

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 terror 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

When you think of great leaders, inspiring figures like Gandhi ji, Martin Luther King Jr and Nelson Mandela come to mind. What made these icons such powerful leaders? Everyone has the potential to become a great leader. You only have to awaken the inner you.

The most impactful leaders have been spiritual heads whose influence remains long after their death. When you tap into the Spirit, you overcome all barriers like physical limitations, emotional hang-ups and intellectual prejudices. You breathe an ethereal air.

A leader has a vision and thinks beyond the narrow confines of 'I, me and mine'. You cannot achieve greatness with a small mind. Leaders work for a higher ideal, for lokasangraha, the well-being of the world. They do not want just power or position for themselves. Their goal is to serve, add value to the community and help solve their problems. The Bhagavad Gita says, work in a spirit of yajna, service and sacrifice for a noble cause and you will get success as well as happiness. And you will grow to your potential. Constricted by selfish ends, success will elude you, and happiness and growth will be a far cry.

Also, leaders work in the area of their core interest, inherent talent. They are guided by the same counsel of the intellect, and not swayed by the whims and fancies of the mind.

A leader works hard inspired by a higher goal. When you are uninspired, you

The harder the struggle, the more glorious the triumph.
Self-realization demands very great struggle.
-Swami Sivananda

EDITORIAL

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 Act 34 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 SAGR

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.

A Look through the Mist Part- III

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

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

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 MLCs 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/ LS 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	63,00000	708	14.5	72
Uttarakhand	70/5	44,91239	708	14	64
Himachal Pradesh	68/4	34,60,434	708	17	51
Sikkim	32/1	2,09843	708	32	7

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

Transforming J&K

Establishment of CA stores revolutionised apple industry



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.

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, Ajiaz Ahmed Bhat said that the department is committed towards strengthening the post harvest infrastructure in valley. We are exploring every

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

possible opportunities 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 Jagadesh 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

YOUR COLUMN

Introducing CUET

Dear Editor

University Grants Commission's decision to introduce a Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for admission to graduate courses in 45 Central universities, including Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Aligarh Muslim University and Banaras Hindu University, will sound the death-knell for the present school-based education system. Admission will solely be based on the result of the CUET, to be conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA). The results of the Class XII board examination conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and state education boards will have no bearing on the admission process. Of course, the basic eligibility for the CUET is the clearance of the board examination. To put it differently, a student who might have scored 100 per cent marks in all the subjects in the CBSE Class XII examination but failed to clear the CUET would not be eligible for admission to a Central university. Once the new system comes into force from the academic year beginning 2022, the results of the board exams will lose much of their importance. If there was a craze for higher marks in the Class XII examination among the students and their parents, it was mainly because admission to all the universities was based purely on such marks. One reason why a system was found necessary was that admission to Delhi University and the colleges affiliated with it had

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, development, how to respect teachers and elders, develop