

REAL NORMALCY

There has been a "fake normalcy" in Jammu and Kashmir since Independence under the garb of Article 370, and after its abrogation, now there is real normalcy there.

How can we say there was normalcy in Kashmir earlier when the Constitution of India was not applicable there? We were shown fake normalcy since 1947 under the garb of Article 370. Now, after the removal of 370, Kashmir has real normalcy.

Kashmiris were denied rights enshrined by Constitution all these years.

After the removal (of Art 370), 890 central laws have now become applicable to Jammu and Kashmir. The removal will give people their rights. The rights that were enshrined in the Constitution made by Dr Ambedkar are now available to the people of Kashmir.

This country cannot have two symbols, two PMs and two Constitutions, when we have a Constitution we respect and revere.

Highest ever tourist footfall of 50,33,956 from October 2021 to January 2022. This would not have been possible if the environment was not conducive. 40,000 projects were completed in 2021-22 as against 9229 in 2018-19.

Unemployment figures as reported by the CMIE, had fallen to 13.2 per cent now. "There have been 11000 employment in government through fair means.

Regarding terrorism, all indicators of terrorism were falling. "There has been 33 per cent drop in police persons martyred. There has been 90 per cent decrease in ceasefire violations. As against 937 incidents in 2020, the reported incidents were 98.

During the past two years, the UT has been marching on the path of development as a result of the Government's initiatives, which included various developmental schemes executed under the Prime Minister Development Package (PMDP) focusing on individual beneficiaries and reviving long-pending projects lying dormant for several decades by removing the obstacles, through ensuring effective and transparent administration.

Both the Union and the UT Governments have been leveraging technology to provide a number of benefits to the local population of the UT. In the field of IT, a number of procedures have been framed such as providing "subsidy on rent" to the outside investors, building two large sizes IT parks (spread over half a million square feet) - one each in Jammu and Srinagar.

Among some other initiatives, the UT administration also released a real estate policy equipped with a transparent bidding process to disburse government-created "Land Banks" to private developers. The all-around developmental approach adopted by the J&K government has a special focus on developing a network of roads and highways only.

In order to ensure growth in the valley and enable the UT to come at par with the other states of the country, almost all the projects across various sectors that were ignored during the past political regimes, have been infused with new life.



Listen, You Can Stop The War!

I would like to tell you how I practice when I get angry. During the war in Vietnam there was a lot of injustice and many thousands of my friends and disciples were killed. I got very angry. One time I learnt that Ben Thuy, a city in Vietnam with 300,000 people, was bombed by American artillery just because some guerrillas came to the city and tried to shoot down an American aircraft. They did not succeed, but the city was destroyed.

Look Closer

The American official responsible later declared that he had to destroy Ben Thuy in order to save it. I was very angry. But at that time I was already a solid practitioner. I did not say anything or act because I knew that acting or saying things while you are angry is not wise. It may create a lot of destruction.

I went back to myself, embracing my anger, embracing it and looked deep into the nature of my suffering. I saw that the source of our suffering was not the American soldiers. The American young men sent to Vietnam to kill and be killed underwent a lot of suffering. Their suffering continues even today. I could see that our suffering came from a kind of policy that is not wise, a misunderstanding or insecurity.

Many of us in Vietnam had to self-immolate in order to call for a cessation of the destruction. We did not want to inflict pain on other people, we wanted to take the pain on ourselves in order to get the message across. But the sound of mortars and bombs was too loud. Not many could hear us.

So I decided to go to America and call for a cessation of the violence. That was in 1966 and I was prevented from going back

Rediscover Calmness

I hope others are able to practice in this way — not to act, not to say things when you are not calm.

There are ways that we can go back to ourselves and practice so that we rediscover our calmness, our tranquillity, our lucidity. There are ways to look deeply to understand the real causes of suffering. And that understanding will help us to do what needs to be done and not to do what could be harmful to us and other people. We can listen to each other.

Many are in a situation of despair. Many suffer because of injustice and discrimination.

The amount of violence and despair in them is huge and if we know how to listen to them, we can already bring a lot of relief to their suffering. When people feel understood, we have already defused the bomb.

Thich Nhat Hanh

Maharashtra upholds Hindutva

■ MANMOHAN DHAR

Maharashtra has been going through a very tough time in the past month due to dramatic political developments resulting into a complete change of guard in the state assembly with Eknath Shinde group of Shiv Sena emerging victorious in the battle for power. On July 3, 2022, Rahul Narvekar was elected Speaker to the state assembly with 164 votes in favour and on July 4, 2022, Eknath Shinde obtained the vote of confidence on floor of the house with a thumping majority. In fact some more MLAs who had not yet expressed their support to Shinde group, voted in favour of the new dispensation led by Eknath Shinde. Immediately after proving the majority on the floor of the house Maharashtra Government led by Eknath Shinde got into action and administration was geared up with an upbeat. A lot of criticism was raised against Uddhav Government in tackling the issues like Palghar lynching of Sadhus and their brutal killing and various other law and order matters that needed attention of the Government. There was a strong resentment against the Government for using the Maharashtra police according to the wishes of the party leaders holding control over the State polities. Shiv Sena has never been criticised for its stand on Hindutva but in MVA (Maha Vikas Agadi)

regime there has been an unending condemnation by the then opposition terming the Shiv Sena as having succumbed to the anti-Hindu policies of Congress and NCP.

Since the formation of new Government, it has been a complete overhaul of the administrative machinery. Both Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister are trying to do everything possible to address the outstanding issues which concern the common man directly. But, it looks the road ahead is not going to be smooth for both of them. Opposition parties like NCP, Congress and Uddhav and his handful of supporters in the party will be leaving no stone unturned to make it difficult for the Shinde Government and it has very well being apprehended by the incumbent Government, which is trying to overcome every obstacle with a correct approach.

Chief Minister has already expressed his strong desire to work for the development of Maharashtra and for the satisfaction of common man. Devinder Fadnavis too is of the opinion that the people of Maharashtra have suffered a lot during Uddhav Government and a process of redressal has to be taken up on war footing in order to come up to the expectations of people, who had voted for National alliance of Shiv Sena and BJP.

Shinde put the facts in the lime light when he admitted that his last two and a half years

had been very difficult for him and all those who supported him when it was needed the most for the betterment of the people of Maharashtra. He expressed his dismay and almost could not resist his emotions when he said that the disrespect and step motherly treatment in the party was making them feel suffocated every single day when they were compelled to be with someone who had strangled the very existence of Hindutva.

Shinde termed the parting ways with Uddhav and joining hands with BJP as the home coming. He asserted that he had now proved to be the real taught of Anand Dighe and Baba Saheb Thackeray and that he must have definitely brought some solace to the otherwise dejected souls of these two stalwarts and pioneers of Hindutva in the state of Maharashtra. Uddhav Thackeray, it has been alleged, has played with the sentiments of the people of Maharashtra who thought that he would never compromise with the basic principles of Shiv Sena. But, to their biggest discomposure he not only betrayed the people of Maharashtra but he brought a big disrespect to his own father who had once said that he would prefer dissolving Shiv Sena than to work with Congress party. And Uddhav just did the opposite. There was a definite undercurrent against Uddhav in the party but no one dared

Situation in Kashmir improved after removal of Article 370

■ MANOJ KUMAR

CRPF Director General (DG) Kuldip Singh said the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved following the scrapping of Article 370 in 2019. Citing CRPF data from 2021 to March 2022, he said 175 terrorists were killed during the period, as against 183 in 2020.

Not just local insurgents but also foreign terrorists were apprehended. Numbers have decreased for stone-pelting incidents as well after Article 370 was abrogated. Situation in the Valley has improved, it is said, of the 83rd CRPF Raising Day Saturday.

During the same period, 7,541 caches of ammunition were recovered from Jammu and Kashmir alone, 5,760 from LWE (Left Wing Extremism) affected areas, and 2,194 in the Northeastern region, according to the CRPF data.

"We expect spurts of violence to occur periodically in the Valley but overall we have witnessed a drop in incidents. Three jawans were martyred last year in Jammu and Kashmir and we are trying our best to make the region safer," the DG said.

Sharp decline in infiltration of foreign terrorists, stone pelting in J-K after abrogation of Article 370:

There has been a sharp decline in the infiltration of foreign terrorists as well as in stone-pelting incidents in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 from the erstwhile state as per the Director General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Kuldip Singh.

However, noting the targeted killings in Jammu and Kashmir, the officer said, "Some time there is a spurt in terrorist incidents and the recent killing in "periodic series" are among those, and "it occurs".

Replying to queries during a press briefing at the CRPF Headquarters, Singh said, "CRPF immediately try to control terrorist incidents in Jammu and Kashmir soon after it gets inputs. These incidents are not totally controlled by internal terrorist people.

J&K Govt undertaken 1.4 lakh projects since 2019

■ POOJA SHARMA

Article 370's revocation has opened the roads for development in Jammu and Kashmir, which for years witnessed zero activity in the sector due to insurgency and lack of efforts by the previous governments to improve the situation.

The progress of projects being implemented in the UT of J&K under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP) - 2015 has been accelerated. 53 projects pertaining to 15 Ministries are being implemented at a cost of Rs 58,477 crores in various sectors such as Roads, Power, Health, Education, Tourism, Agriculture, Skill Development etc., out of which 25 projects have been completed.

Under the languishing projects programme, 1,193 projects worth Rs 1984 crores were completed, including 5 projects which were incomplete for more than 20 years, 15 projects for more than 15 years and 165 projects for more than 10 years.

2 New AIIMS, 7 New Medical Colleges, and 2 State Cancer Institutes and 15 Nursing Colleges have been taken up.

Intake Capacity of 854 seats was added which includes 600 MBBS, 50 PG Courses, 26 BDS, 38 MDS, and 140 DNB. After the abrogation of Article 370, 890 central laws have become applicable to Jammu and Kashmir while 250 unjust state laws have been removed. Another 130 state laws have been modified. Removal of these impediments has led to prospects of investment and coming up of industry. A delegation of investors from the Gulf countries is on a visit to the state to explore avenues of investment.

80% of the budget for the UT has been allocated to the home department, saying it is only 10%. She also clarified that only 2.65% of the total assets are being monetised. Among the business groups which are investing in Jammu and Kashmir are the Lulu Group, Apollo, EMAAR and Jindal.

Abrogation of Article 370 has strengthened democracy at the grassroots in Jammu and Kashmir. It has paved the way for implementation of the 73rd and 74th amendments dealing with Panchayati Raj.

With the third layer of democracy opening

up, the state now has around 30,000 grassroot-level elected members. 27 functions have been transferred to Panchayati Raj institutions and seven to urban local bodies.

On the security situation in the border state, law and order situation has improved and terrorism is on the decline, which has had a positive impact on the economy.

There has been a 33% drop in infiltration from across the border and 61% decline in terror activities. The abductions have also come down while there is a 31% fall in the number of security personnel martyred. Number of terrorists neutralized is up while there is a 16% decline in recruitment of locals by terror groups.

The abrogation of Article 370 has also restored rights denied to communities like Valmikis, safai workers, and the people displaced from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and Chamb. The minister said they were denied the right to vote, to have permanent residence, government jobs, reservation benefits, admission to professional colleges and land rights before 2019.

G-20 meeting in 2023: First international meeting after abrogation of Article 370 in J&K

■ NIDHI SHARMA

Jammu and Kashmir will be hosting its first ever G-20 meeting next year in 2023. The Jammu and Kashmir government has formed a 5-member committee for overall coordination. The order issued by the Jammu and Kashmir government said that the Union Territory's housing and urban development department's principal secretary will be the chairman of the committee.

The order further said that "Sanction is hereby accorded to the constitution of a committee for overall coordination of G-20 meetings to be held in the Union Territory of J&K. The members of the committee include Commissioner Secretary (Transport), Administrative Secretary (Tourism), Administrative Secretary (Hospitality & Protocol) and Administrative Secretary (Culture)."

After the abrogation of article 370, this will be the first international meeting to be held in the Union Territory. The Ministry of External Affairs had said that India will hold the G-20 presidency from December 1, 2022, and will convene the G-20 leaders' meeting in 2023 for the first time.

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Thich Nhat Hanh

and it proves it. After the abrogation of article 370, this meeting being held here is something no one would have dreamt of, there is a change on the ground in the Valley." G M Shaheen, JDU state President said, "Some leaders also congratulated the state and central government for managing to host this event in the Union territory. It's great news. We welcome this, holding a meeting here will give Jammu and Kashmir a push for peace. This also shows that peace is returning to the valley. We appreciate it and it's the hard work of the Delhi government as well as the state government."

The meeting is likely to be held in January 2023. The Jammu and Kashmir administration has constituted an overall coordination committee for meetings to be held in 2023, as India assumes the presidency of the G20. The committee will be chaired by the UT's Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department with Commissioner/Secretary, Transport Department, Administrative Secretary, Tourism Department, Administrative Secretary, Hospitality & Protocol Department, and Administrative Secretary, Culture Department, as its members.

The Principal Secretary to the government, Housing & UD, will also be the UT-level nodal officer to coordinate the arrangements for G20 meetings next year. As a Troika-member, India is working closely with Indonesia and Italy to ensure consistency and further strengthening the G20 agenda. India will assume the G20 Presidency on December 1, 2022, from Indonesia, and will convene the G20 Leaders' Summit for the first time in India in 2023, as per the Ministry of External Affairs.

Apart from several schemes, the government is looking at various interventions like genetic up-gradation of cattle, cattle induction, fodder development, milk procurement and processing and health coverage and risk management.

The UT administration under the vibrant leadership of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha is working tirelessly to improve the conditions of farmers and increase their income and fulfil the dream of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to double the income of farmers by 2022.

PROGRESSING J&K J&K marching towards Dairy Revolution

Govt. initiates interventions like genetic up-gradation of cattle, fodder development, milk processing, health coverage to upgrade Animal Husbandry sector

J&K Government has formulated attractive schemes to improve the dairy sector in Jammu and Kashmir which is directly proportional to improving the socio-economic condition of people.

With an aim of Doubling Farmer's income from dairy, the Administration is working tirelessly to ensure utmost priority is being extended to dairy development in the union territory by way of implementing various developmental schemes, initiatives, policies, among others.

Integrated dairy development scheme (IDDS) is another scheme which not only focuses on providing financial assistance, but also supporting the dairy producer by providing milking machine, bulk milk cooling unit at 50% subsidy. The scheme also provides paneer making machine, khoya making, dahi making, cream separator, ice cream making machine, butter and ghee making machine, milk van, milk ATM and DG Set, to aspiring entrepreneurs who try to create their start-ups in dairy sector.

With the implementation of prestigious flag-ship schemes, viz., Rashtriya Gokul Mission, IDDS, Dairy Development Scheme (DDS), Feed & Fodder Development Scheme (F&FDS), Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund, Extension of Kisan Credit Card facility to animal husbandry farmers, Establishment of cluster model milk villages under Tribal Sub Plan, etc, dairy with high yielding cross-bred cattle is receiving an upgrade which has created employment avenues, led to entrepreneurship development and thereby generated ample scope for developing the dairy farming on commercial lines as a business enterprise.

It is because of these schemes milk production in the Valley has grown over 250% during the last two decades and now there are more than 50,000 successful operational commercial dairy units in the valley. Despite the current urban growth, the dairy sector contributes to the maintenance of safe, resilient and sustainable rural areas.

From selling dry fruits in a small shop and struggling to meet his family's needs to running a dairy farm that sells around 200 litres of milk per day, Manzoor Ahmed from Bankoot Ramban district has come a long way as an entrepreneur.

Starting his dairy farm in Bankoot, Banihal with four cows sanctioned by Animal Husbandry Department under the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS). Ahmed sells around 200 litres of milk per day and records monthly sales of Rs 3 lakh with smart profits and employees four locals at his farm.

He expressed gratitude to the government for providing him financial assistance to expand his dairy farm. He is planning to upgrade his dairy farm and install all machines like milking machine, milk cooler, ATM milk machine and a Genest.

Government is also working on cooperatives, as it helps to make milk production profitable. Jammu and Kashmir milk producers cooperative limited (JKMPC) is working to raise the capacity from 50,000 LPD of milk production to 3 lakh LPD.

Similarly, Tahir Ahmad Rather from the Madar area of Bandipora, started a dairy farm in 2020 with the handholding of Animal Husbandry Department. Today he has eight cows that provide over 90-95 litres of milk daily.

Tahir's father Bashir Ahmad Rather also manages the farm along with him and they distribute milk across Bandipora, thus catering to the milk requirements of the district's population.

Narrating his venture's success Tahir said, "I started this dairy farm in 2020 and it is helping me to earn my livelihood. I am grateful to Animal Husbandry Department,