

## IMPACTS OF PRIVATIZATION

Privatization can help governments reduce their debt burden by transferring the ownership and management of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) to private entities. This often leads to increased efficiency and profitability, generating revenue for the government through the sale of assets and the elimination of subsidies to loss-making enterprises.

Private companies are often driven by profit motives and competition, which can incentivize them to provide higher-quality goods and services to attract customers. This can lead to innovations, efficiencies, and better customer service compared to state-run enterprises that may be more bureaucratic and less responsive to consumer demands.

Privatization encourages entrepreneurship and innovation as private companies seek to differentiate themselves in the market and gain a competitive edge. This can lead to the introduction of new products, technologies, and business models that benefit consumers and drive economic growth.

State-owned enterprises are sometimes subject to political interference, which can lead to inefficiencies, mismanagement, and corruption. Privatization removes these enterprises from direct government control, reducing the potential for political meddling and allowing decisions to be made based on commercial considerations rather than political expediency.

## Vote for inclusive and Developmental Polity

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

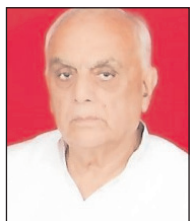
The world's largest democracy is going to polls in a few days from now. The voters of this democracy will choose their representatives who will govern them in accordance with the high standards of democracy and constitution. The conscious and sagacious voters will vote for inclusiveness, development and diversity. The development and inclusive polity will eclipse the emotional, caste and communal politics and the mature voters will vote for development and inclusivity and will choose a government which will work for the welfare of the common man. There is no place for caste, communal and sectarian politics and voting and the people will vote for the mundane issues of bread, butter and development and the caste and communal issues will be relegated to the dust bins of history. The voters should vote for the party which promises and guarantees the development of the country and all those forces should be defeated which unfortunately stand for caste and communal politics. Therefore the mature voters of the country will vote for development, bread and butter and will frustrate the designs of all those parties who advocate caste and communal politics. The emotive, sensitive and caste issues should get a back seat and the mundane issues of bare existence should get a priority and the people should vote for the party or parties which guarantee development, prosperity, inclusiveness and diversity and for upholding the federal polity of the country while maintaining the unitary spirit of the country and constitution. Therefore people should vote with insight and foresight and only elect such political parties which guarantee development and inclusive polity and they should shun the caste, communal and emotive politics so that our developing country marches towards development and this will be possible only when the voters will vote for development, inclusiveness and diversity as well as for strengthening the federal character and structure of the country. People should show those parties and politicians a door who only indulge in caste and communal politics and do not guarantee development, but only do emotional and sensitive politics which is far from the requirements of the people. So the people should only vote for such parties and politicians who promise and guarantee a developed India and at the same time defeat those parties and leaders who do communal, caste and sectarian politics. Development is the mahamantra of the present day politics and so the people should vote for the parties and politicians who not only promise but guarantee development of the country in which lies the good of the people and defeat those parties and leaders who only advocate partisan and caste as well as communal issues which are against the spirit and essence of democracy and give a bad name to democracy. The voters should reject the communal, caste and partisan politicians who are against the cherished values of our democracy and instead vote for the parties and leaders who promise and guarantee the developed and Viksit Bharat. It is so good that the BJP manifesto stresses the development plank and stand and shun the politics of freebies and populist schemes and concentrate on the development and inclusive politics and it is hoped that the people will vote for development, inclusiveness and diversity which is the cornerstone of our vibrant democracy. UNDP is working hard for promoting inclusive and participative elections. With presence in more than 170 countries, the UNDP helps governance institutions in countries bring constitutional reforms, organize credible elections, strengthen parliaments and address policy and institutional options for peace, risk reduction and development through reconciliation, empowerment and inclusion. UNDP brings people together within nations and around the world for fostering partnerships and promote ways to promote participation, accountability and effectiveness at all levels. It also offers strategic assistance throughout the electoral cycle, from support in designing more effective systems, to mechanisms to address disputes after the votes are counted. It aims to ensure that elections are credible and fully owned nationally, increase awareness of the role of elections as part of a broader democratic governance framework and as a vital means to safeguard human rights, exercise choice and express opinions. The objective is to support democratic systems to become more inclusive and accountable and to meet expectations for participation, services and security during election processes. The inclusion and participation of youth, women, traditionally marginalized groups, minorities and indigenous people's into election processes are important tools to strengthen the democratic processes. It has been observed that the people today by and large vote for development, inclusiveness and upholding the diversity which are the essence of our democratic governance. PM Modi has also said that the people have realized that it is futile to be swayed by emotional, sensitive and caste issues and they have voted for development, peace and inclusivity in the UP assembly elections and have voted BJP again to power in the state. Same will be now true in the general elections as the people will be no longer swayed by the sensitive, emotional and caste issues and instead they will vote for development and inclusive politics. It follows that the voters have become more conscious and they will vote for development of the country and for inclusivity and this will be seen in the coming general elections. People are not moved by the emotive, caste and partisan issues and instead they prefer to vote for development and inclusiveness as well as the diversity and for strengthening the federal structure of the country.

Thus people should vote for developmental plank of the political parties and they should shun voting for caste and communal politicians and the parties espousing caste polarization and appeasement politics which strike at the very roots of our democratic system.

To sum up, it can be opined that the voters by and large will vote for development, inclusiveness and diversity which are the cornerstone of our democracy.

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■ ER P. L. KHUSHU



By removing the barriers in voting by the Kashmiri migrants, the Election Commission of India, has sent a powerful message of generosity and equity in the electoral process, for the displaced Kashmiri pundits, living as displaced persons in their own country. Better late than never. It has come, yet, after about 35 years of exile of KP's. This decision reaffirms the commitment of the present governance to uphold the rights of the KP's at least in the issues of electoral processes.

The decision by the ECI comes in response to longstanding demands by Kashmiri migrants, in this regard. Sincere efforts, coupled with constructive dialogue with election authorities, have culminated in a significant policy change that addresses the concerns of Kashmiri migrants and respects their easy participation in elections of the nation. Such a step will equally help and smoothen the process of exercising voting process for the migrant KP's in the ensuing elections of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir; as and when such elections are held. This move, aimed at making the electoral process more inclusive and hassle-free, signifies a crucial shift towards recognizing and addressing the problems faced by Kashmiri migrants in exercising their right to franchise. For decades, Kashmiri migrants have grappled with complex bureaucratic procedures, particularly the requirement of filling out M Forms, which often acted as barriers to their participation in the electoral process.

Under the modified voting scheme, Kashmiri migrant electors residing in various camps and zones in Jammu and Udhampur will no longer need to go through the arduous process of filling out M Forms. Instead, they will be provided with special polling stations based on their registered zones of residence, streamlining the voting process and eliminating unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles.

This pragmatic approach by the ECI not only simplifies the voting procedure but also evinces intentions of the government to address the other concerns of Kashmiri migrants, due to their forced displacement from Kashmir. Furthermore, the decision to allow self-attestation for filling out Form M for migrants residing outside Jammu and Udhampur, such as in Delhi or other parts of the country, is another progressive step towards ensuring accessibility to the electoral process. Additionally, with the continuation of the postal ballot facility through Form 12C it ensures that all migrants, regardless of their place of residence, have the option to vote by postal ballot as well. This provision caters to the diverse needs of Kashmiri migrants and also reflects the ECI's commitment to cater to their various voting circumstances. The amended arrangement, which provides special polling stations to specific zones, underscores the ECI's meticulous approach towards ensuring equitable access to polling stations for Kashmiri migrants. By ensuring that each zone has at least one special polling station and delineating intra-zonal jurisdictions, the ECI has prioritized the convenience and accessibility of electoral facilities for Kashmiri migrants.

According to records from the last election, although 17,000 M forms were issued, only 7 per-

cent of those who received them actually voted. Voting represents the most effective means to choose one's representatives, the votes of Kashmiri migrants can potentially be decisive. ECI has sincerely fulfilled its responsibilities by implementing necessary procedural changes.

It is certainly a welcome move by the government of the day to have such an encouraging relief granted to the KP's in regard to their voting rights, but should it be weighted as per the quantum of time consumed by the policy planners to do so. Should it be called as an eye wash unless it is not followed by taking existential measures about the perpetual and the final rehabilitation of KP's back in Kashmir with honor and dignity.

It is almost two and a half terms of "Lord Ramas - Vanvas", of 14 years each, which makes it 35 years for the Kashmiri Pandits, to be in exile now, for no fault of theirs. This is the apathy which KP's have been facing after their forced exile from Kashmir. It can be said that the "Vanvas" (Exile) of KP's, in their own country, which has crossed almost 35 years, may continue further; as there is hardly any positive development visible in this regard from the government side. What is their fault? Yes their fault is that they kept the Flag of India, flying in Kashmir at the cost of their existence and comforts of sorts, when India was not acceptable to the majority of people within the majority community of Kashmir; which was exploited as a tool to rule the Jammu and Kashmir for ages, by some political dynasties of Kashmir and its progenies from time to time. Dynasty based political leadership dominance is still in existence in Kashmir, who will never like and allow Kashmiri Pandits to return to Kashmir perpetually and permanently.

The issue of the forcibly displaced KP's is not of mere return back in Kashmir only. What is needed is that they should be rehabilitated back in Kashmir with dignity and honor. A demand for their return to Kashmir is highly referential and important for seeking vital remedies for the venomous and irreparable damages, which have occurred to this miniscule community with this forced exodus that was a well knit conspiracy of the fundamentalists and extremists elements in Kashmir aided and abetted by prominent regional political leaders of Kashmir for their vote bank politics to retain their dynasty based political power and rule J & K perpetually and equally ensuring the cleansing the valley from the presence of KP's.

The Kashmiri Pandits are seriously alarmed about their extinction as an ebb original community known as Kashmiri Pandits (Battas), who been shattered by the tyranny of the times since last 35 years, when no one is listening to their woes with concern and appropriate remedies. The authorities in power have no causative concern about KP's, as KP's are not a vote bank treasure and tag, due to our minuscule and displaced status.

This conspiracy of evicting the KP's from Kashmir along with their genocide had apparently a hidden go ahead from most of the fanatic Muslims of Kashmir believing in the establishing of "Nizame- Mustaffa", the pure Islamic Rule in Kashmir. Unfortunately the concept of Islamic fundamentalism was always a ring desire of almost each and every Muslim of Kashmir, right from the day when the power got transferred to democratic governance in 1947, after the same was snatched away from Maharaja Hari Singh,

## M Form abolition a welcome step

# Perpetual Rehabilitation a Dire Need of the Hour--KP's

Under the well planned conspiracy hatched by the prominent leaders of "Quite-Kashmir Movement", with the sorrowful blessings of most of the then congress leadership of India which was led by Nehru. Kashmiri Pandit was always an eye sore in Kashmir ever since the emergence of so called "Naya-Kashmir". The rignarole about the duping the KP's of their fundamental right to live in Kashmir with dignity and honor; started in this period only, when the exodus of KP's started from Kashmir.

With the mass forced exodus of the KP's in 1989-90, the Kashmiri Pandits are on the path of extinction, as a historic age old community of the "Kashap-Rishis's" Kashmir. Apart from losing their properties, their base, homes and hearths, culture, language, social set up, life pattern, living standards, educational base, religious places, monumental abodes of their spiritual saints and Godly persons, etc, the KP's have lost their identity in all respects. It is a big issue for the KP's, when right from 1990, till date nobody has ever bothered about this extinction problem of the KP's from the map of Jammu and Kashmir.

KP's are being applied fragile balsms like petty job packages that too with suicidal moratoriums, when our youth who opt for such jobs under situational circumstances have to work in Kashmir only under the threat of Islamic gun, which has taken so many precious lives of our meritorious young men. Reserving two seats in the legislative assembly for KP's, as per latest salvo in this regard, will not carry all of us to our snatched away homes and hearths with honor and dignity. This is no favor to us. It may be a glittering crown for some blue eyed boys of the BJP, who claim themselves as the representatives of KP's, when most of them are not known at all, nor have they ever bothered about any issues of the KP's agonies and distresses of sorts due to their forced migration from Kashmir. These are petty sops as political Lollypops, for national consumption by the present ruling dispensation for its use in the coming general elections.

The persistent demand of KP's for the creation of a separate homeland for them is being overlooked with no genuine reason or cause behind it. What is stopping the governance of the day to create a union territory for the displaced KP's, as a separate home land for KP's, within Kashmir; to live as respectable citizens with honor and dignity and not as refugees in their own country, or as political victims under the Islamic dominance and fear of the gun, in the valley of Kashmir.

KP's link with Kashmir with a minority status for KP's is the need of the hour; if the government of the day is really inclined to restore the lost status of KP's. It is not their return and rehabilitation back in Kashmir only. It has to be with their status as a minority one, for their better growth in all the areas of developments including their economic development. KP's have suffered a lot for the last 35 years of their forced exile. To get back their original entity and recognition, the KP's have to be declared as a minority community in Kashmir for a better and a proper attention by the government in all the core sectors of development.

KP's want a return to their "homeland", but not to the servitude of a Muslim State, as Kashmir has become now. Under such grave circumstances, the only solution left for the rehabilitation of the KP's is to create a "separate homeland" for the KP's, with in Kashmir; having a status of

"Union Territory", with a minority status for the KP's. Such a call is not any political proposition. It is in fact the only way to ensure the return of the KP's to their "homeland" securing their return with safety and dignity, when they will be able to salvage their lost identity of sorts within the valley of Kashmir.

Since the displaced KP's are now deprived of their properties in Kashmir; either having been forced to sell their properties under distress or having been divested of their properties due to gun culture in one or the other form, appropriate remedial measures shall have to be adopted by the authorities in power to provide residential housing facilities to the displaced KP's, to make them live securely and safely in Kashmir. Similarly, where ever their properties have been encroached upon or usurped, these shall have to be got restored back to the affected KP's. Employment packages of various sorts to absorb the youth of KP's in this union territory for KP's within Kashmir shall have to be introduced to ensure that the governance of this union territory is fully managed by KP's mostly. Similarly other major issues like financial assistance packages etc, are afforded to such persons who choose to adopt small trade and commerce as their source of living. There will be other major reforms to be introduced in the sectors like education, agriculture, horticulture, tourism and the like, for the displaced Kashmiri Pandits within Kashmir once a union territory is created for them in Kashmir.

A new organization of relief and rehabilitation for the migrant Kashmiri Pandits shall have to be created within this union territory to look after all the major problems of the rehabilitation of KP's, under the superior monitoring of senior most bureaucrats.

In fact there is presently an organization known as Relief and Rehabilitation (Migrants), organization operating from Jammu, which is looking after about some issues of the displaced KP's. Unfortunately this organization did not grow beyond a certain limit to be really called as an organization which affords real relief and rehabilitation to the displaced KP's. By relief is not meant the cash relief. Relief here is referred to the facility of providing of easy and quick administrative decisions for various issues related to this organization for the KP's. Citing an example in this regard, if a ration card holder even under non relief category wants to have his or her migrant ration card bifurcated asking for issuing a new migrant ration card for his or her progeny, even under non relief category, it mostly becomes a nightmare for the person concerned.

Its role in the rehabilitation of KP's so far is almost negligible. Probably this organization needs better qualified officers and officials at the ground levels, who are competent enough to deliver better and quick.

The old traditional lot of office hands manning this organization for decades need now to be replaced with fresh and young blood of better merit and knowledge. This organization has still enough scope to provide enough relief and rehabilitation to the displaced KP's, if reorganized properly. Relief here is again not meant the cash relief. It is the element of comfort for the KP's in their various issues of migration and displacement through this organization which is missing presently.

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# Potential of Diversified Farming in Reasi District

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Reasi district of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is situated in the Shivalik hills and is about 72 km away from Jammu. This district is located at 1528 meters above mean sea level and is predominantly a hilly district. It is one of the oldest towns of J & K UT. It was the seat of the erstwhile Bhimgarh state, said to have been established by Bhim Dev somewhere in the 8th century. It remained an independent principality till 1822 when Gulab Singh, the then King of Jammu consolidated small states. Up to 1948 Reasi was the district of Jammu province but in the first administrative reorganization of the state undertaken in 1948 major part of the district Reasi was merged with Udhampur district, while some area became part of district Poonch (now Rajouri). The name Reasi is derived from the town's old name "Rasyal". Reasi is one of the most important places in terms of tourism in the Union Territory of J&K. Religious places like Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, Shiv Khori Shrine, Dera Baba Banda Bahadur, Baba Aghar Jitto Ji, Siarh Baba, Nao Devian, Deva Mai, Dhansar Baba etc. are in Reasi district and pilgrims from across the globe visit these spots throughout the year and pay homage. Bhimgarh Fort and Sulla Park are also important tourists' destinations in the district. Throughout the year the Salal Hydro Electric Project located at Dhyanagarh, world highest Chenab Rail Bridge, Kauri, Bakkal, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVD), Karkayal, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Tandra are important centres in the district which added glory to the district. The proposed train to Kashmir passes through this district and makes it an important place in the national atlas. Banganga, Anji, Ans, Rudd, Passu, Pai etc. are the tributaries of the Chenab River.

According to 2011 census total population of the district is 3, 14,714 and is at 570th rank out of 640 districts in India. Total literacy rate of Reasi district is 59.42%. Its population density is 184 persons/sq.km. Its population growth over decade 2001-2011 was 27.06% and has a sex ratio of 891 females for 1000 males. The district lies between 33005" N latitude and 74050" E longitude. The headquarters of district Reasi is situated at Reasi town. The district comprises presently of nine tehsils and twelve blocks as per new statistics.

There are 255 villages and 147 Panchayats in the district. Total geographical area of the district is about 1719 Sq. Km. It is the 13th largest district in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The primary occupation of the people of Reasi is agriculture and allied activities.

Various ethnic communities viz. Hindu, Muslim & Sikhs are the inhabitants of the district. It was carved out from Udhampur district on 1st April, 2007. Udhampur, Rajouri, Jammu, Ramban and Shopian are the adjoining districts of Reasi. This district of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is world-famous because of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine where lakhs of devotees visit every year and pay homage to this holy shrine. The Chenab River flows through this district and added glamour to it. The district has an immense potential of hydel electricity generation and has one of the largest hydel projects in the country. Salal Power Project has been constructed over the Chenab River and this generates about 690 MW power. Through this project electricity is provided to Uttar Pradesh, J&K, Punjab, Harayana, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh and Rajasthan. 1315 meters long Chenab Railway Bridge is the highest bridge (383.10 meters' height) in the world. The Jammu-Srinagar-Baramulla railway line is in progress and passes through Reasi district. This railway line will bring Reasi on the rail map of the country. Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir is said to an abode of Mata Vaishno Devi and blessed with vast biodiversity.

Reasi district of Union Territory of J&K has a variable climate ranging from sub-tropical to temperate. Reasi district comprises of three main agro climatic zones. The lower Hills of Katra, Painsal, Reasi, Pouni, Talwara fall in the sub-tropical belt. Intermediate zone comprises of Arnas, Kanthan, Thanpal, Judda, Dharmari etc. Higher hills zone comprises of Buddan, Mahore, Chasana, Lar, Deval etc. Mean annual rainfall of the district varies from 1000-1100mm with intensity ranging from the drizzling to the torrential rain. Rainfall is heavy and well distributed from June-September. Rainfall is moderate in other months. Sometimes dry spell also prevails in the district. Mountainous terrain and high peaks in the district are the main factors for the climate variation in the district. Summers

are generally warm and winters cold with snowfall in higher altitudes. Most part of the district is rain fed and around 7 per cent area is irrigated. Major crops of the districts are maize, wheat, paddy, mustard and black gram. Vegetables production and fodder have an immense potential in the district. There is an ample potential of mushroom cultivation, sericulture, apiculture, organic and natural farming, backyard poultry and dairy farming in the district.

Horticulture is an important sector in the district. Citrus and mango are important crops in Reasi area while temperate fruits like apple, apricot and walnut have tremendous potential in higher elevations. The district has an immense potential for growing spices namely onion, garlic, ginger and turmeric in specific pockets of the district. Floriculture is a new emerging industry in the district and many new farmers are coming forward for the commercial floriculture production. The district is gifted with the world famous religious spots where is demand of flowers.

The Gujjars and Bakarwals are the predominant tribal communities in the hilly district Reasi of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. In order to sustain the livelihood, the tribes of Reasi distt. of Jammu & Kashmir primarily function as cultivators, maintaining an essential agrarian livelihood. Gujjars and Bakarwals continue to be a unique community with their own social, cultural and linguistic identities. Gujjars are mostly herdsman of buffaloes, many of them possessing minor pieces of land on the mountain foothills. Bakarwals, who belong to the same ethnic stock, largely depend on sheep and goats for their livelihood. They are predominantly rural as 95.3 per cent of them reside in villages. Adverse terrain conditions, inaccessibility of the areas, lack of all-weather roads, lack of infrastructure facilities and unsteady agricultural economy added to the backwardness of the tribal population living in far-flung and difficult areas.

These factors have affected their cultural, economic and political empowerment. Keeping this in view, the Central Government notified the Gujjars and Bakarwals in Jammu and Kashmir as Scheduled Tribes in 1991. The total population of the district living in rural areas is 84.32 percent and only 15.68 percent popu-

lation is urban. The scheduled tribes' population of the district is more than 25 percent of total population of the erstwhile district.

Many attempts have been made for the upliftment of this section of people. They are trained to improve the land base available at their disposal for integrated farming and allied income generating activities. The government has been prioritizing the education of these nomadic communities at the grass-roots level to arm their children with education and knowledge.

The tribal community in the district is being acquainted with the scientific and sustainable crop and animal husbandry practices. KVK, Reasi creates awareness, imparts trainings and lays Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) at farmer's fields and efforts are made to generate the employment and income. Efforts are synergised by the allied sectors deptts. Farmers are also facilitated in popularizing scientific and mechanized agriculture. Although the major part of the district is rainfed but still the district is having an immense potential of diversified agriculture.

The floriculture of Kanjli and Bhagta villages, the organic farming of Talwara and Kundkandayarian villages, fruits production in Pouni, Sirah and Laiter villages, poultry farming of Tandra village, vegetables of Grammore and Mari, lemon grass of Sirah and Sudheen, Self Help Groups (SHGs) of Kheral, Malad, Serwad etc, beekeeping in Dub Khalsa and Sudheen, Walnut of Sungdi (Mahore), dairy farming of Mansoo and Kanshi Patta, turmeric and ginger of Pouni and Chamryara etc. are well known. These villages have their own identities and are known for the production of special commodities. As the district is bestowed with the world famous Vaishno Devi Shrine where lakhs of devotees visit from every nook and corner of the country, the agricultural commodities have the marketing potential. Farmers' zeal towards the scientific agriculture is bringing the district on the frontline. Value addition in agriculture can open some new avenues of income and employment among the farmers of Reasi distt. of J&K.

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