



Jehlum Post News|Srinagar| Jan 10, 2014 Peoples Democratic Party patron Mufti Muhammad Sayeed Friday said that his party has a proper agenda to address the basic Kashmir issue. Talking to reporters soon after senior journalist Nayeema Ahmed Mehjoor joined PDP, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed said that Kashmir is the basic issue and to settle this issue there is need to create conducive atmosphere. "Our party has a proper agenda to settle this issue," he said. He said that a dialogue can resolve all vexed problems. "Dialogue is one and the only way to solve all problems, and there is a need to accelerate the initiatives for resumption of a meaningful dialogue," he said. "Our party had convinced

both India and Pakistan to announce a ceasefire in 2003 and take confidence building measures to restore peace in this region," he said. "Whatever steps we initiated for restoring peace, successive regimes in Delhi endorsed our stand from time to time." He said that during his meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, he clearly stated that people of Jammu and Kashmir want peace and friendship between India and Pakistan. He emphasized the need to expand the process of cross-LoC (Line of Control) cooperation and trade in Jammu and Kashmir. "India-Pakistan cooperation is the key to resolving the region's problems." Sayeed expressed concern over the recent border skirmishes between the Indian and Pakistan army along the Jammu and Kashmir border. "Some concrete steps should be taken to avoid a re-occurrence of such incidents, which only bring hardship and miseries to the border residents," he said. He said politics is the foundation of nations and to make it credible and accountable people from different walks of life need to join into it and the PDP offers a respectable space for such people who want contribute in changing the political narrative of Jammu and Kashmir. "The emergence of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) at New Delhi is a good omen for the politics of the country and has given a hope that people with ideas and missionary zeal can help in creating a new political environment," he said.

Welcoming the internationally acclaimed journalist, broadcaster and writer, Nayeema Ahmad Mahjoor into the party fold, Mufti said the appearance of the PDP on the political sphere of

Jammu and Kashmir changed the political discourse in the state and helped a great deal to end the monopoly of a single party, and helped competitive democratic exercise that not only provided people an alternative but resulted in generation of hope and reduction of distress in a substantial measure. He said there is a common thinking around the world and in the country now that people with integrity need to join the politics in making the change happen on the ground and to ensure good governance. PDP, Mufti said, believes that politics can only be made people friendly only when professionals like Nayeema Ahmad Mahjoor will make it a point that they will use their creative potential in changing the environment around us which is full with uncertainty and suspicion.

The PDP patron said time has now come that such people will realise the urge for change and contribute in a great deal to help in PDP in completing its unfinished agenda of the political resolution and empowerment of people. He said PDP during its brief stint in the government took some bold political and economical initiatives that not only helped to see a change on the ground but ensured a sense of security for the people who had gone through huge hardships because of the siege around. He said opening of borders for travel and trade got India and Pakistan close to each other and the distrust prevailing between the two nations was minimized by the initiative. He said the historical ceasefire between the two nations changed the held perception that things can't be changed. Mufti said a transparent and accountable governance system was made possible and in the recruitment and selection processes merit was preferred. He said it was with the help of our officers and officials in the government PDP could provide a clean governance system.

“The party couldn't have got the generous funding from the centre or the Asian Development Bank, if we would not have been able to encourage them (officers and officials) to deliver,” said Mufti adding different security agencies were wary of even starting mobile services in the state, not to talk about the historical measure of opening of the Line of Control. Meanwhile, terming the holding of meetings about the reorganisation of administrative units in the state by the government at the far end of its tenure as a stage managed drama, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has said any decision in this regard should be taken on rational basis and suggestions from different sections of the society should be taken into account before taking a final call. A party spokesman said to take a final decision on the matter the meetings should be held in respective district headquarters so that there is greater participation of people. Holding of these meetings at selective locations is a well thought out conspiracy to ensure less participation of people which is highly condemnable, he added.