

Open Letter to Prime Minister on Kashmir

Dear Prime Minister,

In the past seven years, we have noticed your Government's painstaking, courageous and decisive efforts at attempting to resolve the complex Kashmir issue.

It is a matter of national pride that over these years, the Central Government tried all means possible to achieve this goal. The momentous decision to annul Article 35A and read-down Article 370, was efficiently implemented, with all necessary precautions to prevent the loss of life and property.

The complete integration of Kashmir with the Union of India was a long-pending unfinished task since India adopted the Constitution of India in 1950. Now, a citizen of Kashmir can proudly call himself/herself Indian and receive all benefits that the Indian State bestows on its citizens.

It is a matter of great satisfaction, that the Government's ability to foresee future events and to plan for all kinds of possibilities, led to tight control over crime, terrorism and public order since August 5, 2019.

Implementation of the plan was impeccable, given that Pakistan, the permanent interloper in matters regarding Kashmir, was boxed into a difficult position, given its earlier stand of non-recognition of Article 370. Of more interest is the fact that Pakistan is now calling for the reinstatement of State-hood for J&K, which amounts to accepting J&K as part of the Union of India and reiterates the Union Home Minister's announcement in Parliament to this effect.

Also appreciated is the manner in which Government organised an impeccable system of managing external pressures such as those from western nations and multilateral bodies like the UN, which had for several decades, been interfering in India's internal affairs regarding Kashmir. None of these external elements were able to create any significant impact, except the appearance of articles in media of choice. Almost two years have elapsed and the seal of integration with the Union is absolute.

The Central Government's most recent initiative at reaching out to political stakeholders and countering the twin elements of "Dil ki doori" and "Dilli ki doori", in order to enhance trust, is exemplary, reflecting a dynamic approach to policy-making.

We are hopeful that you will fulfil your promise of bringing economic development to J&K, with all the robust investment plans that have been finalised.

Some of your excellent achievements in Kashmir over the years are listed in the Annexure, meant for some of those who are always unhappy with whatever your Government does.

Yours sincerely,

No.	Name	Service	Cadre	Batch
1	AK Singh	IPS	GJ	1985
2	Badri Prasad Singh	IPS	UP	1990
3	Geeta Johri	IPS	GJ	1982
4	K Aravinda Rao	IPS	AP	1977
5	K Rajendra Kumar	IPS	JK	1984
6	KB Singh	IPS	OD	1985
7	M Nageswara Rao	IPS	OD	1986
8	PP Pandey	IPS	GJ	1982
9	Prakash Mishra	IPS	OD	1977
10	RKS Rathore	IPS	UP	1999
11	Shivanand Jha	IPS	GJ	1983
12	SK Rout	IPS	MP	1974
13	SP Vaid	IPS	JK	1986
14	Vikram Singh	IPS	UP	1974
15	Vivek Dube	IPS	AP	1981

Annexure – List of achievements in Jammu & Kashmir

In 2015, your first attempt was when the ruling BJP formed an alliance with PDP, focused on meaningful dialogue with all stakeholders, irrespective of ideological views.

In November of that year, Prime Minister announced a development package for strengthening socio-economic infrastructure and balanced regional development of J&K.

Since then, 20 large infrastructure projects are almost complete with ~60% of allotted funds expended and work at three hydel projects of 624 MW at Kiru, 1000 MW at Pakaldul and 850 MW at Rattle was initiated.

Under PMGSY, 214 projects completed, 148 habitations connected, 1,326 kms of road constructed and 3,500 kms of road black-topped.

J&K was also leading in implementation under PM Kisan Yojana with almost 10 lakh beneficiaries.

Under Swachh Bharat Mission, J&K UT became 100% open defecation-free and under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna, 369% increase in sanctioned houses.

A year later, in September 2016, the Indian Army launched ‘surgical strikes’ on terror camps/launch pads across the LoC to target terrorists planning to infiltrate into the valley or execute any border action. This was done in response to a terrorist attack on an Army brigade in Uri (Baramulla) in which 17 personnel were killed.

In 2017, resolute action was taken on unearthing the nexus of separatists with Pakistan and terrorism, with several leaders being prosecuted for terror financing by NIA and money laundering by ED. In this connection prominent separatists, including Masarat Alam, Asieya Andrabi, Altaf Ahmad Shah and Shabbir Shah were arrested and charged. In addition, investigations were launched against money laundering by separatists.

In November 2018, the Modi Government conducted incident-free elections to Panchayat and Urban local bodies, with a 74% voter-turnout of ~5.8 million, leading to the election of 3,650 *Sarpanch* and ~24,000 *Panch* members.

In February 2019, in retaliation to the killing of 40 CRPF personnel in a suicide attack by UN-designated terrorist organisation JeM in Pulwama, the Government had no option but to conduct air strikes on a JeM terrorist training camp in Balakot in Kyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan.

In 2019, the Government was forced to proscribe the radical politico-religious organisation, Jamat-e-Islami, J&K, a politico-religious organisation involved in supporting militancy and subversive activities in J&K.

In August 2019, Government passed the J&K Reorganisation Bill in Parliament and completely integrated the territory with the Union of India. This decision gave representation and residency rights to a number of diverse groups, including refugees from west Pakistan and Paharganj-speakers, who were hitherto denied rights to welfare and electoral processes. As a result, over 20,000 refugees from west Pakistan, Gorkhas and women married to non-J&K residents also became legitimate domiciles eligible to buy land and get jobs in J&K.

Besides, laws including Right to Education, National Commission for Minorities Act and Acts for the benefit of women, children and differently-abled are now applicable.

In order to improve employment and conditions thereof, for already-recruited, probation period was reduced from 5 to 2 years.

Legal provisions were made to extend reservations of 4% to pahari-speakers, 10% to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), as also to residents along the International Border and to the weak and under-privileged classes.

Reservation of Assembly seats for Scheduled Tribes was also introduced, for which a Delimitation Commission under a retired HC Judge was formed.

In 2020, the J&K Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 was amended, paving the way for creation of District Development Council (DDCs). Free and fair elections to these

councils in December 2020, witnessed ~52% voter-turnout, electing 278 members to 20 DDCs. As a result, after more than 13 years, the real elected representatives were given control of development in the region.

Further, elections were successfully held to 78 Urban Local Bodies, including 2 Municipal Corporations, 6 Municipal Councils and 70 Municipal Committees.

The J&K Health Scheme was approved to provide universal health coverage, free of cost to all residents of J&K not covered under Ayushman Bharat. Another scheme 'Sehat' would extend coverage to all residents of the Union Territory.
