

# Editorial

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## Redefining India

2<sup>nd</sup> term of the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is making all effort to redefine the earlier concept of India. After the upper house of the Parliament scrape Article 370 and 35 A, India today is different as it is a country with one law. Leaving aside other states of the country, top priority of the BJP is to end the issue of Jammu and Kashmir by abolishing the existing of a country within a country. It may be a good move as per their agenda but while making a new India sections of people now worried on whether the BJP led NDA government is acting crossing its limit by violating the constitution of India. Well that will be decided by the Constitutional bench of the Highest Court of the Country - the Supreme Court.

There are mix responses to the scrapping of the Article 370 and 35A, some appreciated it saying that such an action should have been done long time back, however, it pertinent to question to the legitimacy of the scrapping of the Article 370 as there is proviso in the said article which said that a consensus of the Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly is mandatory for the scrapping of he said article.

This is being raised as the Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly is under animated suspension and President rule has been imposed in the state. Now the state is rule by the governor, and governor is only an appointee of the Central government. The governor does not represent the people of Jammu and Kashmir but represent the Central government of India. The governor's approval is amending or scrapping of the Article 370 is in violation of the Constitution of India.

Before taking up the issue for scrapping of the Article 370, people across the country had witnessed the both the upper and lower house amended the UAPA (Act). The opposition strongly protested the amendment of the act to certain section which allow the NIA to conduct investigation to any of the state across the nation without taking prior permission from the state government authority. The amended act also empowered the NIA to announce any individual as terrorist without following the due process of law. Amidst oppositions the UAPA Amendment Bill had been passed as the BJP which led the NDA had absolute majority.

It is a matter that people need to ponder on why the UAPA which empowered the NIA to act at any states without taking permission and even declare any individual as terrorist be passed before scrapping the Article 370. Besides, passing of the scrapping of the Article 370, the Jammu and Kashmir has been bifurcated into two union territories and Ladakh has been made another Union Territories.

The controversy surrounding over the scrapping of the Article 373 and the bifurcation of the J&K state into two UTs and creating of Ladakh is left for further debate and discussion to the Constitutional bench of the SC.

But the this recent changes will have much impact to the demand of the NSCN-IM. The idea of having separate flag for Nagalim and special status to them will be a dream. And what is more worrying is that there is a possibility that at least one demand of the NSCN-IM for formation of a Nagalim state by bifurcation of Manipur is possible. Anything is being done if it will not impact the National integration of India is the long pending dream of BJP led NDA government.

On the other hand it is also a risk for the NE states which have certain provision in the constitution of India under Article 371 A, B, C, D, E, etc. which is similar to that of Special status provided to the state of Jammu and Kashmir may have been scrapped. The existing inner line permit system in certain North East state of India may be lifted any time to make India a one nation of one community abolishing the idea of federalism. If that happened then the demand for Inner Line Permit System in the state of Manipur will have to end by itself. The Manipur Peoples' Bill will be thrown to the dustbin but it is also a similar legislation that the Jammu and Kashmir Government had implied under the under the Article 370.

Well, the citizen of India today is left with no choice but to wait and watch to see if the BJP led NDA can redefine INDIA.

## Mob Culture in Manipur- a direct consequence of mistrust in the system and a dysfunctional Society

Not far are the days in Manipur when we see bodies hanging in the middle of the polo-ground with signs written on them. Public execution being carried out in the middle of Shamu Makhong while the crowd cheers , judgement and sentences implemented right on the spot without even trial. Everyone walking around doing their daily chores with AK 47 on their shoulders with occasional gunfire in the distance. School Children's packing a pistol apart from their lunchbox and disputes settled through gunfight and law & order just for name sake.

I am not trying to describe a scene in a Taliban Hollywood movie , I am describing a society which we are heading to , a dysfunctional society without any laws where mistrust reigns and every decision is influenced by a misguided mob. A society where law and order are non-existent. There is a saying that a "mob has no head or a tail" which is very true. Nothing good has ever come out of a mob, a mob is never right or wrong every action a mob takes always ends up in a disaster.

Manipur society is slowing heading towards this culture as a direct consequence of the mistrust in the system , mistrust in the law and order , a dysfunctional society where everyone seeks justice, but no one is ready to take the ownership and responsibilities for their actions. Where everyone is ready to blame the OTHER person, but no one wants to listen about their own mistakes and shortcomings.

To prove how dysfunctional our society has become , let me draw the attention of the reader to a very hot topic and a very recent unfortunate incident which has been burning Manipur for few weeks now, the untimely demise of an innocent child, Babysana Ningthoujam. I blame our entire dysfunctional society for what happened to her and the subsequent series of incidents and events which is burning Manipur. Not only I blame the school management for their negligence but I also blame the media including social media for inciting mob violence , the investigating agencies for their non proactive but reactive nature , the political parties trying to take political mileage in such situation, our government for not being able to create trust among the citizens and last but not the least our citizens who don't think with their head but their knees and can easily be manipulated by anyone.

Print and Electronic Media role in Journalistic Objectivity - By

definition of Wikipedia "journalists should present the facts whether or not they like or agree with those facts. Objective reporting is meant to portray issues and events in a neutral and unbiased manner, regardless of the writers opinion or personal beliefs." It has been widely covered in news that there was a scuffle between the police personnel and the media team on the spot of the incident and apparently the media team left without proper coverage of the incident. While the first coverage of the incident on print and electronic media stated categorically that the death was "Questionable" and ever since that posts the public has been agitated and was responsible for inciting the initial flares of public unrest . Now the question arises about Journalistic integrity of the reporters whether the reports of the were reported in neutral and unbiased manner or personal ego and opinions due to the scuffle was inserted in their reporting . It is already very evident as media has never published any interview or press release from the school authority side and apparently the press release by the Principal of the school on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day was never circulated and given equal airtime compared to the story from the parents side. "The school authority is silent" has been one of the most contentious statement which has agitated the public and caused restlessness. Has the media in its "questionable" reporting added more fire to the burning flame by just telling one sided story to general public ?

Reactive rather than proactive nature of Investigating agencies -

There is a serious trust deficit issue with the police and investigating agencies in Manipur which has accumulated from a very long period of time and which I don't need to elaborate much. Not all issues can be resolved with tear gas or mob bomb. The reactive nature of police personnel and dealing every situation with confrontation has brought about a never-ending vicious cycle of tit for tat reaction from public. No one trust the police frankly because of their action. Hence, there is serious need for police reformation and changing some of the procedures. For example , in many developed countries always a press briefing is held 48 hrs. after an incident informing the public about some of the basics about the incident. Frequent press briefing is done giving awareness to public about the status of the investigation . Why there is no such



procedures in our Policing today. I don't think all information about an incidents can be confidential some can be released to the public. Specially in Babysana's case no status update has been provided to the general public which has incited more rumors and restless among the public.

Political parties always ready to feed on others sorrow - Needless to say political parasites look for any given opportunity to divert the common people's attention from the real issues related to development and progress to unrelated issues which will give them political mileage and earn the title of the "champion of the people" . It has been very evident in Babysana's case some political leaders are benefiting at the expense of the deceased child which is very unfortunate. For every single incident someone is trying their best to get the most benefit and get that political mileage to the extend some of them go to great length even tampering with active crime scene evidences just to make a political statement. What good can we expect from such political leaders , what an example they are setting for our younger generation.

Easily manipulated citizens - It is rather very unfortunate that a pristine organization like Meira-Paibi which started as a very noble endeavor of eradicating drug abuse and community watch program has been time and again manipulated by vested interest group to become ponds in their master plan. Meira-Paibis are turned into foot soldier, always in the frontline ,getting emotionally manipulated and getting the brunt of police lathi charge and tear gases. While the master planner stays in the background with nothing to lose.

Our unemployed youth are also not that innocent and has been contributing towards the dysfunctionality of our society. While some are using their empty minds to create the devils workshop , spreading and propagating rumors others are trying to get more Facebook likes on their page and get more people join their group using babysana's

unfortunate incident. Even attention seeking tik tok personalities have joined the bandwagon creating a complete mockery of entire situation. In this entire façade I am sorry ichal Babysana no one has even bothered to understand you, understand why you too the ultimate action ? What was bothering you ? What were you thinking ? Why take such a step at such a tender age, you had your whole life ahead of you ? I know you are gone now for your heavenly abode, but I am sure you are seeing everything from there. How people are using your name for their own agenda to get political mileage, get more Facebook likes and what not . How in your name 5000 of your school friends career is in jeopardy and no one seems to care , the mob is trying its best to frame some charges any charges against anyone remotely related to your incident. How all of sudden every tom dick and harry who have never done anything good in life or helped another person has become the savior.

These are all the signs of a dysfunctional society heading to path of Taliban like system where everyone is own their own and it is slowly happening right here in Manipur. Everyone in this society is responsible for your untimely demise , a society which is breeding depression , injustice and hatred for its kind and the worse is yet to come. So, I apologize to you from all of us , for not listening to you , taking care of you while you were alive for which you give the ultimate sacrifice as a warning sign for all of us. I apologize to you for we have failed you and many of our younger generations to come because we gave you a dysfunctional and hateful society which you don't deserve, you deserve much better than this , you deserve a joyful childhood without worries or hatred, you deserve love from your parents, friends and families , you deserve to be happy and be not depressed , rest in peace my dear child now that you are free from all these worries.

By a Manipuri Concerned citizen

## Decision changes the dynamics of the India-Pakistan dialogue on Kashmir

By -Kanwal Sibal  
Courtesy- Live Mint

A bold and historic decision has been taken by the government to scrap Article 370/Article 35A, separating Ladakh from Jammu and Kashmir, to make both Union territories. No one really expected this decision so rapidly after the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP's) electoral victory, and especially such a far-reaching one. The government has obviously calculated all the consequences of this epochal decision, both internal and external. Even if there are difficulties down the road, essentially internal, these will be overcome in due course and a

historical mistake in keeping Kashmir separate and entrenching separatism in the polity at the nation's cost will have been corrected.

Pakistan must be stunned by the Narendra Modi government's decision. It changes completely the dynamics of the India-Pakistan dialogue on Kashmir. For too long India has adopted a defensive approach on Kashmir, accepting talks on the "outstanding issue" of Jammu and Kashmir, tolerating terrorism in order to keep the bilateral dialogue alive. Now that Kashmir's internal status in India has been radically changed and it has become a Union territory, and Ladakh has been

separated from it, the basis of a bilateral dialogue with Pakistan on the issue has disappeared. For India, there is now no "outstanding" issue of Kashmir except India's claim on Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), which includes Gilgit-Baltistan. The need for a back-channel to find a solution to the Kashmir issue has disappeared. The so-called four point formula, which has supporters in Indian circles, has lost all meaning. All talk of a resumed dialogue with Pakistan with a structured agenda, which has Kashmir on it, has become pointless.

The Modi government's decision will also have effect on the Indus Waters Treaty and Pakistan's strategy of creating obstacles for Indian power projects in Jammu and Kashmir permitted by the treaty. All in all, the prospects of any early "normalization" of ties with Pakistan have receded. The ball will lie in Pakistan's court as it

has been principally responsible over the years for the state of our bilateral relations. It is unlikely that after having been outflanked by the Modi government on Kashmir it will change its policies towards India. Its political frustration and domestic pressures will compel it to seek an internationalizing of India's decision.

Imran Khan has, according to the Pakistan government, already "invited attention of world leaders and international bodies towards irresponsible, unilateral and irrational behaviour of the Indian leadership". Pakistan has warned that it will exercise all possible options against India's "illegal" steps. Pakistan has propagandist options, but no substantial ones. It can try to foment resistance within the valley to India's decision and step up terrorism in J&K. This will be risky as support to jihadi activities in J&K

will allow India to increase pressure on Pakistan in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), besides the danger of retaliation from India, which Pakistan can ill afford in view of its distressed economic situation. Pakistan will, of course, raise the matter with the United Nations (UN) Secretary General, who might be persuaded to issue some statement advocating reduction of tensions and peaceful settlement of differences, etc., but a change in India's domestic law on J&K's status within the Indian Union is not an international matter as it does not endanger international peace and security. More importantly, Article 370 does not figure in any UN resolution on Kashmir. It was inserted in the Indian Constitution in 1954 unilaterally by India, many years after the UN resolutions on J&K and, so, it can be unilaterally

removed. The UN Security Council will not take cognizance of any Pakistani complaint. All major powers have adopted the position that the Kashmir issue should be settled bilaterally between India and Pakistan. The Simla Agreement supports that position. No major country would want to risk its ties with a rising India for Pakistan's sake. They are habituated to India-Pakistan differences on Kashmir and would avoid getting involved. Pakistan will argue that the tensions India is creating in Kashmir will distract Pakistan from its support to the US on Afghanistan. The US and the UK in particular may raise the subject in private, more to understand the likely scenario in the future, than injecting themselves into the situation.

\*\*\*\*Kanwal Sibal is a former foreign secretary.

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