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JAMMU & KASHMIR

DEMOGRAPHICS AND DELIMITATION OLD CHALLENGES PERSIST



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The power of a King lies in his mighty arms...

Security of the citizens at peace time is very important because State is the only saviour of the men and women who get affected only because of the negligence of the State.

- Chanakya

DSA IS AS MUCH YOURS, AS IT IS OURS!



Kashmir remains on the boil more than two years after its special constitutional status was revoked. In a democracy anything once bestowed, announced or committed by the government cannot be taken away without creating misgivings. The level of misgivings depends entirely on the emotional and political value of what it is that is being taken away. In the case of Kashmir, it was a constitutional arrangement that gave the state a status notches above other states to benefit from guarantees as well. There was a procedure laid out for the removal of that status, but given a toss in the well of political preferences.

So, it is not surprising that resentment remains amongst the people of Kashmir, or a large enough number for the administration imposed a complete shutdown when the Union Home Minister recently visited the state. The targeting of innocent migrant workers or even the minuscule

remnants of a once vibrant Pandit community is merely to underline this resentment. And prove to those who want and need to listen that the alienation remains as it was. Listening is something that is essential in a territory that has been witness to more conflict than most parts of the world in the recent past.

An alienated population can never be an asset in the pursuit of peace, especially given that an insurgency sparked by electoral malpractices has now entered its fourth decade. For India to grow as an economy and provide its people a vibrant life and cultural space, such a level of alienation is an impediment with serious implications. Machismo, in language, security action, or even political activities, may provide temporary tough talking points but it doesn't do anything for improving conditions of the people, or the country. Being realistic is far better.

Delimitation is a constitutional requirement for improving electoral representation, and in which India has a far better methodology than most democracies. Over the

years it has stood it in good stead. But to be honest and respectful towards people, it cannot be manipulated to suit political ends. And public consultations are an essential aspect of this process. Any delimitation exercise that violates this tenet is certain to create more problems than it can solve, and will have a mark of doubt hanging over it for perpetuity. Justice Kuldeep Singh's last such endeavour was remarkable for its success only because it was transparent, honest, and without malice.

Unlike in the plains where living space seems endless, in extreme landscapes human being always seem wary of sharing it with those deemed not local. This sentiment is as prevalent in the desert as it is amongst the hill people. So, if the administration is hoping to change demographics with a view to influencing the delimitation process and thence the prevailing security situation, then it is sorely mistaken. Local problems can only be solved through local initiatives, otherwise even Jammu will one day join those alienated by 'outsiders'.

Manvendra Singh



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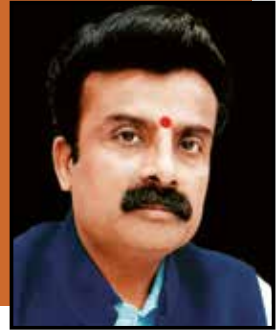
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JAMMU AND KASHMIR: WILL ALWAYS BE INDIA'S



Jammu and Kashmir has always been an integral part of India, the biggest democratic country on the globe and will always be a part of India; no matter how the entire geopolitical analysts and the world community see at it. It has been in the limelight in the entire world for the turmoil being faced since Independence but things have changed drastically in Jammu and Kashmir after the Articles 370 and 35 A were abolished by the current government two years back.

All speculations turned to be completely wrong after declaration of the entire Jammu and Kashmir as Union Territory having three regions under the command of Lt Gov. Since the past four decades, turbulences have been seen by all of us, being created by our neighbour Pakistan in J&K but we are proud of our military and the security forces who have been really working very hard to counter their attacks.

Thousands of innocent civilians and the people of various forces have sacrificed their lives to bring peace in the boiling Jammu and Kashmir and this was till August 2019 when the current government abolished the two articles and a new era was introduced in the state and that is commendable effort by the current leadership. Everything has been turning favourable with an altogether new confidence and support by the common people in J&K. Though the security forces have always remained alert since the sleeping cells of various terrorist groups had gone underground but suddenly during the past month, the attacks on individuals started again.

I personally feel that these new attacks were very well planned by the terrorist groups due to some specific reasons which could be: changed situation in Afghanistan being taken over by the Taliban and stringency by the security forces considering the changed situation in Afghanistan. I am sure that DSA readers will agree with me as more such attacks are expected by the terrorist groups in the near future. But at the same time, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India is keeping a very close watch on every situation to bring back the same confidence and the support in the entire J&K.

After many years the development process is back in the state and people are confident that there will be more investments in all the sectors which will bring more prosperity in the state and among the people. More and more job opportunities will be generated in due course of time. Though it may take some time but it is going to happen and this will be proved that Jammu and Kashmir was and will always be India's integral part.

Very soon, we expect the delimitation of the state which will also bring more specific developments and thus, there will be lots of changes in every sphere in Jammu and Kashmir and people of J&K will have to keep patience with the authorities implementing the whole process as it will bring valuable change in J&K.

This edition will define very well the changed scenario in Jammu and Kashmir and how it is bringing more and more peace, prosperity and happiness to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Jai Hind!

Pawan Agrawal
 Chief Executive Officer



JAMMU AND KASHMIR – RESURGENCE

LT GEN S N HANDA
PVSM, AVSM, VSM (RETD)

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