

## Ready to talk to the youth but not to Pakistan

Those political leaders who keep repeating their stance that India, though the worst victim and sufferer due to nearly four decades of terrorism of Pakistan, should talk to that country, got a firm response from the Union Home Minister Amit Shah by out rightly rejecting such a possibility. The Government, instead, was ready to talk to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir was what the Union Home Minister, who on a three days visit to Jammu and Kashmir, made this very important and sensitive announcement in a largely attended public rally in Baramulla Kashmir. That is precisely for the reason that citizens of the country living in any part, having some grudges, demands, resentment or even dissatisfaction genuinely or otherwise and even mistakenly having taken law into their own hands, could still be talked to, convinced and even persuaded to leave the path of crime to join mainstream to live an honourable life in a democratic setup.

It was, on the contrary, utterly fallacious and ill conceived that a victim should talk to its perpetual hostile offender. Ambiguities, doubts and misgivings planted and nursed too about Kashmir and followed by flawed logic and lies to substantiate the same, are, one by one, getting exposed and negated by circumstantial, evidential, democratic and transparent measures including by constitutional means like abrogation of the Articles 370 and 35 A coupled by initiating massive developmental works and projects related to infrastructure, housing, medical education, power, investments and promotion of tourism. One of the numerous instances is the massive investments of Rs. 56000 crore during the last three years as against merely Rs.15000 crore all these 70 years. The Home Minister talked about the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi about Jammu and Kashmir regarding its development and bringing in massive investments to the region known to be the "terror hotspot" which, therefore, has become a "tourist hotspot".

If over a 1.05 crore tourists visited Jammu and Kashmir, all time high and a record of the first kind, and only during the first six months of the year 2022, who on earth can refute that Pakistan sponsored terrorism in Kashmir is counting its last breaths? Unless conditions did not improve to instil confidence of security in tourists, how could such a highest footfall of tourists be witnessed now and not earlier though Jammu and Kashmir did not "become" fantastically picturesque and with enchanting beauty only in the year 2022 driving as many tourists to visit the UT. In other words, peace and absolute order are fast returning though some isolated acts of violence mainly against innocent individuals do take place but the perpetrators are soon neutralised. Hence, not in any veiled form or with any prospective after thought, the promise of talking to the youth (to remove doubts and misgivings) by the Home Minister provided they shun the path of violence is a departure from the generally held view about such an eventuality and demonstration of intrinsic intentions of the Modi Government to see Jammu and Kashmir developing fast and peace and complete normalcy returning very soon.

Two public meetings, one in Rajouri in Jammu Province and the other in Baramulla in Kashmir valley in which massive public strength was witnessed heralds a totally new change brewing in Kashmir in particular where the scenario for negativities, pessimism, doubts and misgivings are replaced by new hopes and aspirations. It was, therefore, right time for all these mainstream politicians in Jammu and Kashmir to further strengthen it and not create confusions or promising to build castles without any foundations like restoring Article 370 and promising the moon in any political sense not enshrined in the constitution of India. What is the level of economic development in Pakistan occupied Kashmir and how Pakistan and its troops were treating the occupied areas as colonised by them thus subjecting the citizens to repression on slightest dissent must be openly discussed to remove illusions and delusions both, in those misguided youth who have, all these over three decades been wantonly exploited in the name of religion and manufactured concepts by Pakistan and kept in the dark. Therefore, the misguided and misled youth must not lose the opportunity to shun the path of violence and must join the mainstream.

Col Ajay K Raina

In the globalised world that stands shrunk thanks to an unprecedented speed of information travel, many terms and clichés originating in one corner of the globe become part of the everyday discourse in a matter of few days, if not hours. Two such terms, Global South and Climate Injustice, though not new, have suddenly caught the attention of observers, commentators and scholars. Let us try and understand what these terms mean and how these impact a large chunk of the world's populace.

### GLOBAL SOUTH

In "Global South" (2017; Oxford Bibliographies in Literary and Critical Theory), Anne Garland Mahler puts forth a very elaborate definition of the Global South. As per her, the Global South as a critical concept has three primary definitions. First, it has traditionally been used within intergovernmental development organisations--primarily those that originated in the Non-Aligned Movement--to refer to economically disadvantaged nation-states and as a post-cold war alternative to the Third World.

In this second definition, the Global South captures a deterritorialized geography of capitalism's externalities and means to account for subjugated peoples within the borders of wealthier countries, such that there are economic Souths in the geographic North and Norths in the geographic South. Through this deterritorial conceptualisation, a third meaning is attributed to the Global South, which refers to the resistant imaginary of a transnational political subject resulting from a shared experience of subjugation under contemporary global capitalism.

In a nutshell, the term, Global South, is employed in a transnational sense to address spaces and peoples negatively impacted by contemporary capitalist globalisation. The moniker global is used to derange the South from the geography.

No wonder then that India is the leading voice on the issue. Repeated usage of this term by our Prime Minister, External Affairs Minister, Ambassadors to the United Nations etc. on global platforms, indicates that the time has come to call a spade a spade. Many injustices that one tends to relate to the dark era of colonisation continue to exist in different forms even today. This particular term is the man-

Sushil Kuttu

There was Sir C Sankaran Nair, the only Malayali Congress president in a 100 plus years. He was elected in 1897. Nair rose from obscurity to prominence and left behind a big family and a sprawling estate. A grandson was Lt. Gen. Candeth, the liberator of Goa. Those early years, the attrition rate of Congress presidents was high-one Congress president every other year. Shankaran Nair's tenure did not break the mundane trend.

Now, after more than a century, there is a Malayali in the fray. But whether Shashi Tharoor, who hails from Nair's native Palakkad district, will attain the pinnacle is doomed-to-be not perceived as the Gandhi family's candidate. But he persists against mounting odds.

Tharoor is a brave man. He doesn't mind being lynched by his own party men. The 9500 delegates eligible to vote will overwhelmingly vote Mallikarjun Kharge, whose honour it is to be the Gandhi family's undeclared candidate.

Tharoor goes into the fight with this special handicap.

Kharge Vs. Tharoor and Tharoor has no chance worth quoting. Kharge's proposers include an array of the "rebel" G-23 Congress leaders. Also, Saturday October 1, Kharge submitted his resignation from the LOP, Rajya Sabha, post to Sonia Gandhi. If that doesn't ensure that the grand old party remains stuck in its self-inflicted rut, what will?

The yearly attrition of Congress presidents was laid to rest by the Nehru-Gandhi family years ago with no regrets. The highest tenure record is in the name of Sonia Gandhi--20+2 years. Ironically, this

Rajan Gandhi

Politics is always an art to understand public sentiment as well as regional dynamics, our PM Narendra Modi ji has special mastery of this. Wherever he goes his connect with masses is too obvious and reasons are not hard to find. December 2013 Jammu's Lalkar Rally was one such intercession which changed political discourse of Jammu and Kashmir forever. Among other issues one most important aspect was his special reference to his earlier Jammu and Kashmir visits as an ordinary karyakarta. He told, "My association with Jammu and Kashmir is very close. Today a gentleman came here and gifted me a 25 year-old picture of mine and reminded me of my old days here. Today I specially want to think of my Gujar friends, who used to say that we are your people. We are associated with Gujarat that is why we are called as Gujarars. They used to say that our ancestors have been associated with Gujarat, and I can even today see that the living style, the dressing pattern and culture of people in a few areas in Gujarat is very similar to my Gujar friends. Gujar families where I used to have food, even the taste of food was a bit sweet like the food in Gujarat. Friends, even today you have come here in large numbers, and I feel really happy meeting my own people..! Friends, in Kargil, where the people of Shia community live, I have stayed there for some time and have tried understanding their problems. Jammu & Kashmir development, there are talks of progress in Kashmir Valley but what is the reason that the Shia community of Kargil is left untouched from development and growth, why this unfairness to them..? Injustice with Gujar, Bakarwal and Shia community... separating them from others, pushing them backwards, till when will it last? In Jammu & Kashmir, the politics of discrimination that prevails, injustice with Ladakh at times, sometimes getting unfair with Jammu, getting unfair with Shias on various occasions and then treating Gujarars or Bakarwal in unjust manner... till when will this inequity prevail?"

Upliftment of backward and leftover communities have been hallmark of Modi Government throughout his tenure, be it through various schemes or direct representation at top positions of party as well as India. Selection of President Ram Nath Kovind earlier and now Droupadi Murmu is a testimony that he keeps up his promises at every juncture. Jammu and Kashmir is no exception as with nomination of Er. Gulam Ali Khatana as member Rajya Sabha PM Modi has fulfilled his promise of Lalkar Rally. With this Master Stroke PM Modi has once again set new parameters for upcoming Assembly elections in JKUT. Dynamics of Jammu and Kashmir are quite clear, as per 2011 census Gujar and Bakarwals are around 12% of total population and are decisive in around 20 assembly segments. Recent Delimitation exercise was not just gerrymandering as accused by many but a well planned intentional step to provide 9 assembly seats to Schedule Tribes (6 in Jammu Division and 3 in Kashmir) and 7 to Scheduled Castes. Minutest political calculations have been done to get maximum out of every move. With around 69% population of total in UT, Muslims cannot be out of scheme for any political party.

Since 2019 there is total vacuum of elected representatives in UT, with only 5 MPs to represent 1.5 crore population and none in Rajya Sabha, too little to live up to public expectations. Things for BJP are even more troublesome as no Muslim face is representing the Government with the result a feeling of disconnect. With nomination of Er Gulam Ali Khatana this vacuum has been filled both for Jammu as well as Kashmir. Elevation of Khatana is again a testimony that any BJP dedicated worker can become PM or President or CM or an MP. Rise of Khatana is neither sudden nor unexpected, his moderate humble childhood, initial schooling and then transformation into leader during his engineering college days, a step by step

# Tharoor Vs Kharge

was the constant Rahul Gandhi wanted broken. "No more Gandhi for Congress president" was a Rahul Gandhi template. The assumption was that without a Gandhi at the helm, the Congress will turn a new leaf with a non-Gandhi at the helm!

The "bada payd" - mentioned by Rajiv Gandhi after Indira Gandhi's assassination - will rejuvenate from the grassroots. That, however, was not

after a non-Gandhi is elected Congress President. Candidate Tharoor also spoke of the "ghar wapas" of millions of traditionally Congress voters who had fallen to the Hindutva trap!

All that said, there are actually two Congress now, one ensconced in Delhi's 10 Janpath, and the other marching towards Kashmir on the legs and shoulders of Rahul Gandhi. Which of the "two



the only change envisaged. A fixed tenure for the Congress President would also be a game-changer. The fact that some Congressmen started talking of a Gandhi family president in the past tense was seen as proof of a fresh wind blowing. Candidate Shashi Tharoor told a newspaper September 30 that the Gandhi family would continue to be regarded as "very significant leading lights" even

Congress will survive five months when the Bharat Jodo Yatra winds up in Kashmir" is the question?

Shashi Tharoor on his part has not left a shred of doubt that if elected he will be an "independent-minded" Congress president.

The octogenarian Kharge is regarded as a "continuity with least change" candidate. He will roll whichever way the Gandhi family rolls the dice.

Mallikarjun Kharge is respected by everybody in the Congress. At 80, his seniority is acknowledged and established. He is also a Dalit, a paler version of the long departed Jagjivan Ram. Whether Kharge will be able to sway the Dalit vote in the Congress party's favour is fantasy mixed in the whimsical.

Kharge's role in the Congress is fixed in the minds of the Gandhi family. Tharoor might as well withdraw and be happy in the new Lok Sabha. This election is a farce clothed in masquerade. Everybody including the mainstream media is acting out the charade. To them, Kharge has already been "elected" and anointed.

Tharoor is the "change" candidate when the Congress "high command" wants "continuity with change", whatever that means. "Can Mallikarjun Kharge ensure that?" The continuity, definitely, but not the touted "change". Mallikarjun Kharge is a fossil incapable of change, or heralding change. For the most part, a fossil will only fill in space and till as long as there is a Gandhi in the mix, Kharge will remain the fossil that will keep the Congress president's seat warm.

Five months to the day after Kharge is elected Congress president, and by the time the Bharat Jodo Yatra has found its destination, Kharge's real place in the Congress hierarchy will be made known. The Gandhi family wouldn't mind giving the post of the Prime Minister to a non-Gandhi, like it did when Manmohan Singh was made Prime Minister, but for the last 40-50 years, the Congress President's post has been for a Gandhi because the Congress party is a Nehru-Gandhi property, for keeps! Shashi Tharoor will have to live with that fait accompli! (IPA)

## Gulam Ali as MP

# Game changer for BJP

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rise to power corridor. GCET was the first engineering college in Jammu Division and to establish it Gulam Ali Khatana played a very crucial role, right from approval to land allocation to construction and finally establishment of engineering college, initially named as Jammu College of Engineering Technology but afterwards politically motivated got changed to Government College of Engineering and Technology (GCET). This college was initial politi-

brought thousands of Muslims in the RSS/BJP fold. He worked as National Co-Convenor Muslim Rashtriya Manch, incharge Northern India, was instrumental in getting over one lakh Muslim signatures from Jammu Division for Gau Raksha Abhiyan which Muslim Rashtriya Manch submitted to the President of India. As member of famous Lalkar Rally at Jammu he mobilized over ten thousand Gujarars at MA Stadium Jammu of whom four thousand



cal learning class of Khatana, subsequently got associated with Jammu Joint Students Federation, a premier students organization. Khatana was prominently involved in JJSF led 1998 MBBS/BDS selection list agitation and who can forget one week hunger strike of Khatana after which SMVDU and SKUAST Jammu got established. He never looked back as afterwards he joined Panthers Party in 2001 and learnt a lot from Prof Bhim Singh. Shri Amarant agitation of 2008 changed the course as he tilted towards RSS, worked for communal harmony at that crucial juncture and despite living in the most sensitive area of Kashmiri Muslims dominated Bhatindi at Jammu he

appeared with turbans which was clearly noticed by Modi ji as such specifically addressed Gujarars as mentioned above. In BJP he worked in the BJP National team of Tribal Morcha as Secretary and National Minority Morcha as Vice President and as Prabhari Uttar Pradesh, to his credit his many suggestions have already been implemented. He got responsibility of J&K Tribal/Minority Morcha from 2010 to 2012, as Secretary J&K BJP from 2012 to 2018 and Prabhari of Ramban and Doda districts. He was elevated as Vice President of J&K BJP from 2018 to 2020. He was member of Rajnath Singh led Study Group on J&K comprising Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, Raman

Singh MP and at present he was Spokesperson of J&K BJP. Till date, to his credit, Gulam Ali has conducted thousands of programmes from Lakhapur to Kupwara - Kishtwar to Poonch for spreading the message of BJP/RSS policies and programmes among Muslims and still continuing. He was actively involved in awareness of Article 370 issues and as such got printed over 5 lakh pamphlets on Article 370, circulated it among Muslim population of J&K in the age group of 40 plus after identifying them from voter lists. Being Co-convenor of Mahasampark Abhiyan in J&K he organised several seminars on Article 370.

With all these feathers in his cap, Er Gulam Ali Khatana is unsung Navrattan of Modi team who has worked tirelessly for years together for BJP/RSS without any lure or ambition, got encouragement from Central leadership in the form of various party positions from time to time and right now is key leader of happening both at Central and UT. After Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Shah Nawaz Hussain it seems he has to play a pivotal role as PM Modi's resolve for embracing and upliftment of Pasmanda Muslims and it is another historic turn in BJP history. Pasmanda is a Persian word broadly meaning backward people at disadvantage. There is misconception that muslims don't have caste system and discrimination, Kunjre (Raen), Julaha (Ansari), Dhuniya (Mansoori), Kasai (Qureshi), Hajjam (Salmani), Carpenter (Saifi), Manihar (Siddiqui), Tailor (Idrisi) are few to mention.

With all the above facts and secular activities of Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, it isn't surprising that his nomination to Rajya Sabha has been widely welcomed across all castes, religions and political parties across Jammu as well as Kashmir. Presence of different party leaders at his felicitation functions held by various organisations at different districts of J&K is another milestone in today's political scenario. Lining of groups of people at his Bhatindi residence makes one believe he is unique, ready to meet and greet one and all, attends all incoming calls personally. Jammu and Kashmir has found a leader to connect with and public is rejoiced with PM Modi's, HM Amit Shah's and BJP President JP Nadda's choice. Fact is BJP has found a perfect 'Game Changer'.

# An emerging new world order

ifestation of the frustration running through the minds of those deprived and exploited by the rich and privileged. This is a collective feeling as a nation or a group of nations and transcends national and international geographies.

### CLIMATE JUSTICE

As per the United Nations, the impacts of climate change will not be borne equally or fairly between rich and poor. Climate Justice, thus, is a concept that recognises that the effects of climate change are not felt equally. Before we dwell further, it may be worthwhile to take a look at another related term Environmental Justice. The United States Environmental Protection Agency describes envi-

na, points at 'per capita emission figures, thus, (mis-)using its population numbers to stand behind other countries like Saudi Arabia when it comes to the list of the leading perpetrators.

During the recently concluded UN annual session, Pakistan, which is reeling under unprecedented floods, was very vocal about Climate Justice/Injustice. Similar is the story across the Global South, where many nations with no audience to speak to continue to suffer in silence. It is another issue, though, that such countries suffer more than the others because of their inability to take meaningful action in time. A case in point is Pakistan. While the floods have been heavier than ever before, the fact remains that Pakistan,

change across the globe because of various factors. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, we have lived in a unipolar world. Call it mismanagement of international affairs or a willful effort to keep the pot boiling, the USA didn't accept Russia's offer to ensure lasting world peace by aligning Russian interests with those of the USA in particular and NATO in general. Instead, the USA chose to pamper China. And then, one fine September morning, the twin towers were hit, and the world was never the same again. As the USA put its energy and dollars fighting in far lands, China quietly kept on rising, and before the USA could get a grip, it was sucked into a trade war with China. Ukraine war, irrespective of its origin, is rightfully seen as an effort of the West to target China through Russia. Economic sanctions were imposed, and while the results have been contrary to what was expected, the buildings continue to fall in Ukraine even today.

Traditionally, a nation's power is dictated by its economy and military might. The US, under the present leadership, is seen by many as a state past its peak. China is seeing a huge fall in its fortunes thanks to its real estate crash, an ill-conceived debt policy and the crisis in the banking sector. Russia, in all its probability, is likely to emerge as a much-weakened power after the ongoing conflict. Europe, on the whole, is staring at a recession as the energy crisis looms. The downturn is also threatening the US mainland. Despite many doomsday predictions and some unethical journalistic coverage, India has come out of Covid as the global pharmacy. Unlike any other major world economy, we continue to grow at a healthy pace.

It is unwise to write off any power so soon, and yet the fact remains that international affairs are undergoing a churning that has not been witnessed since the end of WW 2. Whether India continues to rise or other powers keep going south is hazardous to guess. But the fact remains that in another decade, we may see a power structure centred around a power from Global South—a power that speaks for the deprived and fights for the climatic justice. Such alignments may not be dictated solely by economic or military dimensions but by compassion and a deep civilisational tradition that sees the whole world as one big family.

Will India fit the bill? We will only know in the years to follow. (The author is a military historian and a Founder Trustee of the Military History Research Foundation, India)

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ronmental justice as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, colour, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

In essence, therefore, environmental justice and climate justice are two sides of the same coin. While climate justice aims for parity about the impacts of climate change, environmental justice works towards fairness in how communities and lawmakers respond to climate change. Despite these concepts, the sad fact remains that while the rich and developed countries are responsible for the bulk of greenhouse gas emissions, the worst sufferers of the impact happen to be poor, undeveloped countries that form part of the Global South. A short search on the internet will reveal how the biggest culprit, Chi-

marred by corruption and misuse, has never tried to construct dams and such infrastructure that could have helped mitigate the ongoing crisis.

### EMERGING NEW WORLD ORDER

Traditionally, world order refers to a chosen array of power and authority associated with realising such values as peace, economic growth, equity and sustainability. Cambridge Dictionary defines the New World Order as a political situation in which the countries of the world are no longer divided because of their support for either of the superpowers and instead work together to solve global problems.

Therefore, in layman's language, the emergence of a new world order refers to the phenomenon of power equations undergoing