

# 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.

### Investment, Development and Employment

- The application of Articles 370 and 35 A placed restrictions on transfer of land.
- As a result private investment in developmental works was severely constrained
- No large industries developed in the state
- No major investment in Education, Health or Tourism
- Consequently, employment opportunities especially for youth remained restricted
- Removal of restrictions will encourage industry and private investment
- This will spur growth and employment leading to prosperity for all
- Industrialisation of the state will multiply job opportunities for local youth
- Local horticulture and food processing will get a big boost- all small, medium and big farmers will benefit
- Handicraft industry which was earlier limited to select destinations will now be able to directly export and collaborate both nationally and internationally- Even poor artisans in villages will benefit

### Benefits to land owners

- Land rates all over the country have increased many fold while rates in J&K have not increased as much
- This will change in the days to come.
- Any landowner who wishes to sell his land would benefit from increased prices
- However fears of the people about loss of land and properties are not well founded.
- In fact, there is no compulsion on anybody to part with his land
- Anyone who does not want to sell his lands will have the full liberty not to do so. There will be no change in ownership due to removal of Article 370.

### Big Boost for Tourism

- The tourism potential of the entire region is immense
- The special provisions and consequent restrictions prevented investment by major national and global players in the sector
- With the restrictions having been removed, the tourism potential of the region will be fully utilised
- Investment in tourist infrastructure such as hotels and other facilities will increase tourist arrivals and create further job and earning opportunities
- Film shootings, adventure tourism, religious tourism to grow
- PPP models will provide opportunities for local entrepreneurs
- Rural tourism will grow- as a result, benefits which were earlier in cities only will now reach villages too

### Education and Health

- Higher education all across the country has witnessed a boom but not in J&K
- As of now, there is not a single private university currently in J&K
- 20,000 students from J&K have to go to other parts of India to study
- Now even this sector will boom due to the PPP model in vogue- no compulsion for students to go outside for education
- Similarly in the Health sector there are no large hospitals in J&K in the private sector
- So many patients are forced to travel to Chandigarh, Delhi or Mumbai for specialised treatment
- Now large private investment in health and education is expected- world class health care providers to open their franchises and health centres
- This would bring top quality health care right at the door steps of the people
- This will also lead to employment opportunities and growth
- J&K can become a medical tourism hub for the Middle East and East Asia

