Talking of Kashmir:

On China raising Kashmir issue again at UNSC

While opposing internationalising of the Kashmir dispute, India must engage Pakistan

For the second time since the government’s decision on Article 370 in August last year, China raised the issue of Kashmir at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on Wednesday, prompting a protest from New Delhi. In its response, the government said that Beijing should “refrain” from bringing a bilateral issue into the UNSC, and accused China of working at Pakistan’s behest. New Delhi’s response also pointed to the “overwhelming majority” of Security Council members being opposed to the Chinese reference on conditions in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), which resulted in a lack of consensus for any kind of statement at the end of the meeting.

India’s case rests on the 1972 Shimla accord, where India and Pakistan agreed to resolve the Kashmir issue bilaterally. China’s repeated raising of Kashmir since last August, which includes an aborted attempt in December, is unconstructive and will impact the India-China bilateral relationship if it continues. It is also unlikely to push the government, which has already defied several international calls from friendly countries, into lifting restrictions or rolling back its measures in Kashmir. Given that New Delhi has refrained from raising similar issues over Tibet, Xinjiang or Hong Kong, it is unfair on the part of Beijing to take its concerns to the international stage, especially since President Xi Jinping didn’t officially raise such concerns while visiting India in October.

While China’s move may be unwarranted, it is yet another reason for New Delhi to take heed of the continuing and unprecedented criticism of its actions in Kashmir. Prior to August, the last time Kashmir was raised at the UNSC format was in 1971; it has since been raised twice within a period of five months. China may have found no takers for a statement, but the fact that it was allowed to raise the issue at the UNSC cannot be brushed away. Nor can India maintain the duality of insisting, on the one hand, that Kashmir is a bilateral issue and, on the other hand, rejecting all bilateral talks with Pakistan. At some point, the government must push for normalisation of ties with Pakistan as well as for the lifting of restrictions in Jammu and Kashmir.

In the past few days, it seems the government has decided to review some of its decisions taken in August: it has released political prisoners and restored 2G connectivity to select places; it has also taken one group of envoys to Srinagar and Jammu, and is making plans for 36 Cabinet Ministers, who have not visited the region yet, to travel there. These measures, however, must
not come in dribs and drabs, but must be comprehensive. Only when all communications are restored, all political prisoners freed and added security restrictions removed can the real task of healing in J&K even begin.

**ALL IN ONE VOCABULARY**

(1) Sagging adjective hanging down (as from exhaustion or weakness)
(2) Internationalising noun अंतरराष्ट्रीय बनाना make international.
(3) prompting noun प्रोत्साहन encouragement
(4) Refrain verb दूर रहना resist doing something
(5) bilateral adjective द्विपक्षीय having two sides or parts
(6) accused noun दोषी a defendant in a criminal proceeding
(7) Consensus noun सर्वसम्मति agreement in the judgment
(8) Aborted निष्काल terminate before completion
(9) Unconstructive adjective अरचनात्मक not constructive
(10) Defied verb विरोध करना to resist (a powerful person, authority, etc) openly and boldly
(11) Heed verb ध्यान देना pay close attention to
(12) Unprecedented adjective अद्वितीय matchless / unique
(13) Restrictions noun प्रतिबंध
(14) Envoys noun प्रतिनिधि someone sent on a mission to represent the interests of someone else
(15) dribs and drabs noun INFORMAL in small scattered or sporadic amounts.

**PROVERBS**

Proverb 7: It takes two to make a quarrel.
Hindi Equivalent: एक हाथ से ताली नहीं बजती.
Meaning: जब दो लोगो में विवाद होता है तो दोनों की ही कुछ न कुछ गलती होती है
Proverb 8: Barking dogs seldom bite.
Hindi Equivalent: जो गरजते हैं वो बरसते नहीं.
Meaning: जो ज्यादा बोलते हैं वे कुछ करते नहीं हैं.
ONE WORD SUBSTITUTION

4. Voluntary Giving Up Of Throne In Favour Of Someone Abdication त्याग
5. Do Away With Abolish समाप्त करना
6. The Original Inhabitants Of A Country Aborigines मुलनिवासी

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