

## NOW OR NEVER

As the movie 'The Kashmir Files' has set the narrative right across the nation as far as Kashmiri Pandits' ordeal is concerned therefore the government should revisit all the wrong decisions taken by the biased dispensations in the past undoing everything which is erroneous and lopsided. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's assertion that J&K Administration is committed to bring back Kashmiri Pandits with dignity and pride holds much significance and all those who matter in the country should support J&K's Head and the BJP dispensation in the Centre to just do it once and for all because it now or never situation. The Kashmiri Pandits' return to Valley should not be opposed by anyone in the country even the rest of Kashmiris because this will not at all affect any one of those but on the contrary the move if made possible will lighten up the lives of those who have left their homes way back in 1990 after hostile atmosphere was created by the elements inimical to peace, tranquility and brotherhood. There is no logic in lingering on the decision to ensure justice to Kashmiri Pandits because when the atmosphere in Kashmir is conducive for tourism then why government should not go for it as soon as possible and stop by hook or crook those opposing this decision to provide justice to Kashmiri Pandits, which are living a miserable life of refugees in their own country with no one to listen to their plight. In this context, LG Sinha has assured that the KPs will be given their due rights in the coming time as the government is committed to their safe and dignified return to Valley and in this regard already accommodation has been on anvil and soon over 6,000 flats will be ready to accommodate the real owners of Kashmir thus making it paradise in real sense once again. It is unfortunate that many dispensations in the past have promised the same thing again and again but none showed the will and sincerity to accomplish the job. It is time for the KPs to keep their fingers crossed and wait and watch the execution of the government's plan to bring them back to the Valley safely and without any fear of guns or goons.

## RIGHT MOVE

Jammu and Kashmir Police has taken the right decision over attaching the properties of the people who will provide shelter to terror mongers as this will act as a deterrent against this practice which often lead to escape of terrorists or give them space to covertly indulge in their anti-national or terror activities. In this context, the JKP has warned that properties of people providing shelter to terrorists or their associates will be attached under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). What is encouraging is the fact that already the process has been started for attachment of some immovable properties which have been used for purpose of terrorism as was shared on Twitter by the Srinagar wing of JKP. Of course there are laws for all such things and it is good that for the first time police has come up with this measure to tighten the noose around those who are hell-bent to act against the interests of the country and its people. The message is loud and clear that no one should provide shelter to terrorists or terror associates as from now onwards the legal action will be supplemented by property attachment as per law. The police must have been following the directions of the Central Government to restrain the violence mongers from indulging in acts of terrors as it is the BJP Government led by PM Narendra Modi which has will and valour to act against the terror mongers as has been seen in J&K since the advent of Modi dispensation in 2014. It is imperative that people should support the government on all fronts so that the steps to restore peace in the Valley could be taken with strong resolve and sooner than later the long lasting peace is established in the UT of J&K. The JKP deserves kudos for doing exemplary work in combating terrorism and this new measure seems to be the most effective one in rooting out terrorism from J&K and bring back normalcy. The government should implement the same in letter and spirit to tighten noose around those denting the interests of the country as this is very important for end of terrorism.

OFF 'D' CUFF

**Awaken The Leader In You**

experience boredom and drudgery. The same work driven by an emotional motivation becomes exciting. You break through physical barriers. A father may be laid back and demotivated. But when inspired to work for his child, he becomes enthusiastic, energetic and creative. Enthused by an intellectual ideal, you smash through even emotional hang-ups and achieve the impossible. And when you take the mighty leap into the Spirit, all barriers break down.

Most of us are strongly entrenched in feelings of separateness. A leader feels one with people. If politicians are busy fighting opponents and the mind is clogged with hatred and enmity, how will they contribute to the community or country? Look at others not as opponents but partners. Collaborate with them for the welfare of the country. Focus on the values that bind us together; not on the differences that push us apart. Feel for people, emote with them, work for them, and you will be amply rewarded. Shivaji and his trusted lieutenant, Tanaji, were like brothers. It is this love that helped Tanaji win over a much larger and better-armed Mughal force with just a handful of people.

Act as if your life depends on it, knowing that it does not matter. As Shakespeare said, "All the world is a stage. And all men and women mere players. They have their exits and their entrances." You have a role to play. Play it to the best of your ability. And exit when the time comes. This is the splendour and magnificence of true leadership.

**Jaya Row Mumbai**

# No doubt DC appears taking TASK seriously but more is needed to undo wrongs done over 7-decades

**J&K Delimitation Commission proposals notified in Govt Gazette in terms of Sec-60(5) of Act34 of 2019**  
**Exercise for Delimitation of Constituencies of the 1st Legislative Assembly of UT of J&K is still LIVE**  
**DC holds a pious & high level responsibility as its order can't be challenged in any Court**  
**People still hope that wrongs of 1st Legislative Assembly of J&K State will not be repeated in UT of J&K**

■ DAYA SAGAR

No doubt it appears that Delimitation Commission has to some extent given serious/ needed consideration to the requirements of the areas and people of UT of J&K but still some more needs to be done to extend due representation and voice in the future legislature & popular governments to the people of the distant/ backward areas of the UT of J&K who had been denied fair representation even by the only regular delimitation order of 1995.

The Delimitation order for UT of J&K as notified on 14th March in J&K Gazette as has ( in Table-A) distributed 47 MLA constituencies in the Districts that presently lie in Valley and 43 MLAs over areas outside Kashmir valley out of 90 Legislative Assembly Constituencies. In the notification no any information / basis / data has been mentioned (as regards the areas, topography, terrains, the length of all weather roads/black top connectivity, physicals/ fair weather roads / % area covered by different categories of roads etc at region / district levels) that could be supposed to have been taken into consideration for fixing the limits in terms of the parameters laid down constitutionally in Sub Section(2) of Section-60 of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act of 2019, Act no 34 ( In determining the matters referred to in clauses (b) and (c) of sub-section (1), the Election Commission shall have regard to the following provisions, namely:- (a) all the constituencies shall be single-member constituencies; (b) all constituencies shall, as far as practicable, be geographically compact areas, and in delimiting them, regard shall be had to physical features, existing boundaries of



**A Look through the Mist Part- III**

administrative units, facilities of communication and conveniences to the public;) and earlier in the J&K Representation of the people

Act 1957.

Had the data that the commission might have taken into consideration for deciding the distribution of assembly constituencies at macro level (regional level) & micro level (district level) been also published the suggestions / objections could then be made on all specifics of the proposals but since that is not available in the notification published in the gazettes so no observation can be made now except humbly submitting to commission that proposals as regards distributing the Assembly constituencies surely require reconsideration and presently no objections/ suggestions can be pointedly submitted as regards individual boundaries of constituencies for legislative assembly (which is first consideration here) .

Therefore in the instant case of UT of J&K, for facilitating delimitation near to fairness better would be to first decide adhoc distribution of constituencies on macro level (Regional Basis) and on micro level (District basis). But no such criteria / data has been mentioned in the notification/ Order-1 as placed in public domain through Gazette notification of 14-03-2022. No doubt in the note of dissent submitted in response to Draft working papers / Draft proposals dated 25 Feb 2022 said to be made available by the Commission to the Associate members Dr. Farooq Abdullah, MP Mohd Akbar Lone ), and MP Hasnain Masoodi it has been mentioned at point (17) that the Commission has categorised the Districts in 3 groups in terms of some Paper -1 but no such details are there

in main notification / order published in gazette on 14-03-2022.

So, it is not possible to make specific objections / suggestions with respect to the draft order of the commission except most humbly observing that:

(i) on the face of it on macro basis the proposed Delimitation order of the Commission needs re consideration since it does not test to the reality of the constitutional facts laid down in Section-50 of erstwhile J&K Constitution where the areas that had constitutionally 14 elected MLC have been given only 43 MLAs where as the areas in Kashmir valley that had lesser MLCs(12 ) have been given more MLAs (47).

Table-XXX					
MP Seat and State	Number of MLAs/ L.S MPs	Base Population for Vote Value *@ 1971 census (1. Subs. by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, s. 12, for the Explanation (w.e.f. 3-1-1977);2. Subs. by the Constitution (Eighty-fourth Amendment) Act, 2001, sec. 2, for "2000" (w.e.f. 21-2-2002))	Vote Value one MP (LS & RS) for electing President of India	No. of MLAs per LS MP	Weightage of MLA seat *1971 population
UP	403/80	8,38,49,905	708	5.4	208
J&K State	87/6	63,00,000	708	14.5	72
Uttarakhand	70/5	44,91,239	708	14	64
Himachal Pradesh	68/4	34,60,434	708	17	51
Sikkim	32/1	2,09,843	708	32	7

(ii) Population is only one of the 5 or so

parameters laid constitutionally for delimitation of the constituencies of a Legislative Assembly and even if as per 2011 census population of the Kashmir Valley districts is more than the areas outside Kashmir Valley the areas outside Kashmir Valley deserve more MLAs in terms of Sub Section(2) of Section-60 of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act of 2019, Act no 34. The observations / objections as received by the commission from three associate members from Kashmir Valley & as have been published have in a way opined that population should be taken as the only factor which is surely not a rightfully conceived wisdom interns of the constitutionally laid down guidelines/ parameters for locating / deciding constituencies for a legislative assembly & spirit underlying there in. How far population could matter in comparison to parameters like geographical area/ compactness , topography, terrains, the all weather road / black top connectivity, physicals / area covered by roads etc at region / district levels could also be well read from the facts like that a MLA from Uttar Pradesh voting in Presidential Election carries a vote value of 208 and that from J&K carried a vote value of just 72 and that of Sikkim only 7 (pl see table - XXX ).

For broader status of the likely impact of other parameters, laid in law for consideration by a DC, for the areas in Kashmir Valley and those outside Kashmir Valley a fair view on the irrationality of the delimitations done in past could be sensed to great extent from Table -YYY.

**To be continued**  
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### Transforming J&K

# Establishment of CA stores revolutionised apple industry

Jammu and Kashmir government, in a bid to reduce post harvest losses by increasing the shelf life of various agriculture and horticulture products besides addressing the issue of distress sale of crops by the farmers, has encouraged and aided private players to set up cold storage (CA) facilities.

During the past two years, an enabling environment has been created for transforming J&K agriculture and allied sectors to increase the income of farmers, ensure food security and speed up economic growth of the UT. The government has taken several concrete steps for increasing the Agriculture and Horticulture production besides enhancing the quality of crops while laying special focus on post-harvesting management infrastructure, especially in private sector.

Apples kept in cold storages in Kashmir help farmers to fetch much better rates by selling their production as per their will according to demand. Senior Horticulture Officer, while elaborating on the initiative, informed that a 10 kilogram box of stored apple has been sold at a minimum of Rs 1,000 and at Rs 1,800 as the highest price depending on the quality and colour of the apple. These rates, according to apple growers and traders, are comparatively much higher than the rates apples get in harvesting season. The cold storages based at Lassipora Pulwama, Aglar Shopian and a few areas in north Kashmir have the capacity to store about 2.5 lakh metric tonnes of apple.

He said that the government aided cold stores would help in fetching higher rates to the A-grade apples in Kashmir which amount to around 8 lakh metric tonnes. Earlier, these apples used to be sold at less than their actual value due to inadequate availability of CA stores in the valley. These cold stores are much needed to cater to the high density A Grade apple production which has been started by Horticulture Department Kashmir at large scale.

Director General Horticulture, Kashmir; Aijaz Ahmed Bhat, said that the department is committed towards strengthening the post harvest infrastructure in valley. We are exploring every



possible opportunity to have infrastructure like CA stores, Processing Units and related utilities is developed across the Valley and best services are provided to the orchardists, he added.

At present, we are encouraging new entrepreneurs to set up CA storage capacity with government support to cater to the annual production which otherwise would result in distress sales, he said. DG further said that improved post harvest infrastructure like CA stores will help in keeping the Kashmiri apple in the market round the year and farmers will get good returns for their produce.

As per available data, Kashmir produces 20 lakh metric tonne of apples annually. To ensure that farmers of Kashmir get better rates for their products and are not compelled to sell their produce at a relatively lower price due to fear of the fruit getting perished, Lieutenant Governor administration is working tirelessly to facilitate farmers with subsidies, technology, machinery and post-harvest setup. The Horticulture department helps entrepreneurs, interested in setting up of CA stores, with 50 per cent subsidy.

The CA storage system ensures an optimum supply of oxygen, carbon dioxide, nitrogen besides humidity and temperature to preserve edible items for longer periods of time. During the past few years the government is focusing on effective Post Harvest Management of fruits in the UT. "Special efforts are being initiated by the department of Horticulture towards establishment of CA store, Food Processing Units, Grading lines and Purchase of Refrigerated Vans.

Director General Horticulture said these efforts have resulted in 700 per cent increase in CA storage capacity from 25000 MT in 2015-16 to 2.00 Lakh MT in 2021-22, which is expected to be further increased by 25000 MT in the next year.

Establishment of CA stores has resulted in significant reduction of distress sales resulting in higher returns for the orchardists. There are 40 CA stores across Jammu and Kashmir with Industrial Growth Centre (IGC) in Lassipora area of south Kashmir's Pulwama alone having as many as 23 CA stores. Besides, there are 17 stores functioning in different districts including Shopian, Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla and

Jammu.

Ali Muhammad Bhat, a farmer, says that setting up of Cold Storage system is not benefitting the growers only but the consumers too. "The local consumer pays higher rates for purchase of apples imported from other countries like US and New Zealand but with cold storage facility he can buy local apples for a reasonable price during any time of the year," Ashraf claimed.

The recent visit of CEOs from several Gulf countries to Kashmir to explore the investment opportunities here will also help in creating Post-harvest infrastructure in J&K.

"In the past two years, a significant change is being witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir especially if I talk about the investment, industry and business," Lieutenant Governor said. "We discussed several areas and issues. We have identified their (CEOs) concerns and assured them of their redressal in minimum time period especially in the Health and Medical Education, Real Estate, Hospitality, Food processing, Cold storage and cold chain and education", he asserted.

Sinha said the government is hopeful to bring an investment of over Rs 70,000 crore in next six months. "Last year, we had the total outside investment of Rs 15,000 crore. By now, we have cleared investment proposals of around Rs 27,000 crore," he added while asserting that "We hope that in next six months, it will cross Rs 70,000 crore". Sinha said that when the investments take place on ground, it would generate a minimum of six to seven lakh jobs in Jammu and Kashmir.

People associated with the apple industry say that introduction of cold storages has revolutionized the industry besides providing jobs to hundreds of labourers.

Kashmir on an average produces over 20 lakh metric tonne of apple every year and it is expected that it will jump over to 25 lakh metric tonne production in next few years. The 2017 economic survey in J&K said that half of Kashmir's population is directly or indirectly dependent on the apple industry and over 3.5 lakh hectares are under apple cultivation.

become problematic. There were certain colleges, where only those with 100 per cent marks were eligible for admission. Some teachers, affiliated with a particular political party, alleged that students from Kerala scored higher marks and were, therefore, able to corner the seats. True, some state boards were liberal with marking giving their students an extra advantage. Nonetheless, when the cure is worse than the disease, it is a matter of grave concern. True, central universities are few compared to state universities and the growing number of private universities, which may or may not follow the CUET system immediately. Students will be under pressure to not only score high marks in the board examination but also improve their proficiency in cracking the CUET. On the flip side, students, like those in Delhi, who want to study mostly in central universities would be under no compulsion to score high marks in the board examination. Instead, they would be better advised to improve their ability to crack the CUET for which coaching institutes would provide services, of course, at a heavy cost. In the process, the school-based system would lose its appeal to the students.

For last two years, the schools have not been functioning properly because of COVID-19. This had a deleterious effect on the students, who had to remain confined to their houses. Of course, some of them were able to continue education, thanks to online classes. However, there has been a growing realisation that online classes are not a substitute for classroom-based teaching. True, knowledge can be acquired through the internet and by studying from home. But, a student learns many things in a classroom like discipline, ability to behave in a group, how to respect teachers and elders, devel-

op friendships with fellow students that sometimes last a lifetime, and submerge one's own identity into the identity of the whole class or the school. The new system will force the parents to get for their wards specialised coaching for which time and money have to be found.

Not every student can afford to spend money on school fees and coaching which will be to the advantage of the rich. In other words, the CUET is tailor-made for coaching institutes. UGC Chairman M Jagadeesh Kumar was earlier Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University and knew about the entrance system prevalent there since its inception. Under JNU's admission system, poor students from villages and backward regions used to get a certain weightage. That is why the character of the university was different from that of Delhi University. Instead of seeing the large presence of students from backward regions as welcome, it was seen as a conspiracy by the leftists to retain JNU as their bastion. In adopting the one-shoe-fits-all policy, the government is indirectly playing into the hands of the privileged. The government has clarified that universities like Jamia Millia Islamia and Aligarh Muslim University which have statutory provisions enabling them to reserve seats for minority students will be able to do so, provided such students clear the CUET. However, colleges like St. Stephen's and Jesus and Mary in Delhi will have to follow the practice followed by other Delhi University colleges. Since the taste of the pudding is in the eating, one will have to wait for the new system to kick in to know the practical difficulties. In any case, a system that is detrimental to the present school based-system can hardly be welcomed.

**Vijay Garg.**