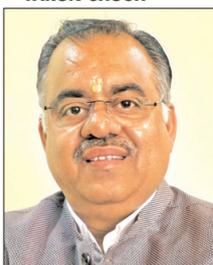
Supreme Court Judgment on Article 370, Death Kneel to Fissiparous Tendencies

OMKAR DATTATRAY

The Supreme Court's landmark Judgment of 11th December 2023 is a great setback to the separatist tendencies and it will definitely prove a death kneel to the separatist ideology and to the separatists. The Supreme Court verdict will lead to the national integration, national unity and it is the triumph of the philosophy of Eak Bharat Shraishat Bharat and it will strengthen the bonds of national unity. It is also an endorsement to the resolve of the Modi governments decision of equating Jammu and Kashmir with other states of Indian union and it will defeat the forces of doom and mayhem hell bent to destroy the unity in diversity of India. In fact the crucial and historical judgment will reinforce the threads of national integration and it will necessarily defeat the forces hell bent to destroy the much valued integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the national mainstream. The decision of the Apex Court reflects the national interest of India and it emphasizes the paramount importance and necessity of national interest and so the decision will further the national interest as it was above all taken in the national interest. The decision of the Supreme Court also is the understanding and wisdom of the judiciary about its stress that Jammu and Kashmir is an inseparable and integral part and parcel of India and thus it is a setback to those who work against the national unity and national integration and it will defeat the forces who are working against the sovereignty of India. The decision of the top court is in fact a boost to national integration and national harmony and cohesion and it is a stamp on the validity and constitutionality of the Modi's August 5, 2019 decision and it validates and legally justifies the far reaching decision of the abrogation of article 370 of the constitution. This historical and epoch making judgment will be written in the golden letters in the political history of the independent India. The Judgment has clearly outlined that the sovereignty of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir has ceased at the time it has acceded to the Indian union and it is the inalienable and integral part of the Indian union and the rite of the Indian constitution applies equally to this part of the country. The decision of the top court is the answer to those who advance the futile and antinational cause of disintegrating India and the decision will frustrate the designs of the anti national elements hell bent to destroy the unity, integrity and sovereignty of India. It has rightly stated by the PM Narendra Modi that the Supreme court verdict is not only a legal triumph but it is a resolve of new India and a ray of hope for the future of the country. Besides it is the victory of national integration as the decision will boost and strengthen the integration as it is the legal integration as with this decision, the national integration will get a boost. The decision will completely and fully integrate Jammu and Kashmir with India. It is a big setback to those forces who advocate separatism, fundamental and extremism and at the same time it will result in the full integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the Indian union. The decision of the top court will reinforce the integration of J & K with India and thus it is the approval by the highest court to the decision of abrogating the special status granted to the erstwhile state by the Indian constitution by virtue of controversial article 370 of the Indian constitution. The historical and crucial judgment will serve the cause of integration and will defeat the forces who advocate separatism and extremism and it is a big jolt to those who advocate separatist tendencies. The crucial decision will serve as a deterrent to terrorists and forces of mayhem and doom, rather it will be discourage and defeat separatism and extremism and will ensure the fuller and total integration of Jammu and Kashmir with India. The countrymen felt a sigh of relief on the decision of the top court of the land which in fact placed a stamp of approval on the decision of the centre government of abrogating article 370 and the people by and large were pleased on the judgment as it has been delivered in national interest. PM Narendra Modi has welcomed the top court decision and said that the court, in its profound wisdom, has fortified the very essence of unity that we as Indians, hold dear and cherish above all. He said that the Supreme Court verdict on the abrogation of article 370 is historic and constitutionally upholds the decision taken by the parliament of India on 5th August 2019. According to PM, the supreme court decision is a resounding declaration of hope, progress and unity for our sisters and brothers of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. The court verdict is not just a legal judgment, it is a beacon of hope, a promise of a better future and the testament to our collective resolve to build a stronger, more united India. Supreme Court said that it holds that Jammu and Kashmir did not retain an element of internal sovereignty after it acceded to India. The Supreme Court holds that Jammu and Kashmir became an integral part of India as is evident from article 1 and article 370 of the Indian constitution. The top court holds that article 370 was an interim arrangement due to war conditions in the state and hence it is a temporary and transitory provision and it therefore has to die its own death and so has the supreme court put a seal of approval on the Modi governments decision of abrogation of article 370. The Indian parliament has with one stroke annulled the controversial article 370 which was the main cause of separatism and secession in Jammu and Kashmir and therefore it had to die. Now the highest court of the country has affixed its seal of approval to the Modi government's decision of August 5, 2019. The Supreme court has rightly acted in national interest in pronouncing its crucial and historic judgment on the abrogation of article 370. To conclude it can be opined that the Supreme Court verdict is a death kneel to the fissiparous tendencies and to the separatist designs and to militancy and separatism and thus the people of the country including of Jammu and Kashmir have welcomed it save some regional parties who are disappointed by the decision of the top court only for their vote bank interest and for their political relevance in Jammu and Kashmir as they have lost the political space in J & K. Let the abrogation result into peace, development and the flood gates of investment in Jammu and Kashmir. (The author is a columnist, social and KP activist).

With abolition of Article 370, terrorism, nepotism and corruption will end

TARUN CHUGH



The name of the person, who made India strong, prosperous and beautiful with policy and intention to bring his resolve to fruition is Narendra Modi. While the Supreme Court on Monday showed a mirror to the political parties that are anti-development, supporters of corruption and terrorism and patrons of nepotism, Home Minister Amit Shah in the Parliament exposed the anti-development and pro-terrorism face of the opposition. When Article 370 was abrogated on August 5, 2019, the sting of seven decades ended and the long awaited demand of Akhand Bharat-- One India-- was fulfilled and development and confidence emerged in Kashmir. With the rise of development and confidence in Jammu and Kashmir under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, its picture and destiny changed. When terrorism and nepotism subsided, the picture of a happy Kashmir became visible to the world. But people who are anti-development, patrons of terrorism and nepotism were unhappy with this and left no stone unturned to create obstacles. On Monday, the Supreme Court, through its supreme decision, justified the decision of the Narendra Modi government, which gave glory to Kashmir in the light of development and nationalism, and led to the rise of Kashmiriyat in Kashmir. The result of the abolition of Article 370, which had isolated Kashmir, was that a new path was opened for developing Kashmir as a tourist capital and that path is of development, of nationalism, of a bright future, of national unity and integrity. This strong will and determination of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi made the dream of one India, united India come true by abolishing Article 370 from Kashmir on 5 August 2019. After the abolition of Article 370, Prime Minister Narendra Modi blew such a wind of development and trust in Jammu and Kashmir, due to which the fragrance of Indianness started spreading in the valley of Kashmir. Kashmir, which used to be a den of fear and anti-national forces, is seeing the essence of patriotism there. Kashmir, once caught in the clutches of nepotism and ter-

Parliament of India could make laws regarding Jammu and Kashmir only in a limited area. Due to Article 370, most of the sections of the Indian Constitution were not applicable to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. 170 laws of the Center which were not applicable earlier, have now been implemented in this area. At present all central laws are applicable in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Now the picture has completely changed. Today the situation has completely changed. With the abolition of Article 370, the peo-

nected to the mainstream and brought at par with other states of the country. Since last two years, this area has embarked on a new journey of development.

One year after independence from Article 370, district and district panchayat elections along with villages were successfully conducted here. The Blok Development Council elections, held for the first time in 2019, saw a voter turnout of 98.3 percent. There was record participation in the district level elections also. The Valmiki community, the Gorkha people and the uprooted and driven refugees from West Pakistan got the right to vote in the state elections for the first time.

In 1990, the way was cleared for resettlement of Kashmiri Pandits who were driven away from Kashmir Valley. The work of creating jobs and transit accommodation for returning Kashmiri migrants started. Protection of the rights of girls and their children who marry outside Jammu and Kashmir has also been ensured.

The work of Shahepur-Kandi Dam Project and Ratle Hydroelectric Project, which had been stalled for decades, was started. Approval has been given to open two AIIMS in Jammu and Kashmir. The Central Government extended the benefits of all the individual beneficiary schemes to the people in Jammu and Kashmir.

Many development projects have been completed under the Prime Minister's Development Package 2015. The Central Government has announced the establishment of a Central University with a Center for Buddhist Studies in Ladakh.

Devoted to the basic mantra of Antyodaya and the spirit of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas, the Narendra Modi government has given a new pace to the development in Jammu and Kashmir, which was neglected for decades. Now both the picture and destiny of Kashmir are changing and soon Jammu and Kashmir will stand in the line of developed states of the country.

(The author is the National General Secretary of BJP).

Development and trust emerged in Kashmir under leadership of PM Modi; fate and picture of Valley changed

rorism, is today raising the flag of nationalism and development. Social, geographical and economic integration of Jammu and Kashmir was ensured.

Jammu and Kashmir was one of the backward states and union territories of the country in the field of industrialization. Due to Article 370, under the constitutional and administrative system of Jammu and Kashmir, before August 5, 2019, no citizen or investor from India or abroad could settle permanently in Jammu and Kashmir. Therefore, external investors were reluctant to invest in Jammu and Kashmir. Terrorist violence was an obstacle to its economic-industrial development. Unemployment was increasing. Only influential people got government jobs. Earlier, Jammu and Kashmir was treated differently from other states of India. Due to this it was away from the mainstream of the state. Due to Article 370, the Parliament had the right to make laws regarding defence, foreign affairs and communications regarding Jammu and Kashmir, but to implement the law related to any other subject, the Center had to take the approval of the state government. The

ple of Jammu and Kashmir have now joined the mainstream of the country. There has been a rise in the establishment of trade and industries. Its impact is visible positively on the GDP of the state. After the removal of Article 370, the effect of the new industrial policy guaranteeing the security of investment in Jammu and Kashmir is beginning to be seen. Many agreements have been signed for investment. Many big groups of the country associated with health and medical education sector have also come to invest. Along with this, in the fields of tourism, film tourism, horticulture, post-harvest management, agriculture, food processing, silk industry, health, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, IT, renewable energy, infrastructure and real estate, handloom and handicrafts and education. The picture has also changed.

Step by step reducing the gap of decades between Kashmir and the country, the Narendra Modi government ended the pain of 70 years by abrogating the provisions of Article 370 from Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh, which were lagging behind in the race of development. Now it has been con-

Environment and Sustainable Development

DR. BANARSI LAL

Environment is one of the most important pillars of sustainable development. There is the need to establish a sustainable development process in rural India. Environmental aspect assumes great significance in growing deforestation, soil erosion, land degradation, water pollution, biodiversity loss and the like which continue to worsen economic development in rural India. The common property resources which are mostly natural resources must be protected for overall growth of the rural areas. The natural resources should be protected for overall growth of the rural areas. Such efforts not only lead to optimum utilization of natural resources but also generate more employment for the rural people. This initiative requires people's participation. For instance, afforestation activities cannot be successful without the help of local communities. The relationship between development and environment is well established. This requires the awareness on environmental issues. Environmental quality is an integral part of development. Without environmental ethics development is simply undermined. Natural resources are the wealth of any nation. Presently they are facing environmental hazards due to many reasons. Sustainable development is focused on any kind of betterment that should not harm the environment so that the well being of future generations is guaranteed and the harmonious relationship environment and development is sustained. The process of sustainable development tries to build social and economic progress satisfying the needs and values of the social groups without foreclosing future options. Rio-Earth Summit (1992) highlights the view that socio-economic development and environment protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing processes. Recently, the healthy rural environment has encountered divergent environmental hazards as an addition to their existing issues of social and economic hardships. Such threats badly affect the local community which is the impetus behind research for alternative sources such as cultivation in marginal lands. It constitutes a growing class of environment refugees. Sustainable rural development is felt as a necessary intervention to fight against poverty, unemployment and other com-

plicated problems in rural areas. Sustainable rural development can promote growth and equity simultaneously and also promote the development of democratic process at the grass root level by creating awareness on social forestry, soil conservation, population control, protection of tanks, rural energy management, biodiversity, popularization of eco-friendly activities etc. Sustainable rural development on the one hand benefits local people and safeguards the flora and fauna of a particular region on the other. At this stage common property resources are important but they are being neglected. They should be protected and organized through people's participation. Common property resources can generate more employment opportunities in rural areas. The sustainability of development for the rural people should dexterously and lucratively aim at motivating the people to get involved in community action and to ensure their participation in diverse and numerous environmental protection and optimum utilization of natural resources. Thus, rural development will obviously lead to an overall growth of rural areas.

People's participation plays an inevitable role in driving the fruits of development schemes. It is an important instrument to monitor the officials and contractors on the one hand and augment the empowerment of the local bodies on the other. It increases the worthiness of the project by means of achieving a steady and balanced growth from within the best use of natural resources. Environmental issues cannot be solved unless the local people take part in it. Their participation will help in promoting wildlife conservation, afforestation and also in employment generation. Local people skill and manpower are needed to deal with the aftermath of environmental disasters. The problems confronted in the rural areas do not involve huge amount of money but the fullest involvement of the people with a commitment to solve the problems. For instance, sanitation is a chronic problem in rural areas but it cannot be solved by the various programmes of the government alone. It can also be solved by the people. Afforestation and arresting of deforestation can be carried with the help of local people. Protection of environment is mainly in the hands of the

people. People's participation is imperative need.

Environment protection is an essential part of development. Without adequate environment protection, development is useless. It has been estimated that by 2030 food production will need to double and industrial output and energy use will increase three times in the world and five times in the developing nations. This growth can bring the risk of appalling environmental damage. It can also bring with it better environment protection, clean air water and eradication of poverty. Environmental damage affects the present and future human welfare. It affects human health and reduces agricultural productivity. Some problems are associated with the lack of economic development, inadequate sanitation, clean water and air pollution from biomass burning. Illegal cutting of forests is matter of great concern. The lack of appropriate technology for maximum utilization of the raw materials, poor silvicultural practices, low recovery, low budgetary provision for forest operations have all hampered effective management. As a result fuel wood, timber, pole wood and carving wood are being exploited at unsustainable levels. Ecological degradation of wetlands together with pollution has resulted in the loss of flora and fauna. The high amount of fertilizers and other inputs required in agriculture for increasing the productivity has led to the degradation of the environment. Despite decades of warning about pollution and efforts to control it, people are still being exposed to toxic pollutants. Pollution from agricultural land caused by leaching of nitrogen fertilizers has been detected in the ground water in many areas.

In Harayana, for example, some well water is reported to have nitrate concentration ranging from 114 mg. / litre to 1800 mg. /litre far above the national standard 45 mg. /litre. Government should monitor and implement policies to reduce pollution and environment degradation and to safeguard the natural system that supports renewable resources. Action should be taken for achieving a sustainable future.

Well known Economist Gunnar Myrdal pointed out way back in 1968; "The ideal has always been that plan should come from people and meet their wishes and need and have their support in thought

as well as deed. This is regularly stated in the plans as an important aim of planning and condition for their success." Environment protection is possible through effective participation of the people. It has been observed that unless the people are put at the core of any development activity, the relationship among the environmental development ceases to exist. It has been studied that people's participation is the most determining factor of biodiversity conservation. People living around the Periyar Tiger Reserve of Kerala can be taken as an example. It is not only taking care of the decentralized government control over forests but also ensuring the biodiversity conservation a reality. The participatory approach to environmental protection can be strengthened through the decentralized planning which provides opportunity for the rural communities to effectively participate in the environmental. It has been observed that the rural people's level of environmental awareness and participation is important with respect to environmental endeavors. All the stakeholders should understand the present environmental crisis and find out suitable solutions to tackle this awful situation. The dictum, prevention is better than cure is more related to the present day's environmental issues as it is directly proportional to man's survival problems. Sustainable rural development hints at the rational use of scarce resources with the support of people. A multifarious strategy needs to be formulated to solve the rural problems through development process and to protect the environment through community participation. A renowned environmentalist Sh. Anil Agarwal proposed a seven point environment agenda for India. Rural development should become holistic, at the same time, village ecosystems should be protected is one of them. It will help to an evergreen revolution in agriculture where productivity can be increased without any harm to social and economic fabric.

Thus, the holistic approach towards rural development has to be taken into account which includes amelioration of the quality of life of the rural people through appropriate exploitation of natural resources. A silver lining for rural development is needed.

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Title: 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra: Empowering Every Corner of J&K'

DR VIVEK SHARMA

In a remarkable display of nationwide development and inclusivity, the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra (VBSY) spearheaded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become a beacon of enthusiasm in various districts across Jammu and Kashmir. Fueled by the resounding call for a Developed India, the Yatra has extended its reach, particularly focusing on the Panchayats of the Border and Hilly blocks of UT. At the heart of this initiative is a specially equipped van serving as a central

hub for engaging activities that captivate the attention of locals throughout day-long events. One of the standout features has been the groundbreaking demonstration of Drone technology for agricultural innovation. The Department of Agriculture took the lead in educating and fascinating attendees, including students and locals, about the incredible potential of drone technology in transforming the agricultural sector. Moreover, the Yatra has witnessed active participation from educational institutions, marking a historic moment

in independent India. The Viksit Bharat @2047 initiative saw a unified effort toward comprehensive development, with interactive sessions and online webcasts organized by educational institutions aligning with the nationwide call for progress. This collaborative approach underscores a commitment to development without discrimination of caste, religion, creed, or sex.

For the first time in the history of independent India, development has reached the remotest corners of the country. PM Modi's Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra guar-

antees that every scheme reaches 100 percent saturation, leaving no one behind. This commitment reflects a transformative vision for the nation, where inclusivity and progress go hand in hand.

In essence, the VBSY serves as a testament to the power of collective action and the unwavering dedication to ensuring that the fruits of development touch every citizen. As the Yatra continues to unfold, it paints a vivid picture of a developed and united India, breaking barriers and embracing progress at every turn.