

ODOP INITIATIVE

The Central Government has initiated the One District One Product (ODOP) in different States/UTs of the country. ODOP is seen as a transformational step towards realizing the true potential of a district, fueling economic growth, generating industrial and rural entrepreneurship, taking us to the goal of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. ODOP initiative is operationally merged with 'Districts as Export Hub (DEH)' initiative of the DGFT, Department of Commerce, with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as a major stakeholder.

The ODOP Initiative is aimed at fostering balanced regional development across all districts of the country enabling holistic socio-economic growth across all regions. The objective is to convert each District of the country into a manufacturing and Export Hub by identifying products with export potential in the District. Institutional mechanism in the form of State Export Promotion Committees (SEPCs) and District Export Promotion Committees (DEPCs) have been constituted in 36 States/UTs to provide support for export promotion and address the bottlenecks for export growth in the districts.

Districts Export Action Plans are prepared for identified products and services for overseas markets, which includes specific actions required to support local exporters/manufacturers in producing/manufacturing identified products in adequate quantity and with the requisite quality, for reaching potential buyers. These plans also include identifying and addressing challenges for exports of such identified products/services, improving supply chains, market accessibility and handholding for increasing exports. So far, in about 557 districts, export plans have been prepared and in about 218 have been adopted by DEPCs.

Products have been identified under ODOP and DEH across each district in the country. The range of the chosen products covers multiple sectors, Ministries and Departments, including products of farmers, weavers, artisans, other producers and sellers of districts. State-wise/district-wise list of products identified under 'District as Export Hub' initiative is available on the following link: <https://exphubs.gov.in/images/pdf/Final20Product%20List.pdf>

ODOP/DEH initiatives contribute to the goal of AtmaNirbhar Bharat, Vocal for local and Make in India, by providing opportunities for employment, through significantly increasing the manufacturing and exports of identified products.

■ PROF HARI OM



On July 24, 2022, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told the local BJP leaders at the Trikuta Nagar party headquarters in Jammu that "the (first-ever) elections (to the J&K UT assembly) will be held on time and may be before 2024". The BJP leaders were eager to know about the timeframe by which the assembly elections will be held in the UT" and the Defence Minister told what he told to them in this regard. It was a very big and highly meaningful statement.

It was a meaningful statement basically for two reasons. One was that it was only on June 18 that the Defence Minister, who is number two in the Narendra Modi Government and also a member of the highly powerful Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), had given everyone to understand that "there's strong possibility of J&K polls by the end of this year" (2022). He also made this statement in Jammu itself while participating in a function organized to mark 200 years of the coronation of Maharaja Gulab Singh, the founder of the mighty Dogra State comprising Jammu province, Kashmir and the whole of Ladakh, including Gilgit-Baltistan region.

The fact that he didn't reiterate what he had stated on June 18 and the fact that he on July 24 said that "the (first-ever) elections (to the J&K UT assembly) will be held on time and may be

before 2024" did indicate that the Narendra Modi Government still continued to ponder over the issue as any wrong and hasty decision would be followed by grave evils. The other reason was that the Defence Minister's July 24 statement, unlike his June 18 statement, obviously upset the applecart of those in Kashmir who had been dreaming that they would recapture the state power they lost in June 2018 in 2022 itself. They had seemingly taken the statement of Rajnath Singh to mean a God-sent opportunity that would help them regain what they lost on August 5-6, 2019.

This was clear from the mischievous statements which emanated from Kashmir, including the Gupkar Road, the new capital of separatists in Kashmir, in the aftermath of the Defence Minister's statement on the poll possibility.

It bears recalling that the PM Narendra Modi's historic reform scheme of August 2019 under which Articles 35A and 370 became a story of the past, Trans-Himalayan Ladakh became UT and the remaining J&K state also reduced to the status of UT had stung the ardent believers in the concept Kashmiri sub-nationalism; limited accession of J&K to India plus greater autonomy, bordering on virtual sovereignty; and promoters of secessionism and terror-related violence and terrorists themselves. They on June 18 itself left none in any doubt whatsoever that they would misuse and exploit the state power to the hilt to negate the whole reform scheme of August 2019 and re-

unleash the process they ruthlessly unleashed, particularly after October 1996 to achieve their ultimate objective: semi-independence, if not complete independence from India, and reduction of Jammu province and Ladakh to a nullity. "This election is not about development, it is not about bijli, sadak, and paani (bread-and-butter issues). It is to send a message that we are united. It is the fight for identity, a fight for existence. It will be an election fought on sentiments." This was the statement that Gupkar Gang made on June 18 in the wake of the Defence Minister's statement on J&K polls and it should clinch the whole issue and establish beyond an iota of doubt that their intentions were evil. The July 24 statement of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh could be viewed in this context. There are potent reasons to be believe that there could be some influential and serious elements in the think-tanks in the New Delhi's South and North Blocks who abhor the idea of assembly elections in J&K for reasons not really difficult to fathom.

Two of the reasons could be: (1) They are fully aware of the nature of Kashmiri leadership and its sinister ideology and the kind of the role the Kashmiri leadership played in and outside the assembly between 1951 and June 2018; and (2) the memories of what forced the Narendra Modi Government to bring down the Mehbooba Mufti-led government in June must be lingering in the minds of the elements in the think-tanks or trouble-shooters I referred to above. Yet another factor that might have motivated the

policy-planners in New Delhi to think in terms of avoiding elections in J&K in 2022 could be the loud clamour in Jammu for separate Jammu State. There is a broad consensus among the people of Jammu province, barring a few supporters of Kashmiri-centric and Kashmiri-led parties such as the NC, the PDP and the Congress, that they can't co-exist with those who destroyed Jammu province socially, culturally, economically and politically for 73 long years and willfully and ruthlessly outraged their sentiments, hurt their aspirations and did everything under the sun with the help of certain forces in New Delhi to erode the distinct identity and personality of Jammu province. The case in point is the July 17 Ikkjutt Jammu Party's sponsored demonstrations at all the district headquarters in Jammu province in support of Jammu statehood. The whole point is that the Narendra Modi Government is confronted with a piquant situation: If it holds elections in J&K, it would be disadvantage the Indian nation and people of Jammu province and advantage the protagonists of Pakistan and a dispensation outside the Indian constitution.

The policy-planners in New Delhi know it full well that the immediate fallout of the assembly elections in J&K would be the re-transfer of state power to those in Kashmir who muddied the Indian waters in Kashmir and elsewhere in a most brazen manner after 1947.

The only way out is segregation of Jammu province from Kashmir and reduction of Kashmir to the status of Chandigarh-like UT.

Poll possibility in Jammu and Kashmir

Poll possibility in Jammu and Kashmir

ODOP INITIATIVE

Professor Hari Om

ODOP INITIATIVE