

WAY TO GO: ON FAROOQ ABDULLAH'S RELEASE

The Centre must do more to restore normalcy in J&K, and return it to full statehood.

The release of five-time Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Farooq Abdullah on Saturday after seven months in detention is a welcome step that could open fresh political possibilities in the troubled region. The conditions of his release, if any, are not public but it is clear that there were backchannels open between him and the Centre before the release. Taken together with other recent relaxations in J&K that was put under a lockdown last August as the Centre unilaterally ended its special constitutional status, his release could help reopen the public space in the Valley. Coinciding with his release, Prime Minister Modi assured a delegation of the newly formed Apni Party led by former People's Democratic Party (PDP) leader Altaf Bukhari that he would work towards the restoration of statehood for J&K, which was downgraded to a Union Territory as part of last year's restructuring. Mr. Modi also said no demographic changes would be forced in J&K. Earlier, mobile telephony was restored fully and mobile Internet partially. However, restrictions on assembly remain largely in place, and hundreds, including two former Chief Ministers, Omar Abdullah and Mehbooba Mufti, still remain in detention. Their staggered release could be the next step towards normalcy.

Mr. Modi's moves have often been characterised by surprise and subterfuge, including on J&K. There could be justification for such secrecy in statecraft, but new beginnings in the Valley will require more openness as there is a considerable trust deficit between its people and New Delhi. The Centre should not try to orchestrate politics but engage with it as it organically evolves. Hard as it is, the Centre must try and undo the damage it did to mainstream parties such as the National Conference and the PDP. It must allow all opinions to be articulated. Coercive measures must be limited to combating violence. It must shun the baseless notion that communities will surrender political autonomy in return for material prosperity. Above all, it must end its perilous propensity to paint the demands for autonomy and separatism with the same brush. J&K's instrumental status as a place for demonstrating the strength of the Indian nation in the current government's imagination is not helpful. There is also an evolving international situation that could complicate the situation. With the long-expected U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan now imminent, Islamist forces in South Asia are feeling triumphant and are using the current communal turmoil in India to paint it as a Hindu theocracy. The Pakistani military establishment will exploit the situation to India's disadvantage. India's approach towards J&K must be people-centric and guided by a resolute commitment to its diversity and religious pluralism.

1. **(have a long) way to go** (phrase) – to do a lot of work before accomplishing a goal.
2. **way to go!** (phrase) – used to tell someone when they have done something well.
3. **normalcy** (noun) – a normal condition; normality, regularity.
4. **statehood** (noun) – the condition of being an independent state.
5. **detention** (noun) – confinement/incarceration, captivity, custody.
6. **back channel** (noun) – relating to a secondary or secret route.
7. **lock down** (noun) – confinement, restraint, encirclement.
8. **unilaterally** (adverb) – used to indicate something done by a person/country without approval/agreement from other people/countries involved in the situation.
9. **delegation** (noun) – a body of representatives.

10. **downgrade** (verb) – lower in status, reduce in rank, demote.
11. **demographic** (adjective) – relating to the statistical study/structure of populations, especially human beings.
12. **staggered** (adjective) – spaced out, spread out, timed at intervals (of something as they don't happen at the same time).
13. **characterise** (verb) – identify, specify, describe.
14. **subterfuge** (noun) – deception, cunning, trickery/tactic, intrigue.
15. **secrecy** (noun) – confidentiality, secretiveness, privateness.
16. **statecraft** (noun) – statesmanship, negotiations/discussions; the skilful management of a country's public affairs.
17. **openness** (noun) – lack of restriction/secrecy; transparency, straightforwardness, clearness/candidness.
18. **considerable** (adjective) – significant, substantial, a lot of.
19. **trust deficit** (noun) – lack of trust (on authorities-from societal point of view). Situations with low levels of trust are not supportive and often counterproductive. People feel vulnerable and look at each other with suspicion. As a result, they are less open, since they fear that they will not be fairly treated by the other side.
20. **orchestrate** (verb) – organize, plan/put together, mastermind, choreograph.
21. **organically** (adverb) – in a natural way.
22. **evolve** (verb) – develop, progress, advance.
23. **undo** (verb) – reverse, cancel, invalidate/annul.
24. **mainstream** (adjective) – accepted/established/recognized something by most people as a normal/conventional.
25. **articulate** (verb) – express, point out, mention.
26. **coercive** (adjective) – authoritarian, overbearing/tough/harsh, high-handed.
27. **combat** (verb) – fight, tackle, confront/resist.
28. **shun** (verb) – avoid, evade, eschew, steer clear of.
29. **notion** (noun) – idea, belief, concept.
30. **autonomy** (noun) – self-determination, freedom, independence (from external control/influence).
31. **material** (adjective) – related to money or possessions. (material prosperity is defined as having a lot of possessions or things, such as cars, homes, etc.,).
32. **prosperity** (noun) – success, comfort, good fortune, well being.
33. **perilous** (adjective) – dangerous, risky, life-threatening.
34. **propensity** (noun) – tendency, inclination, predisposition, readiness.
35. **paint** (verb) – portray, depict, represent.
36. **separatism** (noun) – dissension, nonconformity, dissent/faction.
37. **instrumental** (adjective) – helpful, useful; significant, important.
38. **imminent** (adjective) – close/near, about to happen, approaching/impending.
39. **triumphant** (adjective) – victorious, successful, winning.
40. **turmoil** (noun) – disorder, turbulence, confusion, trouble, chaos.
41. **theocracy** (noun) – A form of government in which God or a deity of some type is recognized as the supreme ruling authority. A form of government by religious leaders.
42. **exploit** (verb) – take advantage of, make use of, utilize.

43. **people-centric** (adjective) – relating to a leadership which values people’s need & requirement and make them feel safe & happy.
 44. **resolute** (adjective) – determined, firm, resolved.
 45. **pluralism** (noun) – (of people) the practice exist in harmony irrespective of various differences.
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NEEDLESS APPEAL: ON U.P. MOVE AGAINST REMOVAL OF ‘NAME AND SHAME’ POSTERS

HC rap for violating citizens’ privacy through banners has had no effect on Yogi’s regime

It is regrettable that the Uttar Pradesh government has appealed against the Allahabad High Court order directing the removal of hoardings in Lucknow that displayed details of those who participated in the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act. Further, it has approved an ordinance that provides for recovery of compensation from those suspected of involvement in rioting for any damage to property. In a quick and well-reasoned response, the court curbed the administration’s gross misuse of power. Even though the Supreme Court’s vacation judges were sceptical about the legal basis of the government’s action, they referred it to a larger Bench, observing that crucial questions of law were involved. It is difficult to see what arcane legal question has arisen, considering that the High Court’s order was on the grounds that the erection of the hoardings lacked statutory backing and that it was a gross violation of citizens’ privacy. The Lucknow administration had displayed the photographs, names and addresses of those who, it claimed, owed compensation for the alleged destruction of public property during the protests. There has been no judicial finding that those named were involved in such violence; and there is no law that authorises such public “naming and shaming”. It was quite apparent that the government was humiliating the protesters and exposing them to danger from the CAA’s supporters and the government.

Once the High Court Bench, headed by Chief Justice Govind Mathur and Justice Ramesh Sinha, took *suo motu* cognisance of the development, the government could not justify its action on any legal ground. All it could do was come up with weak objections to the court acting on its own motion, arguing that those featured in the banners had the capacity to seek legal redress themselves, and also questioning whether the principal seat in Allahabad could take cognisance of developments in Lucknow, which has its own Bench. At a time when the higher judiciary is seen to be passive before a powerful executive, the court’s resolve to act on its own against a case of obvious injustice and violation of fundamental rights is quite commendable. Its approach was rooted in the revived privacy rights jurisprudence established by a nine-Judge apex court Bench in *K.S. Puttaswamy*. Applying the tests laid down in that verdict, the top court ruled that there was no necessity for a democratic government to disclose anyone’s identity and particulars without a legitimate purpose. And that choosing a small group among hundreds arrested in connection with the violence during the protests for the public display was a “colourable exercise” of power. That the State government went on appeal shows that the judicial order hardly had any chastening effect on the regime that has been displaying unusual stridency in its crackdown on the anti-CAA protests.

1. **naming and shaming** (phrase) – to publicly identify someone who have done something wrong.
2. **rap** (verb) – reprimand, criticism, censure, disapproval.
3. **regrettable** (adjective) – undesirable, unfortunate, disappointing/distressing.
4. **well-reasoned** (adjective) – based on logical/coherent reason.
5. **curb** (verb) – restrain, restrict, control; put the brakes on.

6. **gross** (adjective) – disgusting/shocking, uninviting, unsavoury, disagreeable; palpable, flagrant/blatant, glaring/evident.
7. **vacation judge** (noun) – the judge who is appointed to hear the pending cases and urgent matters during the vacation period.
8. **sceptical** (adjective) – doubtful, distrustful, disappointed.
9. **arcane** (adjective) – mysterious, secret, hidden/concealed.
10. **on the ground** (phrase) – in a situation/place where things are happening really/practically.
11. **lack** (verb) – require, in need of; be without, be deficient in.
12. **statutory** (adjective) – legitimate, acceptable, permissible/admissible.
13. **backing** (noun) – support, approval, endorsement.
14. **owe** (verb) – be in debit, be indebted, be obligated to.
15. **alleged** (adjective) – supposed, purported, reported.
16. **authorise** (verb) – approve, endorse, permit/allow.
17. **apparent** (adjective) – evident/clear, visible, noticeable, recognizable.
18. **humiliate** (verb) – embarrass, degrade, shame.
19. **suo motu** (phrase) – Latin term means “on its own motion”. It is used where a government agency acts on its own knowledge.
20. **take cognisance of** (phrase) – consider something; take something into account, give attention to something, to take notice of something.
21. **ground** (noun) – reason, cause, basis.
22. **come up with** (phrasal verb) – produce, put forward, present/submit.
23. **motion** (noun) – a written request/proposal/application to the court to obtain an asked-for order, ruling, or direction.
24. **redress** (noun) – compensation, reparation, restitution; remedy.
25. **passive** (adjective) – submissive, unassertive, unresisting/unassuming, obedient.
26. **executive** (noun) – the executive is a branch of government which enforces the law as written by the legislature and interpreted by the judiciary.
27. **resolve** (noun) – decision, resolution, commitment.
28. **commendable** (adjective) – admirable, praiseworthy, laudable.
29. **be root in** (verb) – have as an origin.
30. **revivified** (adjective) – re-energize, fortified, bolstered, strengthened.
31. **jurisprudence** (noun) – body of laws/rules; legal system.
32. **lay down** (phrasal verb) – formulate, stipulate, frame.
33. **necessity** (noun) – essential requirement, prerequisite.
34. **legitimate** (adjective) – valid, reasonable, reliable.
35. **colourable** (adjective) – looking like a correct/right (thing), but it is actually an incorrect/wrong (thing).
36. **chastening** (adjective) – making someone regret that they have done something wrong; have a humbling/restraining/humiliating effect; disciplining/punishing someone who have behaved badly.
37. **stridency** (noun) – the state of being strident/harsh/rough.
38. **crackdown** (noun) – getting tough, restriction, suppression/repression.