

## UT status to Jammu negation of its splendid contributions, supreme sacrifices for nation-building process

the whole areas into 100 per cent non-Hindu and non-Sikh and cause displacement of Hindu-Sikh population on a massive scale. These areas constituted J&K State's nearly 30 per cent land area. The Nehru Government not only helped Pakistan occupy these areas, but also allowed China to occupy J&K's 15 per cent land area in Ladakh in 1962. What does all this show? It shows that the Jammu Dogras created a mighty empire at a time when other princely states were falling before the British Imperialists like house of cards. It also shows that the Jammu Dogras played a remarkable role as far as the process of integration of J&K into India was concerned. No wonder then that the concerned citizens of Jammu province continue to bemoan what the Union Government did to them on August 5, 2019. The Narendra Modi Government would do well to rectify its decision and grant statehood to Jammu province, which it deserves by any yardstick. To not do so or to continue to treat Jammu province and Ladakh as one political unit invested with UT status would be nothing but a negation of the unique contribution of the Dogras to the nation. As for Kashmir, it has to be maintained as a Chaudigharh-like UT as the nation just can't afford to retransfer the state power to those in Kashmir who subverted the Indian state both from within and outside for 73 years and continue to muddy the Indian waters in Kashmir even today. Similarly, the Union Government should accept the December 1991 demand of the internally-displaced Kashmiri Hindus seeking a separate homeland for them within Kashmir invested with UT status. Such a reform scheme, if introduced, alone can break the backbone of separatist forces in the Valley and help the Narendra Modi Government achieve the objectives, it sought to achieve on August 5, 2019.

## J&K emerges as top performer in start-up ecosystem among UTs, NE states

Endeavouring to accomplish this stupendous task, J&K government is focusing on sectors such as food processing, agriculture, renewable energy, handicrafts and handloom by vigorously promoting start-ups in these vital sectors. Terming start-ups as game changer towards economic growth, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said that the government is determined to provide incubation and seed funding support to brilliant ideas and solutions. "Our aim is to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and start-ups in J&K and the synergies between industrial and academic establishments will encourage and empower young innovators and boost private investment in start-ups," he observed.

Maulana Wahiduddin  
Khan

The performance of a bank is inextricably linked with its asset quality. Managing the loan portfolio to minimize bad loans is, therefore, fundamentally important for a financial institution in today's extremely competitive and market driven business environment.