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## Government initiatives for eradicating youth alienation in union territory of Jammu and Kashmir- since 2014

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### Abstract

Kashmir turmoil is the most disaster and lingering conflict in world. Since 1947 it has observed ups and downs and failure of political outreach has emerged as a major problem in Kashmir valley especially since. The impact of separatisms has remained constant in the Kashmir valley particularly after election rigging in 1987. The present study intends to observe the Government initiatives for eradication youth alienation since 2014. In context to same, political out reach of the Government has been observed constantly in the valley especially in BJP Government. The investigator has made intensive effort to explore the present study with the help of descriptive method. Indeed the investigator found that large number of imitative has been made by the Government since 2014 like; political outreach, operation of National Investigation Agency (NIA), deputation of the interlocutor (Dineshwar Sharma), financial incentives, operation all-out, demonetisation and abrogation of article 370. However, the investigator found that moderate level of impact has been observed with the help of these initiatives. To some extent Government got success in curbing the impact of separatism, however, remaining problems were seen constant. Especially no significant change has been observed in youth alienation.

**Keywords:** Government initiatives, national investigation agency (Nia), interlocutor, financial incentives, operation all-out, demonetisation, abrogation of article 370. Youth alienation, Jammu & Kashmir

### Introduction

The Jammu and Kashmir state which is now known as union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, has remained in the lap of international political since 1947. The political interests in the Jammu and Kashmir are interesting and are seen different since independence. Before 1947 India and Pakistan were a part of a Union that was under the control of the British Raj. While leaving, the colonial powers separated the region on the basis of religion giving rise to two nations: India and Pakistan. The transition was delayed with incidents that were fraught with bloodshed and consequently the two nations developed hostility towards each other. Another reason for conflict was over territorial command over Kashmir; an Indian state that lay along the borders of India and Pakistan. As a result of these two main reasons both the two countries were observed in socio-economic loss. However, since independence The are several reasons which has remained lingering in the Jammu and Kashmir state added fuel in the Kashmir turmoil notable among them are absence of a political dialogue, the lack of economic opportunities, frustration due to high unemployment, excessive militarization, existence of separatism, human rights violation by army and militants. Meanwhile, In 2014 the destination of Jammu and Kashmir goes in the lap of BJP. In the 2014 Indian general election, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won a majority in the Lower House of the Indian Parliament. Narendra Modi became the prime minister. In Jammu and Kashmir, Legislative Assembly elections in the same year was held and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) won a majority of the seats in the Kashmir region and the BJP won the majority of seats in the Jammu region. Even though both parties campaigned against each other, they joined together to form a coalition Government, with Mufti Mohammad Sayed becoming the chief minister. Following his death in 2016, his daughter Mehbooba Mufti took over as chief minister (first woman chief minister in region). The joining together two unexpected parties led to the perception of a shrinking political space and the contrary statements were observed

from the both political parties including opposition parties. It is said to have formed the "final straw" in the people's disaffection.

On the other hand the lingering impact of separatism in Valley has lurch the Kashmiri issues. The separatists in J&K who pursue the policy of "agitation politics" on behalf of Pakistan have the backing of the militants groups, the Lashkar-e-Taiba, Hizbul Mujahideen and the others. This gives them the flexibility of initiating, orchestrating and calibrating the intensity of their programmes as also to change their emphasis from one to the other on short notice. As the number of militants operating in J&K decline, 'agitation politics' will become a norm and perhaps more violent. In the initial days of the movement, the violent activities of the militants had united the country in backing the SFs to give a befitting response and restore the administrative machinery of the state. Over the years, with decline in the number of terrorists and their activities, and a gradual change in the character of the movement from violent extremism to "agitation politics", has led to the dwindling of support in some quarters, for a strong military response. The Government no more enjoys unqualified support for a strong military response against Pakistani proxies, including violent mobs. The 'agitation politics' of the separatists has struck a sympathetic cord with a section of the population in the country. This constituency, though small, has been vocal in its support of some of the demands and the activities of the separatists, and has managed to put the government on the defensive, especially on the issue concerning the response of the SFs while controlling violent mobs. The 'imitational politics' has been able to polarise India's polity and population. The extent of polarisation is a subject of debate. In 2016-17, Central and South Kashmir saw a perceptible rise in the number of local militants and militant related incidents especially during the presence of Burhan Wani. It is under these circumstances that the present Government has come out with some new initiatives to reduce terrorist violence and curb the separatist activities which will assist in implementing the rule of law. For the purpose of this paper, the governmental initiatives have been categorised under the four broad heads; political, military, financial and diplomatic.

The J&K insurgency will not end because the last militants has been neutralised, rather it will end when the separatists, militants and their supporters in the state and across the border realise that continuing with the movement is no longer worthwhile because it is too costly as well as too dangerous and also because success is unlikely. Unlike a conventional war between states where there are tangible assets which can be targeted for punitive actions, in the case of a proxy war, such as in Jammu and Kashmir such coercive levers which can be targeted by the establishment are few. In the case of Jammu and Kashmir proxy war with many of the terrorist leaders and their benefactors sitting across the border, the task of coercion becomes much more complicated and challenging. As regards convincing the population to switch allegiance, it would be contingent on the government reaching out with proposals which are acceptable to the public and which will seem to alleviate their real or perceived grievances. It is under these set of conditions that the paper will analyse the government's recent initiatives, prognosticate the future course and possible challenges to the initiatives and offer solutions to the problems if any. Keeping the above mentioned evidence,

the Government since 2014 has launched large number of initiatives to eradicate the youth lamination. In pursuance to same, the investigator explored the below mentioned initiatives:

**Research problem:** in connection to convincing the population to switch allegiance, it would be contingent on the government reaching out with proposals which are acceptable to the public and which will seem to alleviate their real or perceived grievances. It is under these set of conditions that the present study will analyse the initiative made by made by the Government for eradicating youth alienation in Jammu & Kashmir since 2014.

**Objectives of the study:** The present study intends to observe the eradication of youth alienation through Government initiatives and political outreach for normalising the intensity of Kashmir turmoil. Keeping in view, the presents study will explore the initiatives made by Government viz. political outreach, operation of National Investigation Agency (NIA), deputation of the interlocutor (Dineshwar Sharma), financial incentives, operation all-out, demonetisation and abrogation of article 370 in context of youth alienation.

**Rationale of the study:** The rationale of the study has been justified as under below mentioned headings:

- **Political Outreach:** On August 15, 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi surprised some security analysts with his announcement that "Na Goliye, Na Gaalise, Dil Jeetenge Kashmir Ko Gale Lagane", even though it was not the first time that the Prime Minister had indicated his intent to widen the canvas of engagement with the stakeholders of J&K. Speaking from the bulwarks of the Red Fort, on the occasion of Independence Day, this was perhaps the utmost forceful prompt of his appreciation that the time was right to start the dialogue process in the state. In pursuance of the PM's initiative, Home Minister Rajnath Singh has made multiple trips to the Valley, met all the stakeholders and even indicated his desire to meet the separatists (but the separatists have refused to meet him). However, ultimately due to certain social factors it bear no any kind of positive effect on part of eradicating youth alienation.
- **Deputation of interlocutor:** While engaging all stakeholders of Jammu and Kashmir BJP deputed interlocutor (Dineshwar Sharma) to collect the massive opinion from the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The appointment of Dineshwar Sharma by Rajnath Singh was to a permanent solution to the J&K problem and the appointment of the interlocutor is a step in that direction. The political outreach has taken place in the backdrop of the government making its stand clear that it will not talk to Pakistan, if it continues to support terrorists inimical to Indian interests, thereby delinking Pakistan from any possible solution to the issue. However, the impact of interlocutor again bears no nay kind of fruit of part of Kashmir turmoil. His agenda for talks as also a future solution will have to be within the framework of the constitution, which is the stated position of the Government of India. The interlocutor tried to address the youth alienation however, after Pulwama suicide attack on CRPF (the big attack on past

two decades) it got nullified and war like situation emerges on borders. Consequently, the impact of the interlocutor remind insignificant.

- **National Investigation Agency (NIA):** National Investigation Agency (NIA)'s investigation into the financial transactions of some of the separatist leaders has reduced their capability to undertake insurgency related activities. National Investigating Agency conducted large number of raid in valley. It not only gripped the separatists but also made raids on part of socio-economic activities of those people who were directly or indirectly involved in the militancy related activities. The role of the National Investigation Agency is going on in the valley; however the permanent solution of Jammu and Kashmir problem remained again lingering. Thus, the present study generalised that moderate effect of government initiatives has been remained in the valley since 2017. In addition to this addressing youth alienation remained failure again.
- **Financial Initiatives:** Time to time Indian Government is trying to use financial incentives or distracting the attention of the those people who are inclined towards the separatists manifesto. The change in the narrative of J&K movement from "azadi" to 'merger with Pakistan' and possible radicalisation of the Kashmiri society is a result of sustained efforts of the separatists, which would not have been possible without adequate financing from various sources. The government has realised the gravity of the situation and the National investigating Agency has initiated an investigation into the financial dealings of some of the separatists. In November 2016, the Government also announced 'demonetisation' of high-value currency. The two measures had an immediate impact on the security situation of the state. However, will the measures have any long-term impact and how will they help resolve the J&K imbroglio is the question which needs to be answered. Demonetisation on November 08, 2016, the government in a sudden and surprising move announced a currency reform measure to demonetise high-value denomination notes of Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000. This measure was instituted to curb black money hoarding and eliminate fake currency from circulation. In addition, the reform measure also targeted the separatists and the terrorists operating in Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere in the country. However, the impact of this imitative was insignificant on addressing the youth alienation.
- **Military Strategy:** Military exercise no a new initiative in the history of Jammu and Kashmir, rather since 1947, Government is trying to make initiatives to A Case of Winning Battles and Not Winning War. The J&K problem has been festering for over 70 years and the country has been afflicted by proxy war for almost 29 years now. In this period, thousands of terrorists have been killed and today, the number of terrorists operating in the state is the lowest. Infiltration figures and local recruitment are also not a cause of great concern. All this can be attributed to hard work and dedication of the SFs. Despite the success, some of it at a great human cost, the resolution of the J&K issue is nowhere in sight. If anything, the problem has only exacerbated in many other dimensions. The situation can perhaps be

best described as a case of winning battles but not war. Killing terrorist commanders or even neutralising groups has not and is unlikely to bring the issue of J&K closer to resolution.<sup>19</sup> The outcome of any military operation, at the tactical level, is decided on objective criteria such as neutralisation of terrorists, destruction of terrorist infrastructure, support bases, logistic installations and the casualties suffered and such factors. In contrast, the resolution of the J&K problem will depend on the outcome of the military campaign at a strategic level and may not depend on any of these factors. Resolution of the problem will be contingent on the perception of the situation and may not be related to facts. Perception is of the effects and not of the effort. The citizens of the country as well as population of J&K at large and Kashmir in particular will largely decide what will constitute victory and who has won the proxy war launched by Pakistan.<sup>20</sup> If the people, including the Kashmiris, are convinced that under no circumstances Pakistan or its proxies can ever force a military decision on India, the government would find it easier to progress political negotiations with the various stakeholders. Therefore, India's military campaign besides neutralising terrorists needs to win the battle of perceptions. A cost-benefit analysis of Burhan Wani's encounter provides an interesting insight as to how the same operation can have different outcomes at tactical, operational and at a strategic level and is also indicative of the relative emphasis that the government will have to give to its various initiatives from here on to achieve its political objectives. Burhan Wani's elimination may have been a tactical or even an operational victory militarily, but in political terms, it certainly cannot be described as a victory. The operation may be considered a remarkable success for the Rashtriya Rifles battalion and the police officials involved, but for many, the state and the central Governments lost much as a result of this operation. Besides, at diplomatic level Government has initiated "operation all-out" for elimination of 100% militancy in the valley. However, on practical grounds it has remained failed. In context to same, Yusuf, A. A. (2020) <sup>[16]</sup> argued that "operation all-out" is impossible as the prevalence of militancy in Kashmir is based on religion sentiments and deep rooted in 'Jihad'. Hoer, despite that huge number of militants were killed by the yogh aspirations were more halted as Government often suspended the internet sever on the days of killing militants.

- **Abrogation of article 370:** The article 370 was abrogated on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019 by implementing the Jammu and Kashmir reorganisation Act-2019. By implementing the Jammu and Kashmir reorganisation Act-2019 the state Jammu and Kashmir was bifurcated into two union territories namely union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and union territory of Ladakh. After implementing Jammu and Kashmir reorganisation Act-2019, the prime minister and Home minister of India claimed that it will be permanent solution for Kashmir turmoil. However, it proved adverse. Indeed Government has curbed the political activities of Separatists but the youth alienation has remained constant. Besides, government has failed to restore 4<sup>th</sup> generation internet facilities till date and mainstream political leader were kept behind bars. Indeed some

merits, the Jammu and Kashmir reorganisation Act-2019 has failed to address youth alienation.

### Conclusions of the study

As evidenced above, the present study intends to observe the Government initiatives and political outreach for normalising the intensity of Kashmir turmoil. Political outreach of the Government has been observed constantly in the valley especially in BJP Government. However, in the present study, it has been observed that impact of government initiatives has remained moderate to low level in valley, due to non-cooperation of all stakeholders of Jammu and Kashmir. Indeed the investigator found that large number of imitative has been made by the Government since 2014 like; political outreach, operation of National Investigation Agency (NIA), deputation of the interlocutor (Dineshwar Sharma), financial incentives, operation all-out, demonetisation and abrogation of article 370. However, the investigator found that moderate level of impact has been observed with the help of these initiatives. To some extent Government got success in curbing the impact of separatism, however, remaining problems were seen constant. Especially, no significant change has been observed in eradication of youth alienation.

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