

MSP BENEFITS & CONCERNS

NITI Aayog (erstwhile Planning Commission) has conducted a study entitled "Efficacy of Minimum Support Prices on farmers", in 2016. The study has found, among other things, that MSP declared by the Government has encouraged 78 per cent of the farmers covered under the study for adopting improved methods of farming such as high yielding varieties of seeds, organic manure, chemical fertilizer, pesticides and improved methods of harvesting etc. Government extends price support for paddy and wheat through the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies. Under this policy, whatever food grains are offered by farmers within the stipulated period & conforming to the specifications prescribed by Government are purchased at MSP by the State Government agencies including FCI for Central Pool. Additionally, Oilseeds, pulses and copra of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) are procured from registered farmers under Price Support Scheme of the Umbrella Scheme of Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshana Abhiyan (PM-AASHA), as per its prescribed guidelines. The Union Budget for 2018-19 had announced the pre-determined principle to keep MSP at levels of one-and-half times of the cost of production. Accordingly, Government has increased the MSPs for all mandated Kharif (including wheat), Rabi and other commercial crops with a return of at least 50 per cent over all India weighted average cost of production from the agricultural year 2018-19.



Life is a continuation

Water and wave, being and nonbeing, beginning and ending — liberation from all duality, teaches THICH NHIAT HANH, is the key to enlightenment.

We come to the practice of meditation seeking relief from our suffering, and meditation can teach us how to transform our suffering and obtain basic relief. But the deepest kind of relief is the realization of nirvana. There are two dimensions to life, and we should be able to touch both. One is like a wave, and we call it the historical dimension. The other is like the water, and we call it the ultimate dimension, or nirvana. We usually touch just the wave, but when we discover how to touch the water, we receive the highest fruit that meditation can offer.

In the historical dimension, we have birth certificates and death certificates. The day your mother passes away, you suffer. If someone sits close to you and shows her concern, you feel some relief. You have her friendship, her support, her warm hand to hold. This is the world of waves. It is characterized by birth and death, ups and downs, being and non-being. A wave has a beginning and an end, but we cannot ascribe these characteristics to water. In the world of water, there is no birth or death, no being or nonbeing, no beginning or end. When we touch the water, we touch reality in its ultimate dimension and are liberated from all of these concepts.

To be born means from nothing you become something. The second-century philosopher Nagarjuna asked, "Before something was born, did it exist or not?" Before the egg was born from a chicken, was it existent or nonexistent? If it were already there, how could it have been born? Since a baby is also already present in the womb of her mother, how can we say she is not yet born? Nagarjuna says that something already present cannot be born. To be born means from nothing you become something; from no one you become someone. But nothing can be born from nothing. A flower is born from soil, minerals, seeds, sunshine, rain, and many other things. Meditation reveals to us the no-birth of all things. Life is a continuation. Instead of singing "Happy Birthday," we can sing "Happy Continuation." Even the day of our mother's death is a day of continuation; she continues in many other forms.

A friend of mine has been taking care of her ninety-three-year-old mother. The doctors say that her mother will die any day. For more than a year, my friend has been teaching her mother meditation exercises that have been very helpful. She

began by watering the seeds of happiness in her mother, and now her mother becomes very alive every time my friend comes around. Recently she told her mother, "This body is not exactly yours. Your body is much larger. You have nine children, dozens of grandchildren, and also great-grandchildren. We are all continuations of you, and we are very happy and healthy. You are quite alive in us."

Her mother was able to see that, and she smiled. My friend continued, "When you were young, you were able to teach many people how to cook and do many other things. You made people happy. Now we are doing the same thing; we are continuing the work you have begun. When you were young, you wrote poetry and sang, and now many of us write poems and sing beautifully. You are continuing in us. You are many beings at the same time." This is a meditation on oneself. It helps her mother see that her body is just a small part of her true self. She understands that when her body departs, she will continue in many other forms.

Who can say that your mother has passed away? You cannot describe her as being or nonbeing, alive or dead, because these notions belong to the historical dimension. When you touch your mother in the ultimate dimension, you see that she is still with you. The same is true of a flower. A flower may pretend to be born, but it has always been there in other forms. Later it may pretend to die, but we should not be fooled. She is just playing a game of hide-and-seek. She reveals herself to us and then hides herself away. If we are attentive, we can touch her anytime we want.

One day as I was about to step on a dry leaf, I saw the leaf in the ultimate dimension. I saw that it was not really dead, but it was merging with the moist soil and preparing to appear on the tree the following spring in another form. I smiled at the leaf and said, "You are pretending."

Everything is pretending to be born and pretending to die. The Buddha said, "When conditions are sufficient, the body reveals itself, and we say the body is. When conditions are not sufficient, the body cannot be perceived by us, and we say the body is not." The day of our so-called death is a day of our continuation in many other forms. If you know how to touch your mother in the ultimate dimension, she will always be there with you. If you touch your hand, your face, or your hair, and look very deeply, you can see that she is there in you, smiling. This is a deep practice, and it is also the deepest kind of relief.

- Thich Nhat Hanh

Modi changed destiny of Kashmir

■ TARUN CHUGH



August 5, 2019 is a historic day in history for India and Jammu & Kashmir. On this day, the long-awaited demand of a united India, pending for seven decades was fulfilled and Kashmiriyat returned to Kashmir. Its picture and fate changed as soon as development and confidence was restored in Jammu & Kashmir under leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. When terrorism and familism came to an end, picture of a happy Kashmir became visible to world. The light of development and nationalism has given Kashmir its glorious history. As a result of it, for the first time in Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Lal Chowk of Kashmir reverberated with slogans of Bharat Mata ki Jai. The name of Prime Minister Narendra Modi resonated everywhere. Seeing the Prime Minister as the development man of Kashmir, a new path was opened to develop Srinagar as a tourist capital, thereby leading to development, nationalism, bright future, national unity and integrity.

Considering Kashmir as an integral part of India, from Jan Sangh to BJP, there was a relentless struggle for it. From the time of Jana Sangh, we have been raising the slogan of 'One Country, One Vidhan, One Nishan, One Pradhan'. Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee became the first leader to sacrifice in independent India for Kashmir. This strong will and determination of Prime Minister Narendra Modi made dream of a united India true by abolishing Article 370 from Kashmir on August 5, 2019. Then after the abolition of Article 370, Prime Minister Narendra Modi started development and progress in Jammu and Kashmir, which spread a color of Indian-ness. Kashmir, which used to be a haven of fear and anti-national forces, is now showing substance of patriotism. Kashmir, once

trapped in the clutches of familism and terrorism, is today raising flag of nationalism and development. The dream of 'one legislation, one mark' has come true in one country. The line of Akhand Bharat, Ek Bharat, Samarth Bharat and Strong India was drawn in Kashmir. The social, geographical and economic integration of Jammu and Kashmir has been ensured.

In the field of industrialization, Jammu and Kashmir was one among backward states and union territories of the country. Before August 5, 2019, under the constitutional and administrative system of Jammu and Kashmir, no citizen of the country and abroad, could invest in Jammu and Kashmir and settle here permanently. That's why outside investors used to shy away from investing in Jammu & Kashmir. Terrorist violence was a hindrance to its economic-industrial development. Unemployment was rising. Government jobs were available only to the wealthy. Earlier Jammu and Kashmir was treated differently from other states of India, due to which J&K was away from the mainstream. Due to Article 370, Parliament was empowered to make laws regarding defence, foreign affairs and communications regarding Jammu and Kashmir, but for implementing a law related to any other subject, the Center had to get the approval of the erstwhile state government. The Parliament of India could make laws with respect to Jammu and Kashmir only in a limited area. Due to Article 370, most of the sections of the Indian Constitution did not apply to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. 170 laws of the Center which were not applicable here earlier have now been implemented in this area. At present all the central laws are applicable in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Now the picture has completely changed. Today the situation has also completely changed. With the will of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have now joined the mainstream of the

country as soon as Article 370 is abolished. There has been a boom in the establishment of trade and industries. Its effect is visible positively on the GDP of the state. After the abrogation of Article 370, the effect of the new industrial policy, which guarantees the security of investments in Jammu and Kashmir, is beginning to be seen. Within a span of three years, investments have started coming in two dozen sectors. There have been many agreements for investment. Many big groups of the country associated with the health and medical education sector have also submitted proposals to invest. Along with this, tourism, film-tourism, horticulture, post-harvest management, agriculture, food processing, sericulture, health, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, IT, renewable energy, infrastructure and real estate, handloom and handicraft and education sectors. The picture has changed as well.

When Dr Shyama Prasad Mookerjee's resolve of 'One Country, One Legislation, One Pradhan' is realized, then Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, which are called heaven on earth, are now moving ahead on the path of development along with the rest of the country. Reducing the decade-by-step distance of Kashmir with the country, Narendra Modi government has ended 70-year tussle by abrogating provisions of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, which are left behind in race for development. Connecting with the mainstream has brought it at par with other states of the country. For almost two years, this area has started on a new journey of development.

One year after independence from Article 370, elections to the villages as well as the district and district Panchayat were successfully completed here. After many years, Panchayat elections were held in the year 2018 and there was 74.1 per cent voter turnout. In the Block Development Council elections held for the first time in the year 2019, 98.3 percent voter turnout was recorded. There was also record participa-

tion in district level elections. For the first time, the Valmiki community, the Gorkha people and refugees who were ousted and driven from West Pakistan got the right to vote in the state elections. Native Law enacted. According to the new domicile definition, a person who has resided in Jammu and Kashmir for 15 years or more will also be considered a domicile. The way has been cleared for resettlement of Kashmiri Pandits who were driven away from the Kashmir Valley in the year 1990. Work is in progress to create jobs and transit accommodation for the return of Kashmiri migrants. Protection of the rights of girls and their children married outside Jammu and Kashmir has also been ensured. Work has been started on the Shahpur-Kandi Dam project which has been stalled for 40 years. The work of Ratle Hydroelectric Project has been resumed. Approval has been given to open two AIIMS in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Central Government has started work on all individual beneficiary schemes and flagship schemes at a rapid pace in Jammu and Kashmir. Many development projects have been completed under the Prime Minister's Development Package, 2015. The Central Government has announced the establishment of a Central University along with a Center for Buddhist Studies in Ladakh. Dedicated to the spirit of Antyodaya and the spirit of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas, the Narendra Modi government has given a new impetus to the development in Jammu and Kashmir, neglected for decades. This will be the first time under any industrial promotion scheme of the Government of India that industrial development will be taken up to the block level of Jammu and Kashmir. In this way, both the picture and destiny of Kashmir is changing and soon Jammu & Kashmir will stand in the line of developed states of the country.

(The author is the National General Secretary of BJP).

Repatriation of ReTs-a boon or bane

■ SHEIKH ALTAH HUSSAIN & ALTAH HUSSAIN JANJUA

G.K Chesterton had said, "Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another." The Government of Jammu and Kashmir way back in the year 2000 launched the Rehbar-e-Taleem Scheme with great pump and show to meet the deficiency of staff and promoting education at grass root level.

As per said scheme, 'teaching guides' commonly known as Rehbar-e-Taleem which means 'Guides of Education' have been engaged in Primary and Middle Schools on monthly honorarium. It is provided in the said scheme that after the completion of five years satisfactory service a Rehbar-e-Taleem shall be eligible for appointment as General Line Teacher in the Department of Education if he/she fulfills the age and qualification criteria.

It is nowhere provided in the scheme that a General Line Teacher so appointed shall be treated differently or the Government shall frame a separate policy for them.

It is true that amongst a lot of controversies the Rehbar-e-Taleem form the bedrock of education in Jammu and Kashmir as no direct recruitment of teachers has taken place since.

With the passage of time the practical difficulties being faced by these RReTs surfaced. While some got shifted from their original place of postings either on marriage grounds, hundreds couldn't attend their duties owing to ill-health.

This paved the way for the government to make some

arrangements till the transfer policy is finalized. Accordingly, a lot of RReTs were adjusted out of their villages in different schools.

Equally true is the fact that some blue eyed people who are close to the corridors of power also managed their transfers from hilly areas to the plains.

It is quite surprising that even after 22 years of launching the scheme, the government has not come up with any concrete transfer policy regarding the RReTs. The non-formation of the policy with promptitude increased the chaos and frustration of the teaching guides thereby hampering the studies of our wards and deprecating the lofty object of the scheme. It is trite that 'a teacher who is not at peace cannot build a good nation'. The division bench of the High Court of J&K in a celebrated judgment titled 'Majid Alyas & Ors. Vs State of J&K & Ors.' has held that the services of RReTs cannot be treated differently and the same are governed under J&K Education Sub-ordinate Service Rules and J&K Civil Service (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules 1956.

The court treated the General Line Teachers appointed under Rehbar-e-Taleem Scheme at par with permanent government teachers of the department. This means the services of Teachers Grade-II, III, RReTs are governed under Rule 27 of the J&K Civil Service (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules 1956. The said Rule deals with transfer and postings of the government employees.

Under clause I of the said Rule an employee is required to serve in any part of Jammu and Kashmir State (now Union Territory) on the post borne on the cadre.

In short, the court has held that the RReTs are transferable from one school to another. Surprisingly, a fresh order bearing No.Edu.-RET/1/2022-01 dated 25-07-2022 calling for the repatriation of these teachers has left everyone agog, especially the female teachers. We believe that the n-mass repatriation of teachers to their initial place of postings is against the public interest. Neither any employee has a birth right to continue in one school nor he can be deprived of transfer on legitimate grounds.

Transfer is an exigency of service. It brings transparency and efficiency in the system. We have seen cases where a school teacher could not write an essay on cow in English or Urdu in a courtroom when asked by a judge. Infact, he returned blank pages to the judge compelling the court to blacklist him and direct the government to check the degrees of all teachers appointed under Rehbar-e-Taleem Scheme. The purpose of transfer is to bring a change and make the education system robust.

This could certainly repel the negativity and monopoly being played by some blacksheep in the department. Hope some wisdom would prevail upon those who are at the helm of affairs and our children would not suffer because of their autocracy!

(The authors are advocates in J&K High Court).

Narendra Modi has been 1st to lay routes for all-round empowerment of subjects of 'J&K'

▶ India celebrates 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and steps in Azadi Ka Amritkaal ◀

▶ C.O 272 of August 5, 2019, C.O 273 of August 6, 2019 & Act-34 of 2019 are Empowerment Tools ◀

▶ Ladakh to Kanyakumari is Bharat ◀

■ DAYA SAGAR

People who ruled the J&K State after 1957 in spite of having good constitutional welfare tools in their hands did not make use of provisions available even for the good of the Indian Citizens who were put in the category of Permanent Residents what to talk of non permanent residents like Schedule Tribes and Woman permanent residents of J&K. Not only that over the years the 'power centric' groups/individual who were holding the strings of governance in J&K have managed to remain in the immediate focus of most of the Indian leadership streams also and have succeeded in making the outside world recognise & see whole of 'J&K and Ladakh' in expressions like 'Kashmir' to the extent of acknowledging "J&K" / aspirations & feels of common man of J&K just as what a leader/ writer from Kashmir valley may be naming where as Kashmir valley formed just around 10 % of princely state of J&K. No doubt before 1947 also not only the British government at occasion addressed princely state of J&K as Kashmir State even at occasions the rulers of J&K too have been using the phrase 'Maharaja of Kashmir'. Such type of prevailing culture helped even the separatists/ antinational elements to cultivate myths in the name of Kashmir.

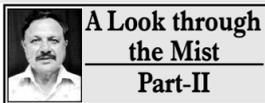
Prime leadership of Kashmir valley, more for vote bank politics and protecting wrong delimitations of legislative assembly, had been always trying to cultivate the theory that J&K acceded to India dominion only because the Muslim majority of Kashmir in favour of that and in view of that special assurances had been given to people of J&K in terms of "special status", Art-370, Art-35A, 'Separate Flag of State', 'Separate Constitution of J&K', Art-370 is a bridge and only link between India & J&K instead of doing good to the people of J&K more

used these as vote catching baits. And to add to that Bharat was always described as from Kanyakumari to Kashmir and outside world new very less about vast regions of Ladakh and Jammu Where as neither the local leadership outside Kashmir Valley nor the leaders from other Indian states as well as the social groups worked seriously for undoing the myths being floated by some Kashmir valley leaders so as to take the right information to masses like accession was not to be decided by people, no any special status was given to J&K in the shape of Art-370 of Constitution of India or in some other form, the state flag did not have a status rival to Indian national flag which had same status in J&K as it had in other Indian states and instead state flag was just a sign of freedom struggle for independence from British / Autocracy; Article -370 is not a bridge between India & instead earlier was a temporary article of the constitution of India (rather a weakest Article and the only Article for which a provision was particularly also mentioned for its modification / amendment/ removal).

The result has been that common people either remained in confusions or some were made to carry otherwise understandings or doubts even when the 1947 Accession of J&K was total and technically complete in terms of 1947 Indian independence Act..

Unlike any other Indian state J&K was also made a question so unfairly by Pakistan in the name of two nation theory as well as the tailored stories about 1947 accession of J&K.

Those who ruled the state after 1957 kept the people of all the regions of J&K lost in regional and communal controversies with the result that common man of Jammu and Ladakh regions (even majority of Kashmir region)



A Look through the Mist Part-II

remained dis-empowered ideologically, politically, legislatively and administratively which also has been providing some working grounds to separatists, anti India elements/ideologies. And hence there was no total rejection or opposition to theories like Self Rule or Achievable Nationhood by locals in Valley even when majority may not be for that.

No doubt Kashmir valley has more than 95 % Muslim population but regions like Jammu outside Kashmir Valley & Ladakh region too have large Muslim population which resides in distant / backward areas but even these areas have remained unattended for development of agriculture / infrastructure / tourism / administrative & legislative shares. So under the power centric plans of a set of Kashmiri leaders the affairs have been actually more treated on regional basis.

So to be brief, when Narendra Modi took over as Prime Minister of India the subjects of J&K were lost in many myths & confusions (even about their identity) who very much needed empowerment at Ideological, Legislative, Political, and Administrative levels.

Ideological empowerment was very much needed to make the common man understand right or wrong, to understand the negative agencies, to receive analyse & understand information and hence not to fall in the hands of disrupting, anti national, anti community and anti national elements. Modi had to mediate 7 decades old the bads of wrong handlings of J&K affairs, task was hard and challenging since it was to be taken at social as well as political levels. Political cadres needed to work with more patience and care.

The start of cutting the net woven with myths about J&K being total India like Punjab or UP

was made by Narendra Modi Government on March 11, 2015 when for the first time in common man language Government of India in a written reply informed the Parliament and people of India that Article -370 did not given constitutionally any special status to J&K ('Kashmir').

Then it was using Art-370 of Constitution of India itself by which Government of India demonstrated that Art-370 was simply an article of constitution of India which could be used for reforms / betterment and this article was used to issue Order GSR-351-E (Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order made by President Notification C.O 272 dated August 5, 2019 for removing Art-35A in the same way as Article-370 had been used in 1954 to incorporate Art-35A.

Other myths that Parliament cannot touch Article - 370 and in case Art-370 is modified/ deleted then 'bridge' connecting J&K with India will also go were also gone undone by Narendra Modi lead NDA-III government when Notification/declaration under Article 370(3) of the Constitution "C.O. 273" 06-05-2019 s/d President of India was issued by Ministry of Law and Justice, Legislative Department, (saying as from the 6th August, 2019, all clauses of the said article 370 shall cease to be operative except the following which shall read as under, namely:.....) with the recommendations of Parliament of India that performed the job of legislature of J&K in terms of Art-356.

With this the belief of subjects of J&K that J&K is an inseparable unit of Union and Art-370 is not a bridge was empowered.

To be continued. (The author is Sr Journalist, social activist and analyst J&K affairs daysasgr45@yahoo.com).