


CLEARING CLOUDS

The notion which was being amplified and disseminated far and wide by the opposition has finally been laid to rest by none other than the captain of the BJP's frigate in J&K-Ravinder Raina by asserting that the party is contented with the interim report presented by the Delimitation Commission to the five associate members including two from the BJP. Though he admitted that the party is going to file certain suggestions seeking changes meaning that what is in air these days has some basis. All said and done, the job accomplished by the Delimitation Commission in coming up with the draft document is not everybody's cup of tea because it required a lot of hard work and astuteness to come to a conclusion which the aforesaid Commission has done in a time bound manner. Surely, Delimitation Commission deserves kudos for this and as far as objections raised by the political parties and even some individuals are part and parcel of this kind of exercise because no one can satisfy all entities in such kind of jobs. As far as ruling party BJP is concerned it is unfortunate that it could not contain the emotions of some of its constituents as they dented the stand of the party but now with the party chief in J&K coming up with clarification all the clouds are clear. What he has noted down about the opposition parties is to some extent right as it has become a routine for them to raise a question mark and unleash propaganda against each and every step taken by the BJP. It is pertinent to mention that the Delimitation Commission, in its Draft Report, has proposed an overhaul of Assembly and Lok Sabha Constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir, triggering protests from all political parties in the Union Territory. There is no doubt that the Delimitation Commission has done a commendable job as its members have gone through the length and breadth and met different political parties besides leaders of various social and religious organisations and PRI members, including District and Block Development Council members, before coming out with a draft proposal.

MAJOR SUCCESS

It is a hard but true fact that still there is terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir as every now and then terrorist attacks are going on unabated acting as bottleneck in the way to bring absolute peace in the region. Recent terror attack in Bandipora, which led to the death of a policeman and injuries to four others is the testimony to the fact that the fight to combat terrorism in J&K is not over yet and the security forces (SFs) will have to stay active for some more time until the last man indulged in terrorism is either eliminated or brought to book for delivering justice to the population which has faced losses after falling prey to terror edifice active in the Valley. It is for sure that the time for security forces to take rest has not come yet and these valiant security personnel will have to stay in the Valley for some more time and the government will allow them to move out only after arrival of peace and prosperity in the UT of J&K, which has been marred by the decades old turmoil which led to hundreds of terror attacks and equal number of encounters thus killing the sons and daughters of the soil on both the sides. There is no doubt that the quest for big catch has led security forces to hunch for getting terrorists, OGWs and sleeper cell elements and this undaunted faith of the security forces to one day eliminate the last terrorist from the soil of J&K will become true sooner than later as the unflinching bravery of the soldiers is exemplary and no power on earth can stop the troops from sweeping the terrorism from the soil of the UT as this is inevitable especially under PM Narendra Modi's regime which is famous for taking hard decisions and implementing the same in letter and spirit. In this context, a major success has come into the volley of security forces as they have busted a module of the Al-Badr terror outfit by arresting four hybrid terrorists and three terrorist-associates in Baramulla district. The arrested terrorists were reportedly recruiting youngsters for Al-Badr; providing logistic support to active terrorists and procuring or arranging weapons for new recruits. The recoveries made during the raid include a huge cache of arms and ammunition and a huge amount of cash meant for carrying out terror activities.



OFF 'D' CUFF
A conversation with mother

Mother was up early in the morning, waiting for me to wake up. On waking up, I took her blessings and then we finished our morning prayers.

Then over tea, she said, “Your teaching is so simple, yet at the same time profound. You have the blessings of great masters. But I have a doubt, why don't more people take advantage of your teaching by attending classes regularly?”

“But many are attending my classes and my books are well read too,” I replied.

She smiled and said, “Yes, but I still feel more people should attend them.”

I agreed, “Sometimes I also feel that more people should attend. But many do not understand its value till now!”

Mother listened to this silently. Then she said, “Look at the forest flower. It is alone in the forest but still gives out its fragrance. It has its own dance and poetry. Just be like the flower, silently contributing and dancing in its loneliness.”

Mother's words reminded me of a beautiful poem. “I once read a poem,” I told her. “Someone once asked a flower does it not pain, when people pluck you from the plant. The flower replied that though it felt pain, its pain disappeared when it saw the joy on the person's face as they held the flower. Like the flower, we must learn to love others and be involved in rejoicing in other people's joys. Sorrow happens when we

Process of medicating ‘local’ ideological pollution & anti-elements must move ahead with force but ‘Politely’

Any myths-elements that cast even a bit of ideological shadow on J&K Accession must be deactivated

■ DAYA SAGAR

In a written reply to Rajya Sabha question 138 Narendra Modi Government had very explicitly made it clear that J&K had no special status in constitution of India / Article 370 is not a special status article and started the process of undoing some myths about Indian state of J&K but even after that many leaders even from outside Kashmir valley were still seen using the term 'special status' w.r.t Art-370. Indian people will be celebrating 75th Independence Day on 15th August 2022 after having celebrated 72nd Republic Day of the Sovereign Democratic Republic of India. Surely on that day the proceedings from 5th to 7th August 2019 in Parliament of India too would be also drawing pointed references in the context of the Indian 'state' of J&K.

But surely this time wisdom would lie more in picking the subject matter for references a little differently than the 'conventions' that have been in focus so far after 2019. Particularly the 'Professionals/ leaders /experts/stake holders/ who have their focus on return of peace and stability in J&K may have to gather new strengths & materials keeping in view the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) order C.O 272 of date August 5, 2019 by the President of India under the provisions of Art 370(1) of Constitution of India , The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order C.O 273 of date 06-08-2019 issued by the President of India - declaration under Article 370(3) of The Constitution and passage of Bill No. XXIX of 2019 -The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019 passed on 6th August 2019 (Act No: 34 of 2019 assented by President of India on August 9, 2019).

The attention is particularly being drawn here to the Indian state of J&K where even after 73 years of the Prince of the then princely state of J&K of Indian British Empire having acceded to Independent India Dominion still the myths/ misunderstandings that had been allowed to cultivate some ideological pollutions like J&K having 'not' become total India after accession in 1947 have still remained not unexplained / dismissed for some and for that the responsibility also lies on many of the leaders/ mainstream politicians/media men belonging not only to Kashmir valley but also on some 'people' from outside Kashmir valley

too including from Indian states as well.

It is true that the Prince of J&K had acceded with independent India not immediately on or before 15th August 1947 but nearly after three months of that . No doubt as far as accession was/ is concerned it has been / it was legal and total in terms of the Indian independence Act 1947 and the appointed procedural lines drawn by the facilitators for establishment of the Independent Dominion of India where the Dominion had yet to draw her constitution.

It has been not only Pakistan as country, Pakistan sponsored 'activists' and subjects like Indian complaint against Pakistan as made in UNSC but from within also there have been some leaders / opinion makers who have been raising / speaking about unfounded controversies like J&K 1947 accession being conditional, J&K having not signed merger document with India like other princely states who had 'signed additionally a merger document with India' (?) after signing instrument of accession, even directly / indirectly questioning the validity of the manner in which /date on which the instrument of accession was signed.

And to the greater disadvantage of the Indian interests as well as the efforts made for taking forward J&K on the path of peace & stability so unfortunately very less has been done by the Indian governments as well as the Indian leaderships to counter the anti subjects like the ones mentioned here and hence myths about J&K being total India could survive to the advantage of the separatists thereby polluting the local ideological environment in which the common man in Kashmir valley lived.

Even the National level Indian political parties appear to have also failed to draw a clear line between the mainstream and separatist ideologies w.r.t J&K where in those who have been seeing solution to 'issues' concerning J&K in "Autonomy for J&K State from Indian Nation state" or in doctrine of "Achievable Nationhood" have so far been treated as mainstream ideologies; and even 'they' (All India party leaders) have failed to medicate thinking of such like leaders while living as their associates or while even sharing power with them.

It is not out of place to mention here that



A Look through the mist

it was on 10th August 2016 during a discussion in Rajya Sabha on the prevailing situation in Kashmir (J&K) after a terrorist was killed by security forces on 8th July 2016 Dr. Karan Singh (former Regent/ Sadar e Riyasat/ Governor of J&K , Ex Union Minister; the then member from NCT of Delhi) too made some critical references in relation to 1947 accession of J&K with India as well as the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir during discussions and the disclosures' as had been made by him should not have been left uninvestigated and uncontested by the Indian leadership (particularly by the treasury benches) since that was surely to add some more of grit in the myths that have been cultivated over the years about the truthfulness/ totalness of the 1947 accession of J&K with India and Indian state of J&K having become total India like his saying that his father signed the Instrument of Accession in his presence on 27th of October 1947 { "with your permission last time I spoke from heart today I want to speak from the heart and the head also .. I want to place before this honourable house some factor which perhaps may not be fully known .. may be a little uncomfortable.. what ever I will say is based upon facts ... I know I just might make some people uncomfortable we say Jammu and Kashmir is integral part of India.... , ofcourse it is , the day my father signed instrument of accession it became integral part of India no doubt about it ... 27th October I was in the room ... I was in the house...when accession was signed However please remember something more, my father (Maharaja Hari Singh) acceded for three subjects -defence , communication and foreign affairs --- he (Maharaja Hari Singh) signed the same instrument of accession that all the other princely states signed but all the other states subsequently merged - Jammu and Kashmir did not merge . Jammu and Kashmir 's relationship with rest of India is guided by Art-370 and state constitution and I signed it to law.... We must realise ... from the very beginning, right or wrong, Jammu and Kashmir has been given special position" }. Dr. Karan Singh had gone uncontested and uncorrected even from the side of Government of India (HM and a MoS

were also present in the Rajya Sabha) as regards legality of the unfounded 'merger' controversy and J&K having been given some special position when it had been on March 11, 2015 that in a written reply to Rajya Sabha question 138* Narendra Modi Government had very explicitly made it clear that J&K had no special status in constitution of India / Article 370 is not a special status article . and records that Government of India has so far made public have been showing date of signing the IOA by Hari Singh as 26th Oct.

Kashmir valley, at places, is today infested with the 'disease' that has its basic roots primarily nowhere in economic deficiencies but more in 'political' fields cultivated with myths that have gone uncontested and which could be well read in the descriptions about the 1947 accession made even by some 'mainstream' sources. No doubt Narendra Modi lead NDA-III Government has taken in hand the 'medication' process which will surely take time since anti impressions east over decades are hard to erode.

So, now onwards more of responsibility lies on the mainstream leadership and social groups for working on the ground with very careful and committed approach so that a process of medicating the 'local' ideological pollution and fighting out the anti elements moves ahead with force but peacefully.

The leadership at all levels has to be more cautious while using the terms like accession, special status, merger, separate constitution, separate flag, separate citizen ship and the like while making reference subjects related to J&K.

The start can be made like clearing any misunderstandings, even by issuing a white paper, on the subjects like (i) date of signing Instrument of accession by Maharaja Hari Singh,(ii) there was no need for Princely states to sign another instrument with Dominion of India by name Instrument of Merger after signing Instrument of Accession (iii) J&K had no constitution & Flag independent of Constitution of India & Indian National Flag (iv) why was Sheikh Mohd. Abdullah arrested in 1953 and how Sheikh was honourably released and like.

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Samagra Shiksha: Vehicle for NEP

■ PRABHAT KISHORE

Samagra Shiksha, an overreaching programme for the schooling sector extending from pre-school to class 12, was launched on 1st April 2018 in order to treat school education holistically without segmentation from pre-nursery to class 12. It subsumed the three Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE). The scheme has been extended upto FY 2025-26 and fully aligned with the provisions of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Several transformational recommendations of NEP have been made part of the Samagra Shiksha scheme, which includes holistic progress card, child tracking, bag-less days, focus on SEDGs and out of school children etc. To ensure time bound implementation of NEP, a comprehensive and task oriented implementation plan called SARTHAQ has been released. Also to ensure universal acquisition of foundational literacy and numeracy, the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) has been launched, so that every child achieves the desired learning competencies in Reading, Writing and Numeracy at the end of grade-3, by 2026-27. Decentralized Planning exercise based on measurable outcomes is being carried out with the involvement of all stakeholders so that the scheme be fruitful in achieving the ultimate goal. In order to achieve the desirable objectives and outcomes of the schemes, a comprehensive action plan upto FY 2025-26 covering all the interventions of Samagra Shiksha is being prepared by all the states.

NIPUN Bharat portal is to be launched, which will have all the documents for the mission at one place. The focus will be on various interventions related to child-centric teaching learning materials, play based activities and supplementary graded materials, resource materials for teachers to align their innovative

pedagogies with learning outcomes and grade level competency at foundational level. The Lakshya (Targets) of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy is to be displayed on the walls of schools/classrooms for mass mobilization. Also the Codified Learning outcomes for Foundational stage will be intimated to the parents & teachers. In the next academic session, a 3-month play based preparation module for Grade-I (Vidya Pravesh) will be adopted by all the schools. In order to ensure 100 per cent GER at all levels as envisaged in the NEP, adequate facilities for infrastructure and quality education at secondary level will be targeted for universal access and quality education for the age-group of 14-18 years. New secondary/Senior secondary schools will be opened in unserved localities on basis of GIS mapping. All Secondary Schools will be equipped with integrated science lab and ICT/Smart classroom with internet facility. Vocational education is to be planned in 50 per cent of composite secondary/senior secondary schools. The drop-out rate at Secondary level is quite high, primarily due to students' inability to cope up with curriculum and high-stakes associated with these classes. To tackle this situation, 2-3 month School Readiness Module for children entering Grade-IX will be adopted. To ensure universal access and afford opportunity for quality education to all children from pre-school to Grade-12, opening of new/upgraded school from pre-primary to class-12, addition of new subjects in existing secondary schools, provision of adequate number of classrooms & labs, rain-water harvesting, solar panel/electrification, barrier free access, toilets, drinking water, hand washing facilities, incinerators& sanitary pad vending machines in all girls' hostels, Classroom-com-workshop for vocational education, extension of transport/escort facility upto secondary level, special training for out of school children of age-group 16 to 19 years belonging to SEDGs through open school system at secondary/ Senior secondary stage will be made.

COVID-19 pandemic has hampered the education sector drastically due to year-long closure of the schools and large scale migration. Although various initiatives have been taken during the school closure to support the children; but they require a bridge course to bridge the learning gap. Based on the findings of NAS, appropriate interventions are to be ensured in the schools. Further usage of DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge SHaring), which enables education at home through innovative state programmes, will be ensured. A 100-day reading campaign for children from Bal Vatika to class-VIII has already been initiated in January 2022. As per NEP emphasis, age appropriate enjoyable and inspirational books are to be ensured in the school library. The success stories and best practices, especially those adopted during pandemic, are to be uploaded on national repository for nationwide sharing among teachers/students. NISHTHA training will be extended for teachers upto secondary level and also to Anganwari workers as well as educational administrators.

As NEP mandates 50 Hrs of CPD every year to teachers, training need analysis for teachers will be conducted by SCERTs to customized training programmes. The excess teachers presently available will be re-deployed in needy schools before filling up the vacant posts. In most states, the PTR is better than the prescribed national norms; but there is a shortage of subject teachers, which will be taken into account at the time of recruitment. Suitable mechanism for online and transparent system of recruitment as well as transfer will be developed. BRCs and CRCs will be developed as vibrant academic resource centers for training and onsite support to teachers and schools. All KGBVs will be upgraded upto class 12 in next 3 years. Safety and security guidelines will be strictly enforced and its social audit will be done. Also KGBVs will be equipped with ICT & SMART classes and will be enriched with library books through Library Grant. Activities

will be planned to improve access, enrolment, retention and learning outcomes of all disadvantaged groups and vulnerable children including girls, transgender, SC, ST, minorities, migratory and urban deprived children. States will adopt & notify guidelines for fixing accountability of school management with regard to the safety of children in schools. A comprehensive action plan is to be chalk-out for identification of children with special needs (CWSN), training of teachers, availability of special educators, infrastructure creation and ICT inclusive programmes.

To expedite vocational education, construction of workshop/laboratory-cum-classroom, training module for courses of entrepreneurship soft skill etc. is to be done in upper primary schools. All upper primary, secondary and senior secondary school will be covered with ICT and digital initiatives in a time bound manner: Social Audit to cover 20per cent of schools per year is mandatory to monitor the implementation of schemes and ensuring transparency & accountability. Special emphasis is to be given to aspirational Districts, Special Focus Districts (SFD), Left Wing Extremism (LWE) districts, Educationally Backward Blocks (EBB), SC/ST/Minority concentration districts.

For all Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), the financial management system has been changed and a Single Nodal Agency (SNA) has been designated for each CSS for each state. The bank account of each SNA is to be opened and mapped in PFMS. Samagra Shiksha will act as vehicle for carrying out the recommendations of National Education Policy 2020. Proper planning and implementation of interventions of Samagra Shiksha would help in achieving the objectives of providing quality education for all, in a time bound manner and remove the bottlenecks currently available in the education sector. It will prove to be an efficacious weapon in transforming the nation as 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.

(The author is a technocrat & academician).

YOUR COLUMN

Spare some time for your children

Dear Editor;

Due to corona epidemic, our new generation is getting away from education day by day, which is becoming a matter of great concern. The biggest thing is that there is no discussion on this subject. School teachers have started regular online classes on children's education but most of the children are not taking online classes on their mobile phones or their parents, are lacking in awareness. Sometimes students are studying online and roaming around with their mobile phones or laptops turned on or most of speakers are turned on and engaged in games or other activities which their parents are not aware of or even their learning activities are not taken seriously, which is inadvertently harming children. Parents do not even have 35 minutes to sit with them during the online class to connect with the supervised teacher. Parents should monitor the child in a disciplined manner and keep in touch with the teachers as required.

It is very important that when the children are studying

online, the parents or any other member should sit next to them and supervise the child and help the teachers. One thing to keep in mind is that one of our generations is drifting away from getting education, which is a matter of great concern. All classes have different views on this but in a country like ours, which is still a developing country students are forced to study hard. If we talk about getting education during this corona epidemic, then the future of children is getting very bleak. It has become very difficult for the teachers to teach the children in discipline because the children do not follow the discipline of the teachers and the parents are also ignoring it. In this way the children are getting distracted from their studies. So everyone should inculcate the habit of disciplining their children to study online, to be serious. Children may read less but read as much as they can, because students who are in the habit of staying disciplined will make up for the lack of education but the lack of habits and culture will never be filled.

Vijay Garg.

Inconvenience caused to common man

Dear Editor;

Through the columns of your esteemed paper I like to highlight the sufferings faced by common man during the

visit of a Minister or other VIPs. Few days back a Minister visited Udhampur and as per schedule, he has to reach DC office from Dhar road side and cross from Kallar, Venus Chowk, Hospital crossing and many other points. Surprisingly all traffic movement as well as movement of commuters from by-lanes and connecting roads was stopped by police much earlier than his scheduled time of crossing these points putting common man to harassment and suffering. Ultimately, the VIP crossed these points with 5-6 police vehicles escorting him and every policeman directing passerby to stop their vehicle roadside. This reminded me of PM's much talked shedding of VIP culture. Such visits if to review the functioning of administration, why such meetings cannot be held in virtual mode? This way unnecessary sufferings caused to the common man can be avoided. This is rubbish politics in India that makes a common man VVIP and door to door vote beggars become a commodity of Z- Security cover. Un-approachable these political guys while in power perch at every door with folded hands begging for vote during elections. Once they win they become a rare commodity for common man.

Mahadeep Singh Jamwal.