

A SINGLE CONSTITUTION FOR THE ENTIRE COUNTRY

How will Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh benefit?

In recent weeks, important decisions have been taken regarding Jammu and Kashmir. Articles 370 & 35 A have been abrogated or substantially modified and other important changes have been made. How will these changes benefit the common man? What advantages will accrue to the region?

Article 370 and 35A Responsible for Backwardness of J&K

For many years in the past, the state of J&K has been the victim of anti-national propaganda and terrorist actions against innocent citizens. The Articles 370 and 35 A became handy tools for mischievous elements to fan separatism and promote terror. These two articles kept the state isolated and away from the development processes in the country for a long time. The special status benefited only a select few e.g. Hurriyat leaders and people working for them. Despite massive fund allotment there was only limited improvement in the conditions of the poor and disadvantaged. Similarly even though the Parliament passed a number of progressive laws for the benefits and welfare of people yet most of them could not be extended to J&K, thereby denying the people of J&K the benefits, which are available to all other citizens in India.

How will this change now? How will this lead to end of poverty and a boost to development and growth?

Here are a few ways in which development and progress will percolate down to the grassroots. Investors will pump in capital and resources, industries and services will be set up, employment opportunities will multiply, big educational institutes will proliferate, health sector will grow, agricultural sector will be transformed, agro-processing will take a leap forward, ecological and environmental provisions will be enforced and natural beauty will be preserved. All fundamental rights enjoyed by citizens in the rest of the country will be now available to the residents of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

New Dawn for Youth- Equal Opportunity for all

- While the children of separatists and politicians study in London, New York, Singapore and other top cities of the world, the children of the poor in J&K have been denied even a decent education facility
- Now there will be a new dawn in Kashmir ensuring equal opportunity for all
- There will be significant upgrade in education facilities of all, particularly the children of the poor.
- The focus of the government will be education, industrialization and boost to tourism

Panchayati Raj Institutions

- The establishment of Local Self Governing Institutions was so far erratic and at the whims of the State Government
- For long periods, no elections to Panchayats were held
- Now the 73rd & 74th Constitutional Amendment have become applicable
- Constitutional status has been given to local self governments in Rural & Urban areas
- All provisions relating to Panchayats and local self governments to be fully applicable
- Panchayats will now get direct funding- people will decide their own developmental priorities
- This will lead to strengthening of grass roots democracy

Transparency and Accountability – Control Corruption

- Lack of strong laws led to corruption and poor accountability
- As a result much of the funding failed to reach the poor

- So despite massive spending, little impact was seen on the ground
- Now all anti corruption central Laws including Whistle Blower Act will be applicable
- Oversight by all central agencies and watchdogs will ensure reduced corruption
- Transparency and accountability to increase
- Funds earmarked for the people will actually reach the beneficiaries
- Corruption will be controlled

106 people friendly laws and 9 constitutional amendments of the Indian Constitution now to be made applicable

- Earlier applicability of Central Laws to Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) was limited
- No Central Act could be made applicable to J&K except through special procedure
- As a result, many laws could not be applied to J&K thereby depriving the local residents of the benefits of these legislations
- So many progressive laws such as Right to Education, Maintenance & Welfare of Parents & Senior Citizens Act, 2001, National Commission for Minority Act and acts for benefit of Women, Children, Disabled will now be applicable
- The application of these laws will help the most vulnerable sections of the population

