

## CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

The global pandemic caused by the Covid virus continues to persist. The second wave has arrived in Europe. It is more than six month since India is grappling with the pandemic, national lockdown to control its wild spread and consequent impact over economy.

The normal routine in academic world has also been adversely affected. The research communities require exploration of new places, meeting diverse people and working in the laboratories in a liberal atmosphere. The social distancing norms, ubiquity of masks and restrictions on travels have dampened the liberal spirit of the research community.

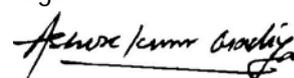
This is now visible in the flow of research papers for the Journal of Indian Research. Until and unless we receive variety of research findings, to bring out an exemplary issue out of the limited choice is extremely difficult. In spite of such constraints, we have received quality papers from the scholars.

Afsana Rashid working at the University of Kashmir, Srinagar has sent her research over improvements of livelihood activities among women of North Kashmir. The study found that most of the widows and youth believed that conflict in Kashmir over the past more than two decades have adversely affected their livelihood patterns. Some have lost the bread-winner of the family to the conflict, others could not market their goods, some lost their jobs due to the effect of conflict on business and others shifted to alternate livelihoods. In case of families directly affected by conflict, there was greater number of child labourers, an increased dropout rate from school, frequent health problems and severe financial constraints making it hard for them to make two ends meet. Some women were still struggling hard to bring their families back to conditions that prevailed when their husbands were alive.

To overcome such a prevailing condition, what is required is impetus to the economic activities. In his 1885 article, *Datsu A-ron* ("Leaving Asia"), Japanese influential thinker Fukuzawa Yukichi (1835-1901) compared civilization to the measles because it spread rapidly. He wrote that the spread of civilization and enlightenment (*bummei kaika*) has a force akin to that of measles, Countries cannot violate the natural law of its spread. Those who forcibly try to avoid it by shutting off air from their rooms; without air, they suffocate to death. The same goes with the logic of economic growth. The state of Jammu & Kashmir was shut off from the outside. While rest of India has been on a path to catch up with the best in the world, the state of Jammu and Kashmir was caught up in the isolation.

Recently, the Indian Government has issued a notification declaring that any Indian citizen can now purchase land in the municipal areas of Jammu & Kashmir regardless of whether they are a domicile in the UT or not. However, the latest provision does not include agricultural land. The enactment of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of Central Laws) Third Order, 2020 follows the revocation of J&K's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution in August 2019. The notification has also extended domicile status to the spouse of a J&K domicile. This would help in bringing much-needed fresh breeze to the state.

I sincerely wish that the lockdowns are over soon and the pandemic is finally tamed. This would bring the much-needed fresh air to the world of academia once again.



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